

Timor-Leste defends maritime boundaries in an event at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

The Ambassador for Timor-Leste to the United Kingdom and chief negotiator at the Maritime Boundary Council, Joaquim da Fonseca, has sustained the position of Timor-Leste over its maritime territory, [at an event organized by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea \(ITLOS\), in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Republic of Indonesia, which took place in Bali, from August 26th to August 28th.](#)

On the last day of the event, Joaquim da Fonseca highlighted, on his intervention, that “The people of Timor-Leste attribute a great importance to the delimitation of permanent maritime boundaries as a step in securing our full sovereignty as an independent state”.

The beginning of the negotiations on the maritime boundaries of Indonesia and Timor-Leste, announced during the meeting of the Prime Minister, Rui Maria de Araújo, with the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, was highlighted by the chief negotiator from the Maritime Boundary Council: “We were encouraged by the words of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Dr. Hasan Wirayuda, at the opening of the seminar, when he said that Indonesia should approach negotiations with a view to settle boundaries at a time when we enjoy the best of relationships”.

Joaquim da Fonseca commented on the maritime boundary delimitation process, by concluding that “Timor-Leste strongly believes that international law and the mechanisms for their application could provide an effective means for peaceful settlement of disputes, especially when parties are in an asymmetric relationship. We are committed to make the best use of such mechanisms to achieve the final delimitation of maritime boundaries with Australia”.

This workshop, organized by ITLOS, in cooperation with the Government of Australia, analysed the United Nations Convention, from 1982, on the Law of the Sea, by paying special attention to the role of the Court.

On this event, apart from the Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca, also representing Timor-Leste, were the Ambassador to Australia, Abel Guterres, the Chief Executive for the Maritime Boundary Office, Elizabeth Exposto, and the Director for Legal Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Francisco Ornai.

To have access to the complete intervention by the Ambassador for Timor-Leste to the United Kingdom and chief negotiator at the Maritime Boundary Council, Joaquim da Fonseca, click [here](#).

url: <http://timor-leste.gov.tl?lang=en&p=13146>