

Annex 7:
Press Releases Nos. 1 to 3



PRESS RELEASE

Conciliation between The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and The Commonwealth of Australia

THE HAGUE, 29 July 2016

The Conciliation Commission Concludes First Procedural Meeting

On Thursday, 28 July 2016, the Conciliation Commission held a Procedural Meeting in the compulsory conciliation initiated between The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (“**Timor-Leste**”) and the Commonwealth of Australia (“**Australia**”) under [Annex V](#) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the “**Convention**”).

The meeting took place at the Peace Palace, the headquarters of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (the “**PCA**”) in The Hague, the Netherlands.

Timor-Leste is represented by H.E. Minister Hermenegildo Pereira as Agent and Ms. Elizabeth Exposto as Deputy Agent, by Professor Vaughan Lowe QC, Sir Michael Wood KCMG and Mr. Eran Sthoeger as Counsel, and by Ms. Janet Legrand, Mr. Stephen Webb, and Ms. Gitanjali Bajaj as Legal Representatives. Additionally, H.E. Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, H.E. Ambassador Joaquim da Fonseca, H.E. Ambassador Milena Pires, Mr. Simon Fenby, and Ms. Sadhie Abayasekara participated in the meeting on behalf of Timor-Leste.

Australia is represented by Mr. John Reid as Agent and Ms. Katrina Cooper as Co-Agent, and by Solicitor-General Justin Gleeson SC, Sir Daniel Bethlehem KCMG QC, and Mr. Bill Campbell QC as Counsel. Additionally, H.E. Ambassador Brett Mason, Ms. Amelia Telec, Mr. Justin Whyatt, Ms. Indra McCormick, and Mr. Will Underwood participated in the meeting on behalf of Australia.

Commencement of the Conciliation

The conciliation was initiated by Timor-Leste on 11 April 2016 by way of a “Notification Instituting Conciliation Under Section 2 of Annex V of UNCLOS” addressed to Australia pursuant to Article 298 and Annex V of the Convention.

On 2 May 2016, Australia submitted “Australia’s Response to the Notice of Conciliation”.

The five-member Conciliation Commission was constituted on 25 June 2016 and is chaired by H.E. Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen (Denmark). The other members of the Commission are Dr. Rosalie Balkin (Australia), Judge Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), Professor Donald McRae (Canada and New Zealand), and Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany).

With the agreement of the Parties, the Permanent Court of Arbitration acts as Registry in the proceedings.

Next Steps

The next step in the proceedings will be a hearing from 29 to 31 August 2016 at which the Parties will address the background to the conciliation and certain questions concerning the competence of the Commission.

The **Permanent Court of Arbitration** is an intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 121 Member States. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration, conciliation, fact-finding, and other dispute resolution proceedings among various combinations of States, State entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA’s International Bureau is currently administering 8 interstate disputes, 75 investor-State arbitrations, and 34 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

Contact: Permanent Court of Arbitration
E-mail: bureau@pca-cpa.org



Members of the Conciliation Commission, Representatives of Timor-Leste and Australia, and Representatives of the Permanent Court of Arbitration following the first procedural meeting.



PRESS RELEASE

Conciliation between The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and The Commonwealth of Australia

THE HAGUE, 22 August 2016

Commission to hold public opening session followed by hearing on competence

On 29 August 2016, the Conciliation Commission will hold an opening session in the conciliation proceedings between The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (“**Timor-Leste**”) and the Commonwealth of Australia (“**Australia**”) under [Annex V](#) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the “**Convention**”) at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Commission has decided, with the agreement of the Parties, that the opening session of the hearing will be webcast live on the website of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. During the opening session, the Parties are invited to address the background to the conciliation and the competence of the Commission.

The opening session will be followed by a hearing on certain objections to the competence of the Commission raised by Australia. This hearing will continue through 31 August 2016 and will not be webcast or open to the public. After having heard the Parties on the objections raised by Australia, the Commission will decide whether to rule on Australia’s objections as a preliminary matter or to continue with the conciliation proceedings and defer the question of competence for later decision.

Webcast of Opening Session

The live webcast will be made available on a dedicated webpage hosted on the PCA website via the following link: <https://pca-cpa.org/en/news/timor-leste-australia/>. No accreditation or password will be required to access the live webcast.

Video of the opening session and transcripts will also be posted to the PCA website following the session.

The schedule for the opening session of the hearing will be as follows:

	Hague Time (CEST)	Dili Time (TLT)	Canberra Time (AEST)
Introduction	9:30 – 9:45	16:30 – 16:45	17:30 – 17:45
Timor-Leste’s Opening	9:45 – 11:15	16:45 – 18:15	17:45 – 19:15
Break	11:15 – 11:30	18:15 – 18:30	19:15 – 19:30
Australia’s Opening	11:30 – 13:00	18:30 – 20:00	19:30 – 21:00

Background on the Proceedings

These conciliation proceedings concern the maritime boundary between Timor-Leste and Australia and were initiated by Timor-Leste on 11 April 2016 by way of a “Notification Instituting Conciliation Under

Section 2 of Annex V of UNCLOS” addressed to Australia pursuant to Article 298 and Annex V of the Convention.

On 2 May 2016, Australia submitted “Australia’s Response to the Notice of Conciliation”.

The five-member Conciliation Commission was constituted on 25 June 2016 and is chaired by H.E. Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen (Denmark). The other members of the Commission are Dr. Rosalie Balkin (Australia), Judge Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), Professor Donald McRae (Canada and New Zealand), and Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany).

On 28 July 2016, the Conciliation Commission held a procedural meeting with the Parties at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands.

With the agreement of the Parties, the Permanent Court of Arbitration acts as Registry in the proceedings.

* * *

The **Permanent Court of Arbitration** is an intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 121 Member States. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration, conciliation, fact-finding, and other dispute resolution proceedings among various combinations of States, State entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA’s International Bureau is currently administering 8 interstate disputes, 75 investor-State arbitrations, and 34 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

Contact: Permanent Court of Arbitration
E-mail: bureau@pca-cpa.org



PRESS RELEASE

Conciliation between The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and The Commonwealth of Australia

THE HAGUE, 31 August 2016

Commission Holds Public Opening Session in Conciliation Proceedings

On Monday, 29 August 2016, the Conciliation Commission held an opening session of the compulsory conciliation initiated between the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (“**Timor-Leste**”) and the Commonwealth of Australia (“**Australia**”) under [Annex V](#) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the “**Convention**”), which is being conducted under the auspices of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (the “**PCA**”). Pursuant to a decision of the Commission, with the agreement of the Parties, the opening session was webcast live and made public on the PCA website.

During the opening session, the Parties addressed the background to the Parties’ dispute and the context of the conciliation proceedings.

Timor-Leste’s submissions were made by Ms. Elizabeth Exposto (Timor-Leste’s Deputy Agent), H.E. Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Professor Vaughan Lowe QC, Sir Michael Wood KCMG, and H.E. Minister Hermenegildo Pereira (Timor-Leste’s Agent).

Australia’s submissions were made by Mr. John Reid (Australia’s Agent), Mr. Gary Quinlan AO, and Solicitor-General Justin Gleeson SC.

The opening session was held at the Peace Palace, the headquarters of the PCA in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Commission will proceed to hear, *in camera*, the Parties’ oral submissions on the competence of the Commission through 31 August 2016.

A video of the opening session, the hearing transcript for the opening session, and the maps and illustrative images used during the Parties’ presentations, are available at <https://pcacases.com/web/view/132>.

Background to the Conciliation

These conciliation proceedings concern the maritime boundary between Timor-Leste and Australia and were initiated by Timor-Leste on 11 April 2016 by way of a “Notification Instituting Conciliation Under Section 2 of Annex V of UNCLOS” addressed to Australia pursuant to Article 298 and Annex V of the Convention.

On 2 May 2016, Australia submitted “Australia’s Response to the Notice of Conciliation”.

The five-member Conciliation Commission was constituted on 25 June 2016 and is chaired by H.E. Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen (Denmark). The other members of the Commission are Dr. Rosalie Balkin (Australia), Judge Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone), Professor Donald McRae (Canada and New Zealand), and Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany).

On 28 July 2016, the Conciliation Commission held a procedural meeting with the Parties at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands.

On 12 and 25 August 2016, the Parties provided the Commission with written submissions on the question of the Commission's competence.

With the agreement of the Parties, the Permanent Court of Arbitration acts as Registry in the proceedings.

* * *

The **Permanent Court of Arbitration** is an intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 121 Member States. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration, conciliation, fact-finding, and other dispute resolution proceedings among various combinations of States, State entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA's International Bureau is currently administering 8 interstate disputes, 75 investor-State arbitrations, and 34 cases arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

Contact: Permanent Court of Arbitration
E-mail: bureau@pca-cpa.org