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Indonesia - Exploratory meetings on maritime boundaries, Bali, 10–11 December 2018 and Singapore 26–27 February 2019

Exploratory meetings on maritime boundaries with Indonesia were held in Bali on 10–11 December, 2018 and in Singapore on 26–27 February, 2019. H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão led the Timorese delegation which also included H.E. Ambassador Roberto Soares, Special Assistant to the Chief Negotiator and Head of the Technical Team for the Land Border Negotiations, Elizabeth Exposto, CEO of the MBO and Marcos da Costa, Counsellor from the Timor-Leste Embassy in Jakarta. The Indonesian delegation was led by Damos Dumoli Agusman, Director General for Legal Affairs and International Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two countries met in a spirit of cooperation to discuss key technical and administrative matters. The Bali and Singapore meetings were both productive and set a positive tone for maritime boundary delimitation with Indonesia in accordance with international law, and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.



First Exploratory Meeting with Indonesia, in Bali, 11 December 2018



Second Exploratory Meeting with Indonesia, in Singapore, 27 February 2019

Fourth Senior Officials' Consultation on Land Borders, 13–14 December 2018

The 4th Senior Officials' Consultation on the Land Borders between Timor-Leste and Indonesia was held in Dili on 13–14 December, 2018. Significant progress was made at this meeting, laying the foundations for a final agreement on land borders between the two countries. Opened by H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão, the delegations discussed the small remaining unresolved segments of the border, namely Noel Besi/Citrana and Bidjael Sunan/Oben. Importantly, the countries agreed to conduct a joint field survey, and the terms of reference for a joint field visit to these areas was agreed. This is a critical step required to inform any decision to resolve the final borders. The joint survey is scheduled to be carried out in the first half of 2019.



The 4th Senior Officials' Consultation on the Land Borders between Timor-Leste and Indonesia, Dili, Dec 2018





H.E. Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak with delegation from Vanuatu, Dili, 6 Feb, 2019

Vanuatu – Timor-Leste exchange visits, 30 November –1 December 2018, and 4–7 February 2019

H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão led a small delegation from Timor-Leste to Vanuatu to meet with Acting President and Speaker of the Parliament Esmon Saimon, Prime Minister Charlot Salwai, Foreign Minister Ralph Regenvanu, and other government representatives to strengthen bilateral relations between Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. Vanuatu has been a steadfast supporter of Timor-Leste since the early days of the resistance. The visit also provided an opportunity for Timor-Leste to share its recent experience in the compulsory conciliation process to resolve its maritime boundary dispute with Australia. Vanuatu is currently in a similar situation, in dispute with France about the maritime boundary between Vanuatu and the French territory of New Caledonia.

Vanuatu then reciprocated the visit in February 2019. Head of the Vanuatu National Committee on Maritime Boundary Delimitation and Member of Parliament Mr. Johnny Koanapo led a small delegation to Timor-Leste from 4-7 February, 2019. The delegation included Attorney General Mr. Arnold Kiel Loughman, Head of the Division of Internal Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Yvon Basil, and Head of the Maritime

and Oceans Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Toney Tevi. This visit provided the opportunity to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries and to learn more about Timor-Leste and the maritime boundary negotiations. Vanuatu thanked Timor-Leste for the information, advice and solidarity.



H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão meets with Acting President and Speaker of the Parliament Esmon Saimon, in Port Vila, 30 Nov, 2018

Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum, 11–13 January 2019, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Timor-Leste was invited to participate for the second time in the Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum in Abu Dhabi, the premier international forum for government, industry, and academia to address the key issues and changes in the world of energy. Held under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the Forum is convened by the Atlantic Council, a partner of Timor-Leste through the Partnership Program with U.S. Civil Society.



H.E. Chief Negotiator delivering a key note address at panel discussion: Transitioning from a resource dependent economy and avoiding the resource curse, 11 January 2019

From 11-13 January 2019, H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão and a small Timorese delegation from MBO, including the CEO Elizabeth Exposto and the Resources Team, including Petroleum Minister Designate Alfredo Pires and President of the ANPM, Gualdino da Silva visited Abu Dhabi to participate in the Global Energy Forum and conduct a series of side meetings with prominent UAE and other world leaders including the U.S. Secretary of State for Resources Frank Fannon, Sovereign Wealth Fund managers, and oil companies. The Chief Negotiator was invited to give two key note addresses at the Forum, as well as a guest lecture at the Emirates Diplomatic Academy.



H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão with students from the Emirates Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi, 13 Jan, 2019

9th International Conference on Humans Rights Education at Western Sydney University, 27 November 2018

H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão was invited to deliver a key note speech at the 9th International Conference on Humans Rights Education at Western Sydney University in Australia on 27 November 2018. In his speech, titled "Harvesting Human Rights for Independence and Democracy," the Chief Negotiator spoke about the history of Timor-Leste and the strength and courage of the Timorese people. He said that education was critical to understanding the importance of human rights and civic engagement. He also addressed the issue of democracy and the challenges being faced in the world today. He talked about the importance of institutions, including the United Nations and its role facilitating the recent maritime boundary compulsory conciliation process with Australia.



H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão delivers speech: "Harvesting Human Rights for Independence and Democracy," at Western Sydney University, 27 Nov, 2019

H.E. Chief Negotiator visited Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, 27 November, 2019

H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão delivered remarks to students at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College. In his speech titled "Feto Forte, Nasaun Forte" or "Strong woman, strong nation," he shared his ideas about opportunity, responsibility and adversity, and also his theories about the educational experience of Timorese and Australian students. The Chief Negotiator commended Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College for its values of community service, social justice and human dignity. The school supports education in Maliana through the Teacher Professional Learning Centre, the Food for Thought Program and the Colegio Scholarship Program. The school was also very vocal in its support for Timor-Leste claiming and defining its maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea.



H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão visits students at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, Sydney, 27 Nov, 2019

Thank you meeting with Australian solidarity group, Sydney, 27 November, 2019

H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão met with a group of Australians who are longtime and dedicated supporters of Timor-Leste. The Chief Negotiator honoured their efforts to support the people of Timor-Leste during the Independence struggle and more recently in the dispute with Australia over maritime boundaries. He encouraged the group to continue the strong bonds of friendship between the two countries into the future.

National Seminar on the impact of maritime boundaries on Timor-Leste's resources activities, 8 December 2018, Dili

The MBO worked closely with ANPM and TIMOR GAP to support H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão as he presented a national seminar at the CCD (Convention Centre of Dili) to provide information about Timor-Leste's recent resources activities, following the resolution of the maritime boundary dispute with Australia. During the day-long seminar, the Chief Negotiator talked about Timor-Leste's maritime boundaries and recent resources activities including the process and rationale behind the ConocoPhillips and Shell transactions. The President of ANPM, Gualdino da Silva explained about Timor-Leste's participation in the Joint Venture for Greater Sunrise development and the President and CEO for TIMOR GAP, Francisco Monteiro, talked about progress of the South Coast development.



With longtime Australian supporters in Sydney, 27 November 2018

The seminar was attended by more than 1000 people and was also broadcast live on GMNTV and TVTL. In his remarks, the Chief Negotiator called on each sector: agriculture, defense, business, veterans, youth and the private sector to work hard to contribute to the development of Timor-Leste.



H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão at CCD during the National Seminar on Maritime Boundaries, Dili, 8 Nov. 2018