

19th Session of IOTC Compliance Committee
8-10 and 12 May 2022, Seychelles

Agenda Item 6: Review of information related to IUU fishing activities
in the IOTC Area of Competence

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius strongly objects to the disclaimer which the IOTC Secretariat has added to the document entitled “Reporting of vessels in transit through BIOT waters for potential breach of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures” (IOTC-2021-CoC19-07a) as it is inconsistent with UN General Assembly Resolution 73/295 which has recognized, in accordance with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 25 February 2019, that as a matter of international law, the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Republic of Mauritius wishes to recall that in Resolution 73/295, the UN General Assembly has also called upon the United Nations and all its specialized agencies as well as all other international, regional and intergovernmental organizations to recognize that the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the Republic of Mauritius, to support the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius as rapidly as possible, and to refrain from impeding that process by recognizing, or giving effect to any measure taken by or on behalf of, the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory”.

Since the United Kingdom is not the coastal State in relation to the Chagos Archipelago and cannot lawfully take any action in respect of the Chagos Archipelago, including reporting on vessels in transit through the waters of the Chagos Archipelago, it would not be appropriate for the Committee to consider the above-mentioned document purportedly submitted by the United Kingdom and for the United Kingdom to be requested to present the document.

The Republic of Mauritius requests that this statement be annexed to the report of this meeting.