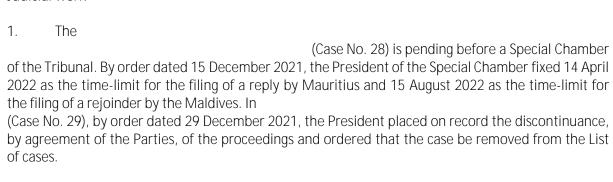
Contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea

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2. The case relates to the dispute between Mauritius and the Maldives concerning the delimitation of their maritime boundary in the Indian Ocean. It was submitted to a special chamber of the Tribunal by notification of a special agreement concluded between the Parties on 24 September 2019. On 18 December 2019, the Maldives filed with the Special Chamber

requested that the opening of the oral proceedings be postponed until a later date "[i]n view of the ongoing implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding ... concluded by Switzerland and Nigeria on 20 May 2021 regarding the issue of the M/T 'San Padre Pio'". Having regard to the special circumstances of the case and having sought the views of the Parties, the opening of the oral