



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/defra

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**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IOTC
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE**

The United Kingdom reiterates that the exercise of sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) / Chagos archipelago is a bilateral matter, and this is not the appropriate forum for a discussion about the United Kingdom's coastal State status in the IOTC.