



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

DISPUTE CONCERNING DELIMITATION OF THE MARITIME BOUNDARY BETWEEN MAURITIUS AND MALDIVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (MAURITIUS/MALDIVES)

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

On 18 December 2019, the Republic of Maldives filed preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Special Chamber of the Tribunal and to the admissibility of the claims submitted by the Republic of Mauritius in the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean*. Proceedings in the case were instituted by a Special Agreement concluded between the Parties on 24 September 2019.

The Special Chamber consists of President Paik (Republic of Korea), Judges Jesus (Cabo Verde), Cot (France), Yanai (Japan), Bouguetaia (Algeria), Heidar (Iceland) and Chadha (India), and two judges *ad hoc*. Mr Nicolaas Schrijver has been chosen as judge *ad hoc* by Mauritius and Mr Bernard Oxman has been chosen as judge *ad hoc* by Maldives. President Paik serves as President of the Special Chamber.

By Order of today's date, President Paik fixed 17 February 2020 for the filing by Mauritius of written observations and submissions on the preliminary objections filed by the Maldives, and 17 April 2020 for Maldives to present its written observations and submissions in reply, pursuant to article 97, paragraph 3, of the Rules. The subsequent procedure has been reserved for further decision.

In accordance with article 97 of the Rules of the Tribunal, proceedings on the merits have been suspended.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents and are issued for information purposes only.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's websites (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Ms Julia Ritter at: Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: +49 (40) 35607-227; Fax: +49 (40) 35607-245; E-mail: press@itlos.org