Brief History of the Timor Sea
Before the Restoration of Independence
After the Restoration of Independence
Timor-Leste/Australia Conciliation
Meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on 13 April 2016, following commencement of UN compulsory conciliation
What is 'Compulsory Conciliation'?

Compulsory conciliation is a non-binding procedure under Article 298 and Annex V of UNCLOS, in which a panel of expert conciliators assists State parties to try to reach an amicable settlement of their dispute, within 12 months.

1. Timor-Leste initiates conciliation
2. Conciliation Commission formed and procedure decided
3. Conciliation meetings, with view to reaching agreement
4. Commission submits report to UNSG
5. If no agreement, Parties must negotiate in good faith on basis of report.
Conciliation Commission

Timor-Leste's appointees

Judge Abdul Koroma
Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum

Agreed Chair

H.E. Ambassador Peter Taksøe-Jensen (Chairman)

Australia's appointees

Dr. Rosalie Balkin
Professor Donald McRae
Conciliation Commission and the delegations from Timor-Leste and Australia at The Hague, July 2016
Public hearing at the Peace Palace, The Hague, August 2016
Australia's Jurisdictional Challenge

• Australia raised an objection to the Commission's competence to hear the dispute under UNCLOS; if it succeeded, the conciliation would not go ahead. The objection was heard at the Hague in August 2016.

• On 19 September, the Commission unanimously determined it had competence.

• After that, Australia agreed to participate in good faith.
Commission proposed a package of confidence-building measures to make way for negotiations, including:

- For Timor-Leste to terminate CMATS
  - National Parliament approved on 10 January 2017
  - Termination took effect on 10 April 2017

- For Timor-Leste to end the two cases against Australia (on espionage and pipeline jurisdiction)

- For Australia to commit to negotiate in good faith, and to come to the table with a mandate to negotiate
Conciliation meetings

July 2016
Procedural meeting in Peace Palace, The Hague

August 2016
Public hearing and jurisdictional hearing at The Hague

October 2016
Conciliation meetings in Singapore on how to proceed

January 2017
Negotiations begin – conciliation meeting in Singapore

March 2017
Conciliation meeting in Washington, D.C.

June 2017
Conciliation meeting in Copenhagen

July 2017
Conciliation meeting in Singapore

August 2017
Conciliation meeting in Copenhagen

October 2017
Treaty finalised at The Hague

November 2017
Sunrise trilateral meeting in Brisbane

November 2017
Sunrise trilateral meeting in Singapore, oversaw by the Commission

December 2017
Sunrise trilateral meeting in Melbourne

December 2017
Sunrise trilateral meeting in Singapore, oversaw by the Commission

January 2018
Sunrise trilateral meeting in Sydney, oversaw by the Commission

February 2018
Sunrise trilateral meeting in Kuala Lumpur, oversaw by the Commission

6 March 2018
Treaty signed at the UN, NYC
Agents initial the Treaty at The Hague on 13 October 2017

Timor-Leste and Australia sign the Treaty in New York on 6 March, 2018
Significance of the treaty.
Questions?

For more information on maritime boundaries, see the MBO website: www.gfm.tl