

**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS****MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION
AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE****No. 4/2024 (18570/46/142 V26)**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and has the honour to refer to the 13th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria (TCAC13) of the IOTC to be held from 21 to 24 October 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Ministry would appreciate it if the two attached statements by the Republic of Mauritius on agenda items 2 and 7, respectively, could be annexed to the report of the meeting and posted on the IOTC website. The original statements are being despatched to the IOTC Secretariat by courier.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) the assurance of its highest consideration.

Port Louis, 18 October 2024

**The IOTC Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
Blend Seychelles Building (2nd Floor)
Providence
P.O. Box 1011
Victoria
Mahé
SEYCHELLES**

13th Meeting of IOTC Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria
21-24 October 2024, Bangkok, Thailand

Agenda Item 2: Letters of Credentials and Admission of Observers

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The long-standing position of the Republic of Mauritius as regards the United Kingdom's purported membership of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) as a "coastal State situated wholly or partly within the Area [of competence of the Commission]" remains unchanged. This is all the more relevant in the context of the commitment given by the United Kingdom at the last Session of the Commission that it would clarify the status of its IOTC membership at the earliest opportunity once the negotiations between Mauritius and the United Kingdom on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago have been concluded.

The Republic of Mauritius would like to take this opportunity to inform this Committee that on 3 October 2024, the Republic of Mauritius and the United Kingdom reached a political agreement on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. Under the treaty which has to be finalized, the United Kingdom will recognize the sovereignty of the Republic of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia.

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

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Agenda Item 7: Allocation Criteria for Convention Area

Statement by the Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates the statements which it had made with regard to the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin under agenda item 6 at the 10th meeting of the Technical Committee held from 20 to 23 June 2022 in Seychelles and which are annexed to the report of that meeting (Document IOTC-2022-TCAC10-R[E], Appendix 4).

The Republic of Mauritius also reaffirms that since the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin form an integral part of its territory, no State other than the Republic of Mauritius can be granted any allocations in respect of the Chagos Archipelago and the Island of Tromelin.

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