

**Preparation of the 125th Anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration:
REFLECTIONS ON THE TIMOR-LESTE / AUSTRALIA CONCILIATION, FIVE YEARS
AFTER THE FIRST-EVER UNCLOS CONCILIATION**

**SIDE EVENT
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL LAW WEEK
24 October 2023, Tuesday, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Conference Room 8, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

(with the sponsorship of the Members of the Core Group – the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the Philippines, Australia, Egypt, Guatemala, Hungary, Thailand – Singapore, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam)

CONCEPT NOTE

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (the “PCA”) celebrates its 125th Anniversary in 2024. Created in 1899, the PCA is the oldest universal intergovernmental organization dedicated to international dispute settlement. It is the precursor to modern international courts and tribunals, and most of what is now considered the international legal order. The establishment of the PCA was a major milestone in the development of international law and the promotion of peace and security.

At the 209th Meeting on 19 April 2023 of the PCA’s Administrative Council, which is composed of 122 Contracting Parties, the Council adopted a Resolution which laid the groundwork for the preparations of the 125th anniversary of the international organization in 2024. This Resolution endorsed the efforts of the PCA’s International Bureau to achieve universal membership and called upon the Contracting Parties to support those efforts, encouraged Contracting Parties to make use of the PCA’s dispute settlement services, and mandated the preparation and planning of meaningful and cost-effective commemorative activities for the 125th anniversary.

On 3 August 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, via consensus, **Resolution 77/322 on the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration**. The Resolution, which was co-sponsored by 121 U.N. Member States, welcomes the 125th anniversary of the PCA, recognizes the important contributions of the PCA to the peaceful settlement of disputes, and encourages U.N. Member States to make use of the PCA’s services in arbitration, conciliation, mediation, commissions of inquiry and other peaceful means of dispute resolution. It further encourages U.N. Member States that have not yet done so to accede to the Conventions for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes of 1899 and 1907.

The Side Event on the occasion of the U.N. International Law Week seeks to animate the underlying purposes detailed in the PCA Administrative Council Resolution dated 19 April 2023 and UNGA **Resolution 77/322** dated 3 August 2023 by reinforcing the shared mission between the U.N. and the PCA towards the pacific settlement of disputes.

The Side Event will highlight how the PCA has evolved into a modern international dispute settlement institution through providing a wide array of services other than arbitration. It will also focus on the practical experiences of States before the PCA, notably the first-ever UNCLOS conciliation, which involved Australia and Timor-Leste.

This side event will be hosted by the PCA in collaboration with the core group of Contracting Parties which shepherded the passage of the UNGA **Resolution 77/322**— the Philippines, Australia, Egypt, Guatemala, Hungary, and Thailand— together with principal co-sponsors Singapore and Vietnam, where the PCA has offices in the Asian region, and Timor-Leste.

PROGRAM

24 October	<p>Preparation of the 125th Anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration: Reflections on the Timor-Leste / Australia Conciliation, five years after the first-ever UNCLOS Conciliation</p>
13:15H - 14:30H	<p>Introductory Remarks H.E. Antonio M. Lagdameo Ambassador and Permanent Representative (Philippines)</p> <p>Opening Remarks H.E. Mr. Suriya Chindawongse, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, (Thailand)</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Carla Maria Rodríguez Mancia Ambassador and Permanent Representative, (Guatemala)</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Dang Hoang Giang Ambassador and Permanent Representative, (Vietnam)</p> <p>Remarks H.E. J. Eduardo Malaya, Permanent Court of Arbitration, Administrative Council Acting President, Ambassador to The Netherlands (Philippines)</p> <p><i>The Australia – Timor-Leste Experience: PCA Conciliation under UNCLOS</i></p> <p>H.E. Dionisio Babo Soares, Former Foreign Minister (Timor-Leste)</p> <p>Mr. Adam McCarthy, Chief Counsel, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)</p> <p>Ms. Daphne Hong, Solicitor-General, Director-General of the International Affairs Division, Attorney-General’s Chambers (Singapore) - <i>Reflections on the potential of Alternative Dispute Resolution in inter-State dispute resolution</i></p> <p>Rapporteur— CDA Lester Ortega (Embassy of Guatemala, The Hague)</p> <p>Q & A Moderator — Dr Hao Duy Phan (Viet Nam) Author, <i>The Timor-Leste/Australia Conciliation: A Victory for UNCLOS and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes</i></p> <p>Remarks Dr. hab. Marcin Czepelak, Permanent Court of Arbitration, Secretary General</p> <p>Closing Remarks H.E. Péter Szijjártó (TBC) Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Hungary)</p>