

C. Bilateral Treaties

Mauritius and Seychelles

Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles on the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone between the Two States, 29 July 2008

The Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles,

Desirous of strengthening the neighbourly relations and bonds of friendship between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles (hereinafter referred to as “the two States”);

Mindful of the principles of international law and in particular the principles of sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity of States;

Recognising the need to effect a precise and equitable delimitation of the respective maritime areas in which the two States exercise sovereign rights and jurisdiction;

Cognisant of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of December 10, 1982, which entered into force on November 16, 1994 to which both States are party;

Referring to negotiations which took place between the two States between April 2002 and July 2008;

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the purpose of delimiting the Exclusive Economic zone between the two States.

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Delimitation Line

The delimitation line between the Exclusive Economic zone of the Republic of Mauritius (from the Island of Agalega) and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Seychelles (from the Islands of Coëtivy, St Francois, Providence and Farquhar respectively) shall be based on equidistance, considered in this particular case as an equitable solution in conformity with international law. This line has been determined by using the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea of each State is measured.

Article 2
Description of Delimitation Line

2.1 The delimitation line between the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Mauritius (from the Island of Agalega) and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Seychelles (from the Islands of Coëtivy, St Francois, Providence and Farquhar respectively) shall be formed by geodesics joining the geographical coordinates listed in paragraph 2.2 of this Agreement.

2.2 The delimitation line referred to in paragraph 2.1 of this Agreement is formed by a series of geodesics connecting the points in the order stated in the list below, as defined by their geographical coordinates:

Article 3
Methodology

3.1 The geographical coordinates referred to in paragraph 2.2 of this Agreement are based on the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84).

3.2 The delimitation line referred to in paragraph 2.1 of this Agreement is drawn, only for illustrative purposes, on the chart annexed to this Agreement.

Article 4

Maritime Boundary

The delimitation line referred to in paragraph 2.1 of this Agreement shall be the maritime boundary between the areas of the Exclusive Economic Zone referred to in Article 1 in which the States exercise, in accordance with international law, their respective sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

Article 5

Cooperation

The two States shall cooperate with each other whenever necessary in order to maintain the existing basepoints between the two States.

Article 6

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute arising between the two States with respect to the interpretation and application of this Agreement shall be resolved by peaceful means in accordance with international law.

Article 7

Amendment

7.1 Either of the two States may propose amendments to this Agreement and any proposal for amendments shall be made by either of them in writing through diplomatic channels.

7.2 Any amendments to this Agreement shall be adopted by mutual agreement between the two States.

Article 8

Entry into Force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification between the two States once they have completed the procedures required under their respective laws for the entry into force of this Agreement.

In Witness Whereof the representatives of the two Governments being duly authorized for this purpose have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Port Louis, Mauritius, on this 29th day of July in the year two thousand and eight.

Annex

Joint Statement

The Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles have today exchanged the Instruments of Ratification providing for the entry into force of the Agreement between Mauritius and Seychelles on the Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zones between the Two States, signed on 29 July 2008.

The Agreement provides for a delimitation line between the EEZ of Mauritius and the EEZ of Seychelles, determined on the basis of equidistance.

The basepoints which have been used to determine the median line on the Seychelles side are located on the islands of Coëtivy, St Francois, Providence and Farquhar respectively. The basepoints on the Mauritius side are located on the island of Agalega.

The said delimitation line is the maritime boundary between the two EEZs in which the States exercise, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea (UNCLOS), their respective sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

The Agreement enters into force on the date of exchange of Instruments of Ratification between the two States after the internal procedures required by both States have been completed.

The Instruments of Ratification have been exchanged between Ambassador Koonjul, on behalf of the Republic of Mauritius, and Mr. Raymond Chang-Tave, on behalf of the Republic of Seychelles, at the Mauritius Oceanography Institute on Wednesday 19 November 2008.

