

**INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA**



**YEAR 2019**

19 December 2019

**DISPUTE CONCERNING DELIMITATION OF THE MARITIME  
BOUNDARY BETWEEN MAURITIUS AND MALDIVES  
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

(MAURITIUS/MALDIVES)

**ORDER**

**Preliminary Objections**

The President of the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea formed to deal with the above-mentioned case under article 15, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Tribunal (hereinafter “the Statute”),

Having regard to article 27 of the Statute,

Having regard to articles 31, 46, 55, 59, 97 and 107 of the Rules of the Tribunal (hereinafter “the Rules”),

Having regard to the Order of the Tribunal of 27 September 2019,

Having regard to the Order of the President of the Special Chamber of 10 October 2019,

*Makes the following Order.*

1. Whereas, on 24 September 2019, a Special Agreement was concluded between the Republic of Mauritius (hereinafter “Mauritius”) and the Republic of Maldives (hereinafter “Maldives”) to submit to a special chamber of the Tribunal to be formed pursuant to article 15, paragraph 2, of the Statute the dispute concerning the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean;
2. Whereas, pursuant to the request of Mauritius and Maldives, the Tribunal, by its Order dated 27 September 2019, formed a special chamber of nine judges to deal with the above-mentioned case, and declared the Special Chamber to have been duly constituted;
3. Whereas, by Order dated 10 October 2019, the President of the Special Chamber fixed 9 April 2020 and 9 October 2020 as the time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Mauritius and a Counter-Memorial by Maldives, respectively, and reserved the subsequent procedure for further decision;
4. Whereas on 18 December 2019 Maldives filed written preliminary objections under article 294 of the Convention and article 97 of the Rules, and these preliminary objections were notified to Mauritius on the same date;
5. Whereas the preliminary objections were received within the time-limit set in article 97, paragraph 1, of the Rules;
6. Whereas, pursuant to article 97, paragraph 3, of the Rules, the proceedings on the merits were suspended upon receipt of the preliminary objections by the Registry;
7. Whereas, pursuant to the same provision, time-limits must be fixed for Mauritius to file its written observations and submissions on the preliminary objections, and for Maldives to file its written observations and submissions in reply;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL CHAMBER,

*Fixes* 17 February 2020 as the time-limit for Mauritius to file its written observations and submissions on the preliminary objections filed by Maldives;

*Fixes* 17 April 2020 as the time-limit for Maldives to file its written observations and submissions in reply;

*Reserves* the subsequent procedure for further decision.

Done in English and in French, both texts being equally authoritative, in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, this nineteenth day of December, two thousand and nineteen, in three copies, one of which will be placed in the archives of the Tribunal and the others transmitted to the Government of Mauritius and to the Government of Maldives, respectively.



Jin-Hyun PAIK,  
President of the Special Chamber



Ximena HINRICHS OYARCE,  
Registrar

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