

10th Meeting of IOTC Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria
20-23 June 2022, Seychelles

Agenda Item 3: Letter of Credentials

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates its long-standing position that the United Kingdom is not entitled to be a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) as a “coastal State situated wholly or partly within the Area [of competence of the Commission]”.

In addition to the reasons provided in the past to support its stand, the Republic of Mauritius wishes to draw the attention of the Committee to the Note dated 6 May 2022 from the Legal Counsel of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in relation to Agenda item 4 of the 26th Session of the Commission concerning the clarification of the status of the United Kingdom’s membership of the IOTC. The Note makes it clear that the instrument of acceptance purportedly submitted by the United Kingdom on 31 March 1995 in respect of the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory” is invalid, and that the United Kingdom is not and cannot be a member of the IOTC as a coastal State, since the Chagos Archipelago is an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius.

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