

**PCA PRESS RELEASE**

THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

v.

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Hearing on Bifurcation of Proceedings Held in Dubai, U.A.E.**THE HAGUE, 22 January 2013**

The Arbitral Tribunal constituted in the arbitration between the Republic of Mauritius and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland pursuant to Article 287 and Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") conducted a hearing on 11 January 2013 on the procedure to be followed in respect of preliminary objections raised by the United Kingdom to the Tribunal's jurisdiction.

After considering the written submissions of both Parties, the Tribunal heard oral presentations by the Parties' Agents and Counsel on the United Kingdom's request that the proceedings be bifurcated and objections to jurisdiction considered in a separate, preliminary phase.

On 15 January 2013 the Tribunal adopted Procedural Order No. 2, by which it decided and ordered that:

- “1. The United Kingdom's request that its Preliminary Objections be dealt with in a Separate jurisdictional phase as a preliminary matter is rejected.
2. The United Kingdom's Preliminary Objections on the jurisdiction of this Tribunal will be considered with the proceedings on the merits.”

A copy of Procedural Order No. 2 is available on the website of the PCA.

These arbitral proceedings were initiated on 20 December 2010 by the Republic of Mauritius and concern the establishment by the United Kingdom of a Marine Protected Area around the Chagos Archipelago.

The Tribunal in this matter is composed of Professor Ivan Shearer, Judge Sir Christopher Greenwood, Judge Albert Hoffmann, Judge James Kateka and Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum. Professor Ivan Shearer serves as President of the Arbitral Tribunal, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration acts as Registry in this arbitration. The 11 January 2013 hearing was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates at the facilities of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre.

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Encl.: Photos of Arbitral Tribunal, Party Representatives, and Counsel