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.