

Press Communiqué

Meeting between Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius and Rt. Hon. Theresa May, British Prime Minister on 18 March 2019

At the request of the UK Authorities, Honourable Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, met Rt. Hon. Theresa May, British Prime Minister on 18 March 2019 at 10, Downing Street, London. Also present were Hon. David Lidington UK Deputy Prime Minister, High Commissioner Girish Nunkoo and Ambassador Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the UN.

Welcoming Hon Jugnauth, the British Prime Minister emphasized the good relations between Mauritius and UK and expressed her desire to further deepen these relations by exploring new avenues of cooperation and joint initiatives in various sectors of interest to Mauritius.

With respect to the Advisory Opinion on the Chagos Archipelago delivered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 25 February 2019, Rt. Hon., Theresa May recalled the initial and consistent position of the UK that the Chagos Archipelago issue was a bilateral one and wished that both countries continue to discuss solutions bilaterally. The Mauritius Prime Minister thanked Prime Minister May for making time to meet him and welcomed the offer of the UK to deepen and further consolidate the relations. He pointed out the Advisory Opinion is about the decolonization of Mauritius and was requested by the UN General Assembly, which will now consider appropriate action. In that regard, Prime Minister Jugnauth stated that Mauritius and other countries will be tabling a draft resolution at the United Nations General Assembly towards the end of April, and indicated the willingness of Mauritius to work with the UK in order to produce a joint draft to give effect to the Advisory Opinion, which could offer a win-win situation.

The British Prime Minister stated that the UK Authorities were still studying the Advisory Opinion and its implications for the UK Government. She suggested that the two Permanent Representatives in New York should pursue consultations, and that she would, in the near future, send a Foreign Office Minister to Mauritius to hold further discussions. .

Concrete proposals are being awaited from the UK side on the implementation of the Advisory Opinion. Whilst awaiting such proposals the Prime Minister indicated that Mauritius would proceed expeditiously with a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly, to implement the Advisory Opinion.

Mauritius High Commission, London

19.03.2019