

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



**YEAR 2020**

19 May 2020

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

**(MAURITIUS/MALDIVES)**

**ORDER**

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, 45, 69, 97 and 107 of the Rules of the Tribunal (hereinafter “the Rules”),

Having regard to the Special Agreement concluded between the Republic of Mauritius (hereinafter “Mauritius”) and the Republic of Maldives (hereinafter “Maldives”) on 24 September 2019 to submit the above-mentioned dispute to a special chamber of the Tribunal to be formed pursuant to article 15, paragraph 2, of the Statute,

Having regard to the Order of the Tribunal of 27 September 2019, by which the Tribunal formed the Special Chamber under article 15, paragraph 2, of the Statute,

Having regard to the Order of the President of the Special Chamber of 10 October 2019, by which the President of the Special Chamber fixed 9 April 2020 and 9 October 2020 as the respective time-limits for the filing of a Memorial by Mauritius and a Counter-Memorial by Maldives and reserved the subsequent procedure for further decision,

*Makes the following Order:*

1. Whereas on 18 December 2019 Maldives filed written preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Special Chamber and the admissibility of Mauritius' claims and these preliminary objections were notified to Mauritius on the same date;
2. Whereas the preliminary objections were received within the time-limit set in article 97, paragraph 1, of the Rules, and 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;
3. Whereas, by Order dated 19 December 2019, the President of the Special Chamber fixed 17 February 2020 as the time-limit for the filing of the written observations and submissions of Mauritius and 17 April 2020 as the time-limit for the filing of the written observations and submissions in reply of Maldives and whereas those observations and submissions were duly filed within the time-limits prescribed;
4. Whereas consultations were held between the President of the Special Chamber and the representatives of the Parties on 4 February 2020 to ascertain the views of the Parties with regard to questions of procedure in respect of the preliminary objections, and whereas during these consultations the Parties agreed that the hearing should take place from 24 to 27 June 2020;
5. Whereas, in light of the situation concerning the COVID-19 pandemic and the containment measures including border and travel restrictions taken around the world, it was considered necessary to seek the views of the Parties with regard to the feasibility of holding the hearing on the dates previously agreed;

6. Whereas Maldives, by an electronic communication dated 8 May 2020 and Mauritius, by a letter dated 13 May 2020, agreed that the hearing should take place during the week of 12 October 2020;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL CHAMBER,

Having ascertained the views of the Parties,

*Fixes* 13 October 2020 as the date for the opening of the hearing; and

*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 May, two thousand and twenty, 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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