

**THIRTY- SEVENTH (37TH) ORDINARY SESSION OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**INTERVENTION OF THE HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH, PRIME  
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS ON  
CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO**

**Your Excellency Mr Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, President of the  
Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairperson of the African  
Union,**

**Honourable Chairperson of the African Union Commission,**

**Heads of State and Government,**

**Excellencies,**

The untold sufferings caused by slavery and colonialism remain a blot on humanity's conscience. The main purpose of colonialism was exploitation. Unfortunately, the dark remnants of colonialism still exist today.

Mauritius wishes to express its deepest appreciation to African Union Member States for their unwavering support and solidarity in its long-standing and relentless struggle to complete its decolonization process.

It is now 5 years since the International Court of Justice, in its Advisory Opinion, the United Nations, in its General Assembly Resolution 73/295 and the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea in its judgment of 2021 have made it clear that as a matter of international law, the Chagos Archipelago forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius. Yet as of

today the colonial power is still illegally occupying that part of the territory of Mauritius.

In November 2022, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom initiated negotiations with Mauritius on the exercise of sovereignty with a view to reaching an agreement on the basis of international law in order to resolve all outstanding issues, including those relating to the implementation of a programme by Mauritius for the resettlement of our nationals, in particular those of Chagossian origin who had been forcibly removed from their birthplace in blatant violation of their fundamental human rights.

Mauritius has been negotiating in good faith with the United Kingdom over more than a year. However, lately, no tangible progress has been noted in the negotiations since, in our view the United Kingdom has been delaying the conclusion of an agreement.

Compounded to this situation, Mauritius has been the subject of unfounded and vile attacks from certain quarters including the British press, think tanks and other influencers.

I continue to reiterate to the British Prime Minister the need to urgently conclude our negotiations and bring an end to the last remnants of British colonialism in the African continent. And I call on your support in this endeavor.

I thank you.