

FORUM: Special, Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

QUESTION OF: The Chagos Archipelago

SUBMITTED BY: Togolese Republic

CO-SUBMITTERS: Plurinational State of Bolivia, Pakistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of the Seychelles, Djibouti, The Kingdom of Bhutan, Vanuatu, Austria, Poland, Republic of Bangladesh, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador, Cyprus, Sao Tome and Principe

NUMBER: 126,

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: TOGOLESE REPUBLIC,

Noting that the Chagos Archipelago is a group of seven atolls consisting of more than 60 individual islands in the Indian Ocean,

Bearing in mind that the United Kingdom has recognized that Mauritius has the sovereign rights in the archipelago including mineral and fishing rights, but not tourism, over the archipelago,

Reaffirming that in April 2017, the United Nations General Assembly voted for the matter to be taken to the International Court of Justice and asked for an advisory opinion in order to clarify the legal status of the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean,

Guided by the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the question of the Chagos Archipelago which demands that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland withdraw its colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago unconditionally,

Keeping in mind that the British control over the archipelago is recognized as a violation of the United Nations resolutions banning colonization of territories,

Noting that the United Kingdom has stated that the Chagos Archipelago will be returned to Mauritius once the United Kingdom does not need the archipelago for defense purposes,

1. Urges the member states of the United Nations and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to abide by the terms of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the colonization of the Chagos Archipelago and the United Nations General Assembly RES/73/295 on the following aspects such as:
 - a) the formal status and the formal recognition of Chagos Archipelago,
 - b) the resettlement of Chagossians to their respective islands as stated in clause 3,
 - c) the decolonization of the Chagos Archipelago;
2. Asks the referral of the question of the Chagos Archipelago to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as a sovereignty dispute case by the submission of any related member state most specifically Mauritius, in order to address the conflict with more binding decisions and rulings;
3. Calls upon the United States, the United Kingdom, and Mauritius to cooperate in order to expedite the process of financial support and resettlement programme on the depopulated islands, by:
 - a) allowing a safe return of the Native Population and their descendants currently living abroad due to their expulsion,
 - b) ensuring the cooperation of the Mauritian Government in establishing a form of governance with the Chagossian people,
 - c) Enabling funds to provide substantial infrastructure,
 - d) Providing financial support for the residents, especially for those who could not be employed when resettled and face temporary economic difficulties because of unemployment, in order to ensure that the civilian rights of Mauritian nationals are protected with the collaboration of the local government and NGOs;

4. Invites the International Monetary Foundation (IMF), World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and other related organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations to support Mauritius and work on ways to improve economic relations of Mauritius and national industries of the Chagos Archipelago in order to reduce its dependence on Britain by means such as but not limited to:
 - a) increasing the contributions of Mauritius and especially the Chagos Archipelago to the global market by means such as:
 - i. creating a long term economic guideline in cooperation with the Mauritian
 - ii. government and the related NGOs that have been mentioned previously,
 - iii. further exploring the national resources and industries that have not been taken well into account and may have a big part in the development of the national economy, in order to identify and evaluate the economic potential of the Chagos Archipelago,
 - b) improving the local factories and increasing the establishments of new ones if needed by firstly, examining the already existing establishments in order to identify any and all problems, then working in collaboration with World Bank, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other NGOs,
 - c) analyzing and identifying the labor force of the archipelago and if needed supporting the workforce with residents from the mainland Mauritius;
5. Suggests safeguarding mineral and fishing rights to Mauritius considering the fact that Mauritius has mineral and continental shelf rights over the archipelago as the legal owner of the natural resources in the region as it was stated according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on the issue, by making sure that:
 - a) any and all minerals or oil discovered on or near the Chagos Archipelago and its surrounding waters are reversed to Mauritius since Mauritius has undertaken the benefits of minerals and oil in the region, therefore, has the right of reversion,
 - b) UK assertion of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and maritime zones in the territory does not legally bind Mauritius and therefore, the economic benefit of the fisheries and other marine resources in the region legitimately belong to Mauritius;
6. Encourages the collaboration of all member states in order to improve the international relations of Mauritius and the Chagos Archipelago by means such as:
 - a) accelerating the international economy by financial alliances, long or short term trade deals, and economic exchanges,
 - b) strengthening political relations by increasing engagements such as holding meetings between heads of governments;
7. Calls for the immediate demilitarization of the United States of America's military zone on Diego Garcia through a series of requirements whose adequate fulfillment is to be observed and controlled by a temporary multinational council, comprised of 10 UN member states, which include:
 - a) The immediate termination of all military operations from the archipelago,
 - b) The withdrawal of all military personnel within a time frame of six months,
 - c) Safe and secure evacuation with hospitable conditions left by the troops,
 - d) The transfer of all military equipment,
8. Calls upon the United Kingdom to pay significant concessions to Chagossians, who decided to:
 - a) Resettle on the Chagos Archipelago
 - b) Stay in the UK by measures such as but not limited to:
 - i. Providing them with training programmes for gainful employment
 - ii. Granting every Chagossian residing in the United Kingdom after the 1st of January 2021 full citizenship of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland.