



**Maritime Boundary  
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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.

## American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) visit to Timor-Leste, 8-13 April 2019

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) is a non-profit organisation which promotes global understanding and cultivates relationships among the next generation of world leaders. ACYPL provides emerging leaders with the opportunity to learn about international affairs through exchanges of people and ideas. Their partnerships program provides in-depth exchanges which allow participants can experience different cultures and learn about governance and politics in other countries.

The Timor-Leste Government and ACYPL established a partnership in 2017 and since then, young Timorese leaders have visited America and two delegations of young Americans have visited Timor-Leste. The most recent American delegation visited Timor-Leste in April, where they toured historical and cultural sites, met with Timorese political and community leaders, met with Timorese youth, and learnt about measures being undertaken to protect the marine life on Ataúro Island.



*The ACYPL Delegation at Uma Amerika and Agora Food Studio, 9 April 2019*

## 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2 - 3 May 2019

The 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue was hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan in May 2019. H.E Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão, a 2002 North-South Centre laureate, was invited by the North-South Center of the Council of Europe to address the Forum. The Forum examined the critical role of Intercultural Dialogue for building human solidarity and helping counter violence and discrimination. In his remarks, the Chief Negotiator talked about the importance of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as recognising and respecting the difference within countries, communities and individuals. He concluded his remarks by saying the world needs more humanism, conviction and dedication to promote a shared humanity and a common future.



*H.E Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão participates in the 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, Baku, Azerbaijan, 2 and 3 of May, 2019*

## Joint Field Visit with Indonesia on Land Borders, 29 April to 15 May 2019

Delegations from Timor-Leste and Indonesia conducted a joint field survey of the remaining unresolved segments of the land border, at Noel Besi/Citrana and Bidjael/Sunan/Oben. The survey was an important step towards resolution of the final segments of our land borders. The report of the field visit was presented at a special meeting on the Joint Field Visit held on July 1, in Bali, the day prior to the Fifth Senior Officials' Consultation on Land Borders.



*Timor-Leste's delegation, Oe-Cusse, 15 May 2019*

## Fifth Senior Officials' Consultation on Land Borders, Bali, 1-3 July 2019

The 5th Senior Officials' Consultation on Land Borders between Timor-Leste and Indonesia was held in Bali on 2-3 July, 2019. The meeting was held in a spirit of friendship and cooperation, and significant progress was made towards finalising our land borders.



*Timor-Leste's delegation, Bali, 3 July 2019*

## Exploratory meeting on maritime boundaries, Bali, 4-5 July 2019

An Exploratory Meeting on maritime boundaries with Indonesia was held in Bali on 4 and 5 July, 2019. H.E Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão led the Timorese delegation, which also included H.E. Ambassador Roberto Soares, the 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 two days of meetings were productive and set a foundation for the commencement of formal negotiations later in 2019.



*Timor-Leste and Indonesian delegations, Bali, 5 July 2019*

## Submission, analysis and approval by the Council of Ministers of the draft resolution on the ratification of the Maritime Boundary Treaty, 8-9 July 2019

With a view of ratifying the Maritime Boundary Treaty and entering it into force on 30 August 2019, the necessary legal procedures were undertaken in July. The Council of Ministers met with the Chief Negotiator on 8 and 9 July to discuss the ratification of the Treaty between Timor-Leste and Australia on their respective

maritime borders in the Timor Sea. The Council of Ministers reviewed and approved the proposed legislation and other necessary related documents, which is the final step before submission of a motion for the ratification of the Treaty to the National Parliament.

## Ratification of the Maritime Boundary Treaty by the National Parliament, 23 July 2019

H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão, H.E. Minister Agio Pereira, and H.E. Acting Minister Sara Brites, together with the negotiating team, presented to Commission B, C, and D of the National Parliament on 16-17 July 2019 the Maritime Boundary Treaty and the 4 proposed laws: Amendment of Tax Laws, Labour and Migration Law, Amendment of Petroleum Activities Law, and Amendment of Petroleum Fund Law.

After a long and rigorous debate, the National Parliament ratified the historic Maritime Boundary Treaty and approved the 4 proposed laws on 23 July 2019. The ratified Treaty, together with the approved laws, were sent to the President of the Republic for promulgation and gazettal.

The historical Treaty, which was signed on 6 March 2018 at UNHQ in New York, contains two main objectives: to delimit the maritime areas between Timor-Leste and Australia in the Timor Sea; and to establish a special regime for the Greater Sunrise Fields for the benefit of both Parties.

The required domestic laws passed the Australian Parliament, ratifying the Treaty, on 29 July 2019.



Timor-Leste National Parliament, 23 July 2019

## Congressional Delegation (CODEL) visit and welcome dinner hosted by Chief Negotiator, 28 July 2019

H.E. Xanana Gusmão, as Chief Negotiator and the President of the Organizing Committee for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Referendum, hosted a welcome dinner for the U.S. Congressional Delegation (CODEL) visiting Timor-Leste on 28 July 2019. This is the second CODEL to visit Timor-Leste, following the first CODEL visit in 2015. The US Congress has always been a strong supporter of Timor-Leste's independence movement, and has been supportive of our rights to pursue peaceful and just settlement of our maritime boundaries in accordance with international law.

The CODEL was led by the Honorable David Price, representative for North Carolina, and included: the Honorable Vern Buchanan, Representative for Florida (Deputy Head); the Honorable Susan Davis, the Representative for California; Honorable Gerry Connolly, the Representative for Virginia; Honorable David Cicilline, the Representative for Rhode Island; Honorable Neal Dunn, the Representative for Florida; and Honorable John Rutherford, the Representative for Florida.

The Chief Negotiator thanked the Congress members and particularly of Congressman David Cicilline of Rhode Island, who was a strong supporter for Timor-Leste's rights to pursue its maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea. The dinner was well attended by H.E. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, the US Ambassador and other prominent leaders such as H.E. Arão Noé, President of the National Parliament; Dr. José Ramos-Horta, former President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo, former Prime Minister; and several members of parliament and government.



(L-R) Hon. David Cicilline, Hon. David Price and H.E. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Dili, 28 July 2019

## Kim McGrath's "Crossing the Line" Book Launched, Lisbon, 26 July 2019

H.E. Chief Negotiator Xanana Gusmão, during his working visit to Lisbon from June 22 to 27 to attend the Natural Resources Conference and several g7 + Ministerial Meetings, also had the opportunity to participate in the launching of the book "Crossing the Line" by Kim McGrath, an Australian researcher who conducted exhaustive research on Australia's history in the Timor Sea. The launch of this work, now published in Portuguese by Porto Editora, was attended by more than 200 people with a particular interest in this important chapter of Timorese history.



Lisbon, Portugal, 26 July 2019

## MBO Briefings

The MBO continues to provide briefings on Timor-Leste's maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea to the public including universities, high schools, civil society and government agencies.

On 22 May 2019, MBO hosted a Maritime Boundary Delimitation Workshop that was conducted by Dr. Robin Cleverly, Technical Expert and Adviser to Timor-Leste. This workshop covered: 1) measuring the sea by drawing territorial limits; 2) dividing the seas by drawing equidistance lines; and 3) delimitation exercise by making equitable boundaries. More than 100 participants from the relevant ministries attended the workshop.

On 30 May 2019 and 23 July 2019, students from local universities and high schools invited MBO to talk about Timor-Leste's maritime boundaries. The students were attentive and asked important and relevant questions regarding the historic Treaty that was signed on 6 March 2018 in New York and the progress of the development of the Greater Sunrise Fields.

On 30 July 2019, NGO Forum (FONGTIL) also invited MBO to talk to the local NGOs about the Maritime Boundary Treaty between Timor-Leste and Australia. They congratulated the Government, especially the Chief Negotiator and the negotiation team, for the Treaty that was ratified by the National Parliament and appreciated the continued collaborations to the development of Timor-Leste.

*Canossa, 30 May 2019*



*Delimitation exercise, Hotel Timor, 22 May 2019*

**NEWSLETTER**  
**APRIL-JULY**  
**2019**

For more information contact:

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