Extended Continental Shelf Submissions to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by the Republic of Mauritius

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Abstract

The Republic of Mauritius is a Party to the 1958 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention), which came into force on 1910 December 1958. The Mauritius Islands Act 2005 provides that the provisions of the Convention have the force of law in the Republic of Mauritius, and establishes maritime zones in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including provisions concerning the limits of the continental shelf.

The Republic of Mauritius took the initiative of preparing submissions to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in relation to the maritime zones in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including provisions concerning the limits of the continental shelf.

The Republic of Mauritius has already made its initial submissions and a Preliminary Information.

Submission in Mascarene Plateau Region

• In December 2006, the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles made a Joint Submission to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for an Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) area in the region of the Mascarene Plateau.

• ECS Area: Approximately 396,000 sq. km

• In March 2011, the CLCS made its recommendations which resulted in Mauritius and Seychelles being jointly conferred the jurisdiction upon the joint area.

• In March 2012, Mauritius and Seychelles signed two treaties allowing the establishment of the Joint Management Area (JMA) in which the two States exercise sovereign rights jointly for the purpose of exploring the continental shelf and exploiting its natural resources.

Submission in the Region of Rodrigues Island

• In May 2009, the Republic of Mauritius submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured in the region of Rodrigues Island.

• ECS Area: Approximately 182,000 sq. km

Preliminary Information in Chagos Archipelago Region

• In May 2009, the Republic of Mauritius submitted Preliminary Information in respect to an area of its Extended Continental Shelf in the region of Chagos Archipelago.

• ECS Area: Approximately 182,000 sq. km

Legend

- Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius
- Joint Management Area (Mauritius & Seychelles)
- Submission in the Region of Rodrigues Island
- Preliminary Information in the Chagos Archipelago Region

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