

Extended continental shelf for Mauritius and Seychelles

Arvin Boolell leads Mauritian delegation in New York

Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, will lead a Mauritian delegation at the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) on Thursday 26 March 2009 in New York, USA.

Both Mauritius and Seychelles had agreed to make a Joint Submission for an extended continental shelf in the region of the Mascarene plateau. The delegations of Mauritius and Seychelles will thus make a presentation on the groundbreaking Joint Submission. The latter is being made in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which entered into force in Mauritius and Seychelles in the year 1994.

In the Joint Submission made on 1 December 2008, both Mauritius and Seychelles jointly claim some 400,000 sq. km of additional continental shelf beyond the traditional 200 nautical mile limit. Managing to secure exclusive access and jurisdictional certainty to additional areas of seabed and resources, including oil and gas reserves amongst others, will be crucial for the development of both countries.