



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)***

At a public sitting held today, the Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea constituted to deal with the *Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean (Mauritius/Maldives)* delivered its Judgment. The Judgment was read by Judge Jin-Hyun Paik, President of the Special Chamber.

Procedure

The dispute was submitted to a special chamber formed in application of article 15, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Tribunal by way of a special agreement concluded on 24 September 2019 between the two States concerned. On 28 January 2021, the Special Chamber delivered its Judgment on Preliminary Objections. Following the closure of the written proceedings, hearings on the merits of the case took place from 17 to 24 October 2022.

Final submissions of the Parties

In its final submissions, Mauritius requests the Special Chamber to adjudge and declare that

- a. the Special Chamber has jurisdiction to determine Mauritius' claim to a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and the claim is admissible;
- b. the entire maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean, within 200 nautical miles and in the outer continental shelf, connects the 53 points, using geodetic lines, the geographic coordinates for which (in WGS 1984 datum) are set out on pages 54 and 55 of the Reply of Mauritius.

In its final submissions, the Maldives requests the Special Chamber to adjudge and declare that

- (a) Mauritius' claim to a continental shelf beyond 200 M from the base lines from which its territorial sea is measured should be dismissed on the basis that it is:
 - (i) Outside the jurisdiction of the Special Chamber; and/or
 - (ii) Inadmissible.
- (b) The single maritime boundary between the Parties is a series of geodesic lines connecting the points 1 to 46 as set out in the Maldives' Rejoinder at pages 69–70;
- (c) In respect of the Parties' Exclusive Economic Zones, the maritime boundary between them connects point 46 to the point 47bis following the 200 M limit measured from the baselines of the Maldives as set out in the Maldives' Rejoinder at page 70;
- (d) In respect of the Parties' continental shelves, the maritime boundary between the Parties continues to consist of a series of geodesic lines connecting the points as set out in the Maldives' Rejoinder at page 70, until it reaches the edge of the Maldives' entitlement to a continental shelf beyond 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of its territorial sea is measured (to be delineated following recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf at a later date).

Judgment

In its Judgment of 28 April 2023, the Special Chamber decided as follows:

THE SPECIAL CHAMBER,

(1) Unanimously,

Decides that the single maritime boundary delimiting the exclusive economic zones and the continental shelves of the Parties within 200 nm extends from west to east between the intersections of the respective 200 nm limits determined in paragraphs 248 and 250 above and is composed of geodetic lines connecting the following points in WGS 84 as geodetic datum: Point 1 with coordinates 2° 17' 21.4" S and 70° 11' 56.2" E; turning points 2 to 36 with the coordinates identified in paragraph 249 above; Point X (Point 37) with coordinates 3° 07' 28.9" S and 73° 19' 11.0" E; and Point Y (Point 38) with coordinates 3° 20' 54.8" S and 75° 12' 52.1" E.

(2) Unanimously,

Finds that its jurisdiction to delimit the continental shelf between the Parties includes the continental shelf beyond 200 nm.

(3) Unanimously,

Rejects the objection raised by the Maldives to the admissibility of Mauritius' claim to the continental shelf beyond 200 nm on the grounds that Mauritius' submission to the CLCS was not filed in a timely manner.

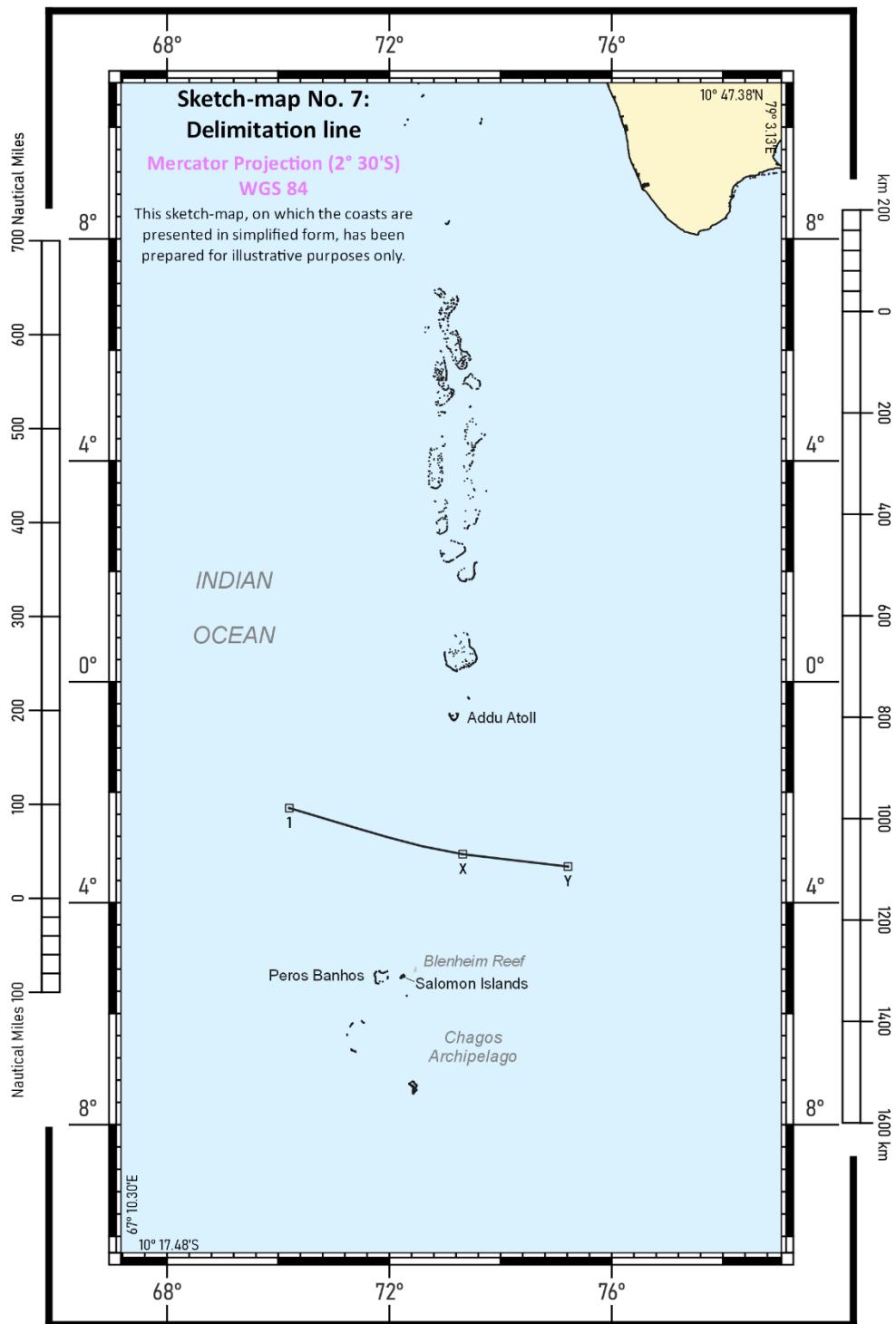
(4) Unanimously,

Finds that, in the circumstances of the present case, it is not in a position to determine the entitlement of Mauritius to the continental shelf beyond 200 nm in the Northern Chagos Archipelago Region and *decides* that, consequently, it will not proceed to delimit the continental shelf between Mauritius and the Maldives beyond 200 nm.

President Paik, Judge Heidar and Judge *ad hoc* Schrijver appended declarations to the Judgment.

The single maritime boundary, illustrated in the sketch map below, is taken from the Judgment.

The texts of the Judgment and declarations as well as a recorded webcast of the reading are available on the [website](#) of the Tribunal.



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