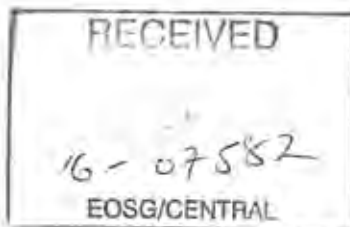


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Dili, 8 August 2016

Your Excellency,

Thank you for meeting with me during my recent visit to New York. It was a real privilege to meet with you and discuss Timor-Leste's story, and your unique perspective on nation-building issues given your work for the United Nations and in Darfur.

As I conveyed to you, fourteen years ago, the world welcomed Timor-Leste as its newest, sovereign nation. While many questioned the relevance of international institutions in a post-Cold War world, Timor-Leste's independence demonstrated the ability of the international system to succeed. Once again, Timor-Leste turns to the international community as we pursue our maritime boundaries according to international law with our friends in Indonesia and Australia.

The stakes are high for our nation. Establishing permanent maritime boundaries is the final step to realising our full sovereignty. We hold our sovereignty close to our hearts as so many of our people died to achieve the restoration of our independence. But our needs are also practical. Maritime boundaries are vital to our economic self-sufficiency. More than 60% of our population is under 25 and in need of education, health care, jobs and food security. We must meet this challenge to transition from fragility to resilience.

Yet, the delimitation of Timor-Leste's maritime boundaries has implications for the international system. Timor-Leste has commenced the first-ever Compulsory Conciliation procedure under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Timor-Leste has done this as a last resort but in the recognition that we must work together to find peaceful solutions within the global architecture for the benefit of all nations.

Your Excellency, on behalf of Timor-Leste, thank you for your continuing support of our nation. Timor-Leste has not forgotten the role the United Nations played in administering the early years of our nationhood. It is a unique debt we owe, and

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one we are repaying by creating a stable, sustainable and prosperous nation. As part of our continuing struggle however, we must delimit our maritime boundaries according to international law to achieve our sovereign rights and to provide jobs for our young people.

I do hope we can meet again when I am in New York for the General Assembly in September.

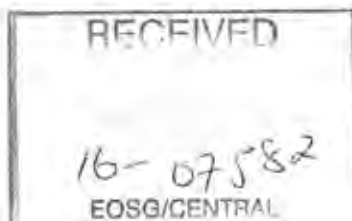
Yours sincerely,



Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo

Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

**HIS EXCELLENCY JAN ELIASSON
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK, USA**



**Permanent Mission of the
Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations**

NV/UN/161/2016

New York, 19 August 2016

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the attached letter signed by H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo, Prime Minister the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, dated 8 August 2016, addressed to H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste would highly appreciate that said letter be forwarded to its highest destination.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Executive Office
United Nations
New York

