

## **COMMUNIQUE**

A meeting of the Committee of Parliamentarians on the Chagos Archipelago chaired by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister was held on 15 July 2016.

The Committee, which was set up following the Award delivered on 18 March 2015 in the case brought by Mauritius against the United Kingdom in respect of the Chagos Archipelago, comprises the Hon. Leader of the Opposition as well as a representative of each political party represented in the National Assembly.

The Committee took cognizance of the reply received by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister on 7 July 2016 from the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The Committee had an exchange of views on latest developments and the way forward with regard to the Chagos Archipelago. It agreed that Government should move forward on its action at the United Nations General Assembly.

The Committee noted that all Mauritian citizens, including those of Chagossian origin, are united on the Chagos Archipelago issue.

The Committee reiterated that Mauritius has sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and does not recognise the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory”.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister also met Mr. Olivier Bancoult, Chairman and Leader of the Chagos Refugees Group, prior to the meeting of the Committee to exchange views on the Chagos Archipelago issue, including the recent judgment of the UK Supreme Court.

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister reiterated his full support to Mauritian citizens of Chagossian origin in their struggle for resettlement in the Chagos Archipelago, while Mr. Bancoult renewed the pledge of the Chagossian community in support of Government action with regard to the effective exercise by Mauritius of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Both the Prime Minister and Mr. Bancoult reiterated that the issues of sovereignty and resettlement are indissociable.

**Prime Minister's Office**

**15 July 2016**