



Maritime Boundary Office

Council for the Final Delimitation
of Maritime Boundaries
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The Maritime Boundary Office is the Secretariat for the Council for the Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, which is responsible for the negotiation of permanent maritime boundaries with Indonesia and Australia.

Dili International Conference: Maritime Boundaries and the Law of the Sea

On 19 May, 2016 the Timor-Leste Government presented the inaugural *Dili International Conference: Maritime Boundaries and the Law of the Sea*. The Conference coincided with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the international framework for law over oceans. The event raised international awareness of the role of international tribunals and provided a forum for discussion on current and emerging maritime boundary issues. Prime Minister Dr Rui Maria de Araújo opened the Conference and the current President of ITLOS, Judge Vladimir Golitsyn presented the key note address. There were panel discussions on global and regional perspectives on maritime boundaries featuring experts from the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.



Ms. Jalila Abdul Jalil; Ms. Janelle Saffin; H.E. Mr. Dionísio Babo Soares; Ambassador Eddy Pratomio; H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo, ITLOS President Vladimir Golitsyn; Professor Vaughan Lowe QC; H.E. Mr. Agio Pereira; Dr. Hao Duy Phan; Mr. I.Made Andi Arsana



*Chief negotiator
Xanana Gusmão and
UN Secretary-General
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
(UN photo/Rick
Bajornas)*

Initiating compulsory conciliation

On 11 April, 2016 the Timor-Leste Government initiated compulsory conciliation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The aim of compulsory conciliation is to reach an agreement on permanent maritime boundaries with Australia. Compulsory conciliation is a procedure in

which a panel of conciliators assist countries to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute. It can be used in circumstances where no agreement has been reached between neighbouring countries and one country has excluded itself from the jurisdiction of binding dispute settlement bodies on maritime boundaries.

On 13 April Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão had a courtesy call with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon in New York to discuss latest developments in Timor-Leste and inform the Secretary General on the compulsory conciliation notification.



*Ms. Elizabeth Exposto, MBO CEO;
H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo, Prime Minister,
Timor-Leste, Felismina Carvalho dos Reis
MBO Media Officer; Chief Negotiator
Xanana Gusmão*

Maritime Boundary Office website launch

Prime Minister Dr Rui Maria de Araújo and Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão officially launched the new Maritime Boundary Office website on 29 February, 2016 in Dili at the Palácio do Governo. The website is an important tool to help Timor-Leste in its pursuit of permanent maritime boundaries. It is a comprehensive online platform detailing why Timor-Leste is pursuing maritime boundaries and looks at the existing treaties in the Timor Sea, as well as relevant international laws including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The website is completely trilingual, in Tetun, Portuguese and English. To view the website, visit www.gfm.tl/. At the event, the Maritime Boundary Office also launched its Facebook page and twitter handle.

Minister Xanana Gusmão appointed as Chief Negotiator

On 3 February, 2016, the Council of Ministers appointed His Excellency Xanana Gusmão as Chief Negotiator of the negotiating team of a Treaty for the Final Delimitation of Maritime Borders with Australia and Indonesia. The Chief Negotiator is responsible for the definition of the strategy of the Council and leading negotiations. Minister Xanana Gusmão said he was privileged to be in this role and that finalising Timor-Leste's maritime boundaries was an important goal for him to achieve in his lifetime.

Prime Minister discusses maritime boundaries during Pope visit

Prime Minister Dr Rui Maria de Araújo visited Pope Francis at the Vatican Apostolic on 3 March, 2016. The Prime Minister discussed Timor-Leste's maritime boundary issues with Australia and the Pope indicated he would consider the issue.



His Holiness Pope Francis and H.E. Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araújo meet at the Vatican in Rome on 3 March 2016.

Maritime boundary negotiations with Indonesia

Timor-Leste and Indonesia have agreed to bilaterally negotiate maritime boundaries according to international law, particularly UNLOS and those negotiations are continuing. Indonesian President His Excellency Joko Widodo reaffirmed his commitment to finalising permanent maritime boundaries with Timor-Leste during his visit to Dili on 26 January, 2016. Land boundary negotiations between Timor-Leste and Indonesia are also progressing well and are expected to be completed by the end of 2016.



H.E. Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araújo and H.E. President Joko Widodo meet at the Palácio do Governo on 26 January 2016.