



His Excellency Judge Albert J. Hoffman,  
President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

27 April 2023

Dear Excellency,

**Re: Case No. 28 - Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime  
boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean.**

I, the Leader of the Jumhooree/ Republic Party, and the Member of Parliament for the Maamigili Constituency of the Republic of Maldives, am writing respectfully to Your Excellency to raise a serious concern regarding the Maldivian Government's sudden change in position from its longstanding policy on the claims by Mauritius over the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago; a change in position that may have potential consequences on the maritime boundary of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Maldives.

Recent media reports in the Maldives claim that the Maldivian President has sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Mauritius expressing a change in the Maldivian Government's policy of not recognizing Mauritius' claim of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean. The said media reports claim that the Maldivian President has informed the Prime Minister of Mauritius of a decision to accept Mauritius's claim of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean. This news has caused considerable concern among Maldivians, including members of the Maldivian Parliament from all parties, as such a policy change could have potential negative consequences for the territory of the Maldives as defined in Article 3 of the Maldivian Constitution.

May I kindly bring to your attention that, if your deliberation of Case No. 28, did consider such a change in position of the Maldives on acceptance of Mauritius' claim of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, consequences arising from such a change in policy related to the territory of the Maldives will be legally invalid as Article 3 of the Constitution of the Maldives requires changes to the territory of the Maldives be made pursuant to a law enacted by at least a two-thirds of the People's Majlis (Parliament of the Maldives). No consent or approval has been granted by the People's Majlis to the President of the Maldives to bring about a change in policy on accepting Mauritius's claim of sovereignty





over the Chagos Archipelago, which could directly affect the constitutionally defined territory of the Republic of the Maldives.

Therefore, on behalf of Jumhooree/ Republic Party, I urge the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on its Case No. 28 to exclude any potential influence arising from the said policy change of the Maldives in the deliberation, recommendation, or decision of the ITLOS.

I urge Your Excellency and the Special Chambers and members of ITLOS to delay any ITLOS deliberation or decision on Case No. 28 to mitigate the potential loss and impact of ITLOS's decision on the Maldives, which is dependent on its fishing and marine resources.

Excellency, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,



Qasim Ibrahim

Leader of the Jumhooree Party – Republicans of the Maldives  
Member of Parliament for the Maamigili Constituency