Cooperation between Reunion and Mauritius has taken a new turn following the official visit of the Prime Minister, Dr Navin Chandran Ramgoolam, on 24 and 25 January 2011.

Following an invitation of President Sarkozy, the Prime Minister led a delegation to the island comprising, amongst others, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr A. Boolell, the Minister of Tourism and Leisure, Mr N. Bodha, the Minister of Business, Enterprise, Cooperatives and Consumer Protection, Mr J. M. T. S. Yeung Sik Yuen, and representatives of the private sector.

The visit served mainly to revitalise relations, create a platform of economic cooperation, open up new avenues of collaboration between the two sister islands and give a new impetus to the activities of the Indian Ocean Commission.

During his visit, the Prime Minister met Mrs Marie-Luce Penchard, Ministre auprès du ministre de l’Intérieur, de l’Outre-Mer, des Collectivités territoriales et de l’Immigration, chargée de l’Outre-Mer, with whom he discussed several areas of cooperation for Mauritius and Reunion Island, the creation of a sub-economic zone, and
an Economic and Social Council at the level of the Indian Ocean Commission, Madagascar, piracy and Tromelin.

Dr. Ramgoolam also met Mr Didier Robert, President of the Regional Council for Reunion Island, with whom he discussed measures to reinforce regional cooperation and foster closer integration amongst Member States of the Indian Ocean Commission. He had meetings with other regional groupings with a view to engaging in triangular cooperation with countries of the region.

The public-private sector platform of economic cooperation between Mauritius and Reunion Island was officially launched on 24 January 2011. The objective is to facilitate dialogue and exchange information at strategic level in order to offer development opportunities to operators in Mauritius and Reunion Island and enable the mobilisation of production, financial, technological and service capacities for entering into new markets.

In his statement at the launching ceremony, the Prime Minister emphasised that the platform would not only give a new momentum to the economic relations between Mauritius and Reunion Island but also contribute to optimising the complementarities between the two countries. Moreover, the platform would inject a new dynamism into the regional economic integration process which is critical for integration into the world economy.

Five agreements were signed during the Prime Minister’s visit, among which a framework agreement on regional cooperation between Mauritius and Reunion Island that sets out the orientation and general principles for regional cooperation in major sectors of the economy. Other agreements relate to cooperation with respect to sustainable development and energy management, the sharing of knowledge and experience between the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the University of Reunion, a “Relevé de conclusions” on security matters, and a bilateral protocol on technical measures to prevent the movement of Chafer Beetles (White Grubs) between Mauritius and Reunion Island.
Chagos Archipelago
AU adopts resolution in support of Mauritius

The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, led the Mauritian delegation at the Summit. The delegation included the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr Arvin Boolell, and Mr Olivier Bancoult, leader of the Groupe Refugiés Chagos. Amongst the distinguished personalities present were Mr N. Sarkozy, President of the Republic of France as Chief Guest, and Mr Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations.

The theme of the Sixteenth AU Summit was “Towards Greater Unity and Integration Through Shared Values”. The key issues discussed included Peace and Security in Africa, Celebrations of 2010 African Year of Peace and Security, Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, UN Security Council Reform, Climate Change, the International Criminal Court, the transformation of the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority and the Centenary of the African National Congress. As regards peace and security in Africa, the Summit reviewed the situation in Madagascar, the Comoros, Somalia, Sudan, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Tanzania.

On the issue of our claim on sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, the Prime Minister emphasised that the Chagos Archipelago had been excised by the colonial power in total disregard and in complete violation of the United Nations Declaration on the granting of independence to former colonies and peoples that prohibit colonial powers to dismember a colony prior to granting independence. He highlighted the plight of the Chagossians who were forcibly removed from their ancestral land.

Whilst re-affirming that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius, the Prime Minister indicated that, notwithstanding the strong opposition expressed by the Republic of Mauritius, the United Kingdom has proceeded with the establishment of a ‘Marine Protected Area’ around the Chagos Archipelago on 1 November 2010, which further impedes the exercise by the Republic of Mauritius of its sovereignty rights over the Archipelago. He added that Mauritius has taken a legal initiative and challenged the legality of the purported ‘Marine Protected Area’.

(See the full text of the Resolution at page 11)
**Chagos Archipelago**

**Mauritius to contest legality of Marine Protected Area**

Mauritius has moved to contest the legality of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) proclaimed by the United Kingdom in the Chagos Archipelago.

The Government communicated its Statement of Claim, spelling out the grounds of the dispute as well as the remedial action sought, to the UK Foreign Secretary, Mr William Hague, on 20 December 2010, through the Mauritian High Commissioner in the UK, Mr Abhimanu Kundasamy. The Statement of Claim is based on Article 287, Annex VII, Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of which both countries are signatory.

Mauritius claims sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and deems that the proclamation of a Marine Protected Area by the UK is illegal and violates the provisions of UNCLOS. By referring the dispute to UNCLOS, which is the only body having jurisdiction on the points raised by Mauritius, the Government is expecting a legally binding decision from UNCLOS arbitral tribunal regarding the MPA.

The Statement of Claim of Mauritius is made on the basis of the following:

- The MPA is not compatible with the provisions of UNCLOS
- The United Kingdom is not a ‘coastal State’ according to the definition spelt out by UNCLOS and is not habilitated to establish the MPA
- Only the Republic of Mauritius is entitled to declare an exclusive economic zone under Part V of UNCLOS within which a marine protected area might be declared

Mauritius reserves the right to amend the Statement of Claim and the relief sought.

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**Prohibiting economic activity around the Chagos Archipelago**

Until 2010, Mauritian vessels had been able to fish in the waters around the Chagos Archipelago. However, the UK has now sought to prevent all such fishery activity, including artisanal activity and fishing by the indigenous population by deciding to establish an MPA that, amongst others, prohibits all fishing activities.

In establishing the MPA, the UK has failed inter alia to have due regard to the rights of Mauritius and of those persons forcibly removed from the Chagos Archipelago, to act in a manner compatible with the provisions of the 1982 Convention, and to seek to reach agreement with Mauritius or appropriate sub-regional or regional organisations, including the Indian Ocean Commission and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, on measures necessary to ensure conservation.

For Mauritius, it is clear that the true purpose of the MPA is not conservation but to prevent the right of return of the Chagos people, as highlight recently reported comments of Mr. Colin Roberts, the Director of Overseas the United Kingdom’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office, that ‘establishing a marine park would, in effect, put an end to resettlement claims of the archipelago’s former residents’.
New Platform for Dispute Resolution
Mauritius Hosts International Arbitration Conference 2010

The Mauritius International Arbitration Conference (MIAC) 2010, held in December last year, saw the launching of the country’s new platform regarding the resolution of international disputes through international arbitration. This follows the enactment, in 2008, of state-of-art legislation in the field and the establishment, last September, of a permanent office of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in Mauritius. The new platform for international arbitration is intended to provide a legal and logistical environment where all forms of international arbitration can thrive.

The MIAC itself gave an opportunity for leading practitioners and other stakeholders in the field to develop and re-think central aspects of the law and the practice of international arbitration. It also constituted the first step towards the implementation of a regular training programme with the assistance of the PCA Office in Mauritius and partner institutions. The aim is to ensure that whenever Mauritius is used for international arbitration, local lawyers and those of the region will be in a position to service the needs of international users.

An ambitious project

Mauritius has embarked on an ambitious project to establish the country as an International Arbitration Centre, the first of its kind in the region, observed the Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, at the opening ceremony of the MIAC. The aim of Government is to offer a modern and attractive jurisdiction for international arbitration, he stated.

According to Dr Ramgoolam, it is not surprising that international arbitration is now acknowledged as an essential corollary of international trade and cross-border investment flows.

The Prime Minister expressed his belief that Mauritius offers a very favourable environment for international arbitration as it is politically stable, with a long tradition of democracy, good governance and a profound respect for the rule of law.

Ensuring an arbitration-friendly environment

To ensure that there is a favourable legal and logistical environment for international arbitration in Mauritius, a new legislation, the International Arbitration Act 2008 was passed by the National Assembly in November 2008. This Act is based on the United Nations Commission on International Trade Model Law for International Commercial Arbitration of 1985, as amended in 2006. The Model Law reflects a worldwide consensus on key aspects of international arbitration practice accepted by countries of all regions and by the different legal and economic systems of the world.

The most innovative feature of the new law is the permanent office of the PCA in Mauritius which is the first such office outside The Hague and created as a result of the Host Country Agreement which the Government of Mauritius concluded with the Permanent Court of Arbitration in April 2009.

The Government is currently engaged in negotiations with one of the leading institutions in the field of international arbitration with a view to creating a new arbitral centre for the region - the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre. It is expected that these negotiations will come to a fruitful completion.

In addition, work is currently ongoing towards the adoption of specific and user-friendly civil procedure rules dealing with arbitration. Such rules will work seamlessly with the new legislation to guarantee to international users that the use of Mauritian court system is fast and efficient.

Also, in terms of logistics, while Mauritius is already well equipped to host arbitral hearings of every type, the Government is dedicated to supporting the opening of state-of-the-art hearing facilities in the coming years. This will also be a convenient location for the office of the PCA in Mauritius and the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre.
Mauritius - Turkey
Successful Conclusion of FTA Negotiations

The fifth round of negotiations to establish a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Mauritius and Turkey was successfully concluded on 19 January 2011 in Port Louis.

The comprehensive document was initialled by Ambassador A.P. Neewoor, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, on behalf of Mauritius and by Mr Murat Yapici, Director General, Directorate General of EU affairs, Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry for Foreign Trade, for the Turkish side. The final signing of the FTA will only occur after approval of the comprehensive document by both Governments.

The FTA will provide a platform to consolidate trade ties as well as create more synergy for the business community of both countries through joint venture projects. The FTA is aimed at increasing trade rules and removing any non-trade barriers.

The two sides agreed that existing trade potentials between the two countries are yet to be fully tapped and that the establishment of the FTA will provide a relevant platform to expand and diversify bilateral trade.

Mutual Benefit

Upon entry into force of the FTA, Turkey will provide duty free access to all industrial products. Therefore, Mauritius will enjoy a substantial margin of preference for its key exports such as articles of apparel, woven fabric t-shirts, singlets, jerseys, pullovers, articles of leather, knitted or crocheted fabrics, jewellery, clocks and watches, and iron and steel products.

As per the comprehensive document, regarding the textile and clothing sector, the Turkish side has agreed to provide the single transformation rules of origin with duties to be phased out for a list of 60 products over four years.

With respect to agricultural products, Mauritius has obtained concessions on a list of 46 products including chilled fish, cut flowers, vegetables, preserved tuna, sweet biscuits, and tropical fruits such as pineapples, mangoes and guava. Moreover, regarding tuna, Turkey has agreed to provide a margin of preference of 20% with unlimited quota access.

Concessions have been granted, on the Mauritian side, on the basis of the market access offer made to the European Community under the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). A list of sensitive products for Mauritius will be excluded from liberalisation such as biscuits, meat, pasta, paints, soap and iron and steel products.

The FTA will also contain a protocol on rules of origin. The Turkish side has agreed to grant Mauritian rules of origin which are as flexible as in the Interim EPA. Through the agreement, both countries will be able to source material from each other and export to the European Union. Cumulation with third parties is also possible provided that Turkey has an FTA with the third country.

Balanced trade relations

The relevance of having an FTA between Mauritius and Turkey is guided by the policy response to the trade regime of the European Union (EU). On the one hand, Turkey is bound by the Customs Union Agreement with the EU and has therefore the obligation to align itself progressively to the preferential customs regimes of the EU towards the ACP countries, including Mauritius. On the other hand, Mauritius has initiated an Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the EU.

The conclusion of a Turkish-Mauritian FTA would contribute to more balanced trade relations between the parties and serve both sides’ interests to maintain and further improve bilateral trade.
Prime Minister’s New Year Message
Focus on Priorities, Projects and Challenges awaiting the Country in 2011

The importance of safeguarding employment was highlighted. The Prime Minister recalled that from 2006 to 2010, 51,500 jobs had been created with more employment for women and that the rate of unemployment of women went down by 4.1%. Women entrepreneurship has reached another level and Government will implement measures to favour their autonomy, he stated.

For the Prime Minister, Education is the engine of social stability and progress of any country. Access to tertiary education for a greater number of young people remains a priority, he said, recalling the forthcoming increase in the number of post HSC scholarships with nearly half reserved for young people from poor families.

Regarding the health sector, the Prime Minister noted that Government has invested a lot in order to guarantee that Mauritian benefit from quality service and reiterated the intention of the Government to construct three hospitals to cater for the medical needs of the elderly, children and women respectively.

Dr Ramgoolam also highlighted key development and infrastructural projects such as the modernisation of the airport to be completed in 2012, actions geared towards easing up road traffic congestion, the light railway project and social housing programmes for families in dire need as well as for those from the middle class.

The need for protecting the ecosystem and biodiversity was also underscored by the Prime Minister as he evoked the second phase of the project Maurice Ile Durable. Law and order and use of modern technology to combat crimes and drug trafficking and the eradication of fraud and corruption are other priority issues on the Government agenda, the Prime Minister said.

Dr Ramgoolam also stated that the Government is guided by the philosophy of blending economic efficiency with social justice and recalled that the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment has been set up to give a new boost to the fight against social exclusion.

On the issue of the Chagos Archipelago, the Prime Minister expressed his pride to note that Mauritians have rallied spontaneously behind the national flag in the fight to contest the legality of the Marine Protected Area.

The Prime Minister also gave an outlook of the prevailing situation on the economic front abroad and locally. He underlined the importance of keeping in mind that the international economic crisis is still very much present and called for vigilance and flexibility. It is only this way that the country would be able stand up to challenges and make the most out of opportunities at hand, he said.
The second corporate plan of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), for the period 2011-2013, was launched on 19 January 2011 at La Canelle, Domaine Les Pailles, by the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr Pravind Jugnauth.

The theme for this corporate plan is “Challenging the Future”, which highlights the organisation’s dynamism and its commitment to forge ahead with its projects despite stiff challenges.

The plan focuses on 5 strategic objectives of the organisation, namely: promoting voluntary compliance; providing quality services; developing people, processes and technology; facilitating trade and ensuring border and society protection; and strengthening good governance and improving corporate image.

The strategic objectives will be achieved through a number of initiatives and through projects which MRA will undertake during the next three years. It is recalled that this corporate plan follows a first one issued in 2008 covering the period 2008 to 2010.

The MRA, which came into operation in 2006, is the main agent of the Government in terms of revenue collection and accounts for 88 % of tax receipts for the exchequer. On the revenue collection front, total tax raised for the period 2006-2010 amounted to around Rs 1 297 billion. For the year 2007/08, revenue collection amounting to Rs 42.1 billion was 23.5% higher than in the year 2006. While in 2008/09, revenue collection totalled to Rs 47.2 billion representing an increase of 12.1% over the preceding year and during the period July to December 2009, revenue collection exceeded projection by 7% and for January to July 2010, collection was 7% higher than the corresponding period of 2009.

Public Sector

Government to set up Civil Service College

In line with its ambition to keep public officers abreast of modern techniques of management and public administration, the Government will soon set up the Civil Service College. A plot of seven acres has already been identified for the project in Ebène.

The Civil Service College will at a first instance offer specific and practical training programmes for public officers as well as induction courses for new recruits. In the long run, appropriate linkages with regional centres will also be developed with a view to extend the training services to public officers in the region.

The aim is to transform the Mauritius public sector into a world class one and allow the civil service to keep pace with the developmental trends in a dynamic and competitive world.

A delegation from Singapore led by the Director of the Civil Service College of Singapore, Mrs. Tina Tan, visited Mauritius from 24 to 28 January 2011 to discuss with their Mauritian counterparts the modalities for the setting up and operation of the Civil Service College.

The delegation met the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms, Mr A. Gungah, and discussions focused on the provision of technical assistance and expertise from Singapore for the Civil Service College as well as on the feasibility study of the project. The visitors also had several working sessions with officials from various ministries in connection with the training targets and needs of the public service as a whole in addition to the role of the Civil Service College for capacity building of Mauritian public officers.
Bilateral cooperation
China grants Rs 300 million to boost economy and trade

A financial grant amounting to 40 million RMB and an interest-free loan of 20 million RMB, both totalling to an equivalent of about Rs 300 million, have been allocated to Mauritius by China on 7 January 2011. The money will serve to finance a series of projects to be mutually agreed upon by the two Governments. Both countries have also agreed on boosting cooperation in the fields of science and culture.

The economic and trade cooperation agreement was signed by the Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce, Mr. Chong Quan, and the Mauritian Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Mr. Pravind Jugnauth. The agreement was signed in the context of the visit, from 7 to 9 January 2011, of the Vice-Prime Minister of the Council of State Affairs of the People’s Republic of China and Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party Mr. Hui Liangyu. Mauritius was in fact the first leg of an African tour by the 26-member strong Chinese delegation led by Mr. Hui Liangyu.

During his visit, the Chinese Vice-Prime Minister called on the President of the Republic, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and the Prime Minister, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Mr. Hui Liangyu also had a working session with Vice-Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Dr. Arvin Boolell, at the Sands Resorts and Spa, Flic en Flac.

Mauritius has benefitted from some 3 550 million RMB (around Rs 16 billion) in the form of grants, soft or interest-free loans from China to finance important economic and social infrastructures.

For the period 2000 to 2010, the Mauritian Government has received a total loan of 1 290 million RMB (Rs 6 192 million) comprising of 230 million RMB (Rs 1 104 million) interest free loan and Concessional Loan Facility of 1 060 million RMB (Rs 5 088 million) and grant resources of 67 million RMB (Rs 321.6 million) from China.

Among the projects falling under the ongoing Chinese assistance programme are the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Project Lot 2, the CCTV/radio communication project to upgrade the law and order situation, the Airport, infrastructure upgrading, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation Headquarters, the Bagatelle Dam project, and the Victoria Hospital Operating Theatre together with the acquisition of medical equipments.

Longstanding ties

Mauritius shares longstanding economic and cultural ties with China. These ties have developed positively and steadily since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries on 15 April 1972. The past years have been marked by the consolidation of Mauritius-China relations characterised by cooperation and mutual understanding.
The existing Convention had been signed in February 1981. The Protocol will review the exchange of information article contained in the Convention in order to align it with the updated Article 26 of the revised Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Model Convention. The amended Convention will further contribute to encourage mutual trade and investment and reinforce economic ties between the two countries. It will also confirm the two countries’ attachment to the principle of good governance and all transactions will be carried out through greater transparency in the exchange of information on tax matters.

As regards taxation on the domestic front, Mauritius has amended the Income Tax Act to enhance the powers of the Mauritius Revenue Authority to request for information from taxpayers for exchange with treaty partners. On the international front, Mauritius has always been an active partner of the OECD in the field of taxation and the country is among the 11 non-OECD countries that formed part of the Global Forum Working Group set up to draft the Agreement on Exchange of Information on Tax Matters. Presently Mauritius is also contributing as a member of the Sub-Group on Level Playing Field Issues in the areas of transparency and exchange of information on tax matters.

To date Mauritius has concluded Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements which contain a section on exchange of information with thirty-eight countries.

Mauritius is also internationally recognised by the OECD, the Financial Action Task Force, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as an international financial services centre of substance and integrity for having complied with internationally accepted norms and standards and codes of conduct.
For 2011, action in the education sector will be geared mainly towards the implementation of the Education and Human Resources Strategy Plan 2008-2020, in line with Government’s commitment to bring about fundamental reforms in education.

The Enhancement Programme (EP), which advocates an innovative approach to learning aimed at enabling the overall development of children and which was implemented in Standard IV in 2010, will be extended to Standard III in all primary schools. The EP implies the application of differentiated pedagogical techniques and attention to the varied learning needs of children through the reinforcement of the academic component of school curriculum and the consolidation of the learning experience through a diversity of activities such as drama, music, painting, SLAM, sports and physical activities.

To put an end to the practice of private tuition in Standard IV, the Education Act will be amended at the next parliamentary session to regulate private tuition. Moreover, the Sankoré Project, whose main objective is to facilitate the provision of education to children through innovative technological means, will be launched in April this year in Standard Four classrooms.

The Minister of Education and Human Resources, Dr Vasant Bunwaree, has also announced that the ‘Zone d’éducation prioritaire’ (ZEP) project which facilitates improved educational participation and performance of poor children through education reform and community empowerment, will be revised. Consultations are also scheduled as regards the revamping of the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE).

In its bid to fight truancy, the Ministry has been implementing since last year and on a pilot basis, an SMS service to instantly inform parents of the unexcused absences of their wards from school. The real time communication system, which is a joint project of the ministry and that of Information and Communication Technology, aims at curtailing the risk of truancy. The project is to be implemented shortly on a formal basis in 21 schools.

Moreover, Physical Education will be offered as an examinable subject at O-level as from this year. In addition, the Ministry is planning sensitisation campaigns for combating alcoholism and is working in collaboration with the Action Familiale and the Mauritius Family Planning and Welfare Association to improve the sex education component in the curriculum.
RESOLUTION

The Assembly of the Union, at its 16th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 to 31 January 2011,

Recalling that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, was unlawfully excised by the United Kingdom, the former colonial power, from the territory of Mauritius prior to independence of Mauritius, in violation of UN Resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 2066 (XX) of 16 December 1965 which prohibit colonial powers from dismembering colonial territories prior to granting independence;

Reaffirming that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius;

Recalling in this regard, inter-alia:

(i) Resolution AHG/Res.99 (XVII) of July 1980 of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU);

(ii) Decision AHG/Dec.159 (XXXVI) of July 2000 of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU);

(iii) Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.331(XV) of July 2010 of the Assembly of the African Union.

Noting with grave concern that notwithstanding the OAU/AU Resolution/Decisions and the strong opposition expressed by the Republic of Mauritius, the United Kingdom has proceeded to establish a ‘marine protected area’ around the Chagos Archipelago on 01 November 2010, in a manner that was inconsistent with its international legal obligations, thereby further impeding the exercise by the Republic of Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Archipelago;

Noting further that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius has, on 20 December 2010, initiated proceedings against the United Kingdom in relation to the dispute concerning the legality of the purported ‘marine protected area’ as set forth in the Notification of that date, to an Arbitral Tribunal to be constituted under Article 287 and Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the sea;

Considering that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius is committed to taking other measures to protect its rights under international law relating to its legitimate aspiration to be able to exercise sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, including action at the United Nations General Assembly;

1. DECIDES to support fully the action of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius at the United Nations General Assembly with a view to enabling Mauritius to exercise its sovereignty over the Archipelago.