

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

GOVERNMENT

Decree No. 1/2003

22 July 2002

ON THE ORGANIC STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

Decrees setting out organic structures are by definition structuring instruments of distinct state institutions and, in this sense, it is imperative to endow the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with a specific decree on its organic structure that will take into account the specificity of its Government competence within the state machinery.

Thus, pursuant to the combined provisions of section 1.1(a) and section 6 of the Decree-Law No. 7/2003, the Government shall enact the following that shall have the force of law:

CHAPTER I

Nature and competencies

Section 1

Nature

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is the Government Department charged with formulating, coordinating and executing the foreign policy of Timor-Leste.

Section 2

Competencies

The competencies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall be exercised in the following areas:

- (a) international policy;
- (b) promotion and defence of Timorese interests overseas;
- (c) protection of Timorese nationals overseas;
- (d) national representation in other States and international organisations;
- (e) conduct of international negotiations and responsibility for the process with a view to making these negotiations binding on the state, without prejudice to the competencies assigned to other organs of the State or mandates conferred by the Council of Ministers on other organs to deal with specific matters; and
- (f) regional and development cooperation.

CHAPTER II Office Holders

Section 3

- (a) The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, whose competencies are conferred by the organic structure of the 1st Constitutional Government, shall be assisted in the exercise of his or her functions by two Vice-Ministers. The competencies of the Vice-Ministers shall be those delegated by the Minister, the longest-serving Vice-Minister being his or her legal substitute, except as otherwise indicated;
- (b) The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall have an Office and the two Vice-Ministers shall each have a secretariat of their own.

CHAPTER III Support organs of the Minister

Section 4 Support organs

The support organs of the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation are:

- (a) the Advisory Board;
- (b) the Coordinating Board.

Section 5 Advisory Board

1. The Advisory Board is the body that periodically reviews the Ministry's activities and incumbent upon it, among others, are the following functions:

- (a) to study and assess the feasibility of the decisions issued by the organs of the State regarding the Ministry;
- (b) to monitor work plans and programmes;
- (c) to prepare a periodic work plan, assessing the results achieved;
- (d) to promote the interchange of experience and information between all sectors and departments of the Ministry and between its managers and officials;
- (e) to consider legislative drafts, as well as other sorts of legislation and documentation as may be approved by the distinct sectors of the Ministry's structure.

2. The Advisory Board shall have the following composition:

- (a) the Minister;
- (b) the Vice-Ministers;
- (c) the Secretary-General;

(d) the Directors

3. The Advisory Board shall meet ordinarily once a month, without prejudice to other extraordinary meetings whenever the Minister deems it convenient.

Section 6 Coordinating Board

1. The Coordinating Board is the body within the Ministry whereby the latter formulates, coordinates and monitors the actions developed by the Ministry within the scope of the Government programme and incumbent upon it are the following functions:

- (a) to coordinate and monitor the execution of the annual work plan and review it;
- (b) to consider, coordinate and harmonise development policies and strategies for this ministerial sector;
- (c) to recommend the approval of the work plan for the following year.

2. The Coordinating Board is composed of the Advisory Board members mentioned in subsection 5.2 and of the heads of the diplomatic and consular missions.

3. The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation may, whenever he or she deems it convenient, invite other entities or individuals, from within or outside the Ministry, to attend Coordinating Board meetings.

4. The Coordinating Board shall meet ordinarily once a year and extraordinarily, following a proposal by the Minister, after authorisation of the Prime Minister.

CHAPTER IV Bodies and services

Section 7 Bodies and services

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation consists of only one Secretariat-General, divided into Directorates.

2. Bodies, institutes or commissions the powers and competencies of which fall within the field of activity of this Ministry may, under the terms established by a specific order, function under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

3. The competencies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation shall be exercised overseas by the following external services:

- (a) diplomatic missions;
- (b) permanent representative offices;
- (c) consular posts; and
- (d) temporary missions.

Section 8 Secretariat-General

1. The Secretariat-General is the service responsible for ensuring the coordination of matters of a politico-diplomatic nature, as well as supervising and coordinating all of the administrative matters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.
2. As part of the Secretariat-General, and under the direct purview of the Secretary-General, are the following services of a politico-diplomatic nature:
 - (a) the Directorate of Bilateral Affairs;
 - (b) the Directorate of Regional Affairs;
 - (c) the Directorate of Multilateral Affairs;
 - (d) the Directorate of Legal Affairs and Treaties;
 - (e) the Directorate of Public Relations; and
 - (f) the Directorate of Consular Affairs and Timorese Communities
3. Within the scope of its politico-diplomatic functions, the Secretariat-General also comprises the following services:
 - (a) the Directorate of Administration;
 - (b) the Directorate of State Protocol.
4. In the exercise of the competence conferred upon it in subsection 1 above, it is incumbent upon the Secretary-General to articulate the action of the services mentioned in subsections 2 and 3.

Section 9 Competencies

The competencies of the Secretary-General are:

- (a) to ensure support for the exercise of the politico-diplomatic coordination functions;
- (b) to gather information on regional or international economic matters that are of interest to various sectors, without prejudice to the competencies of other public services;
- (c) to study, issue opinions and propose approaches to matters of particular politico-diplomatic relevance; and
- (d) to ensure the transmission of instructions that, within its competence, are issued to diplomatic missions, permanent representative offices, and consular posts of Timor-Leste.

Section 10 Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General, assisted by a secretariat of his or her own, staffed by no more than two people, is the officer charged with coordinating the activities of a politico-

diplomatic nature of the various services and bodies, as well as coordinating the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation by overseeing the services mentioned in subsection 8.2.

2. The Secretary-General is the officer holding the highest rank within the civil service hierarchy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

3. It is specifically incumbent upon him or her:

- (a) to propose actions to develop and execute the guidelines for the country's foreign policy;
- (b) to actively participate at Advisory Board and Coordinating Board meetings of the Ministry;
- (c) to transmit instructions to the internal and external services, as directed by his superiors;
- (f) to provide the necessary support to the Minister and other Cabinet members appointed for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- (g) to represent the Ministry, in case of absence or inability to act of the respective Cabinet members;
- (h) to coordinate the activity of the services of the Ministry, in such a way as to guarantee their smooth running;
- (i) to promote actions critical to the proper management of diplomatic officials and their respective career, exercising the competencies assigned to him or her by the statute of such officials;
- (j) to receive and meet with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Dili and convey to them replies binding the Government; and
- (k) to transmit, within his or her competence, general instructions to diplomatic officials posted to internal services or to diplomatic missions overseas.

Section 11

Directorate of Bilateral Affairs

1. The Directorate of Bilateral Affairs is the central service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation intended to ensure the effectiveness and continuity of the Ministry's action in the area of international political, economic and cultural relations at a bilateral level.

2. The competencies of the Directorate of Bilateral Affairs are:

- (a) to gather information on the political, economic and cultural reality in different countries and ensure an update on all of the elements of this same reality;
- (b) to study, issue opinions and propose approaches to all matters related to these countries;
- (c) to ensure that the Ministry is represented, within the scope of its competence, in interministerial committees and other national bodies where the competence of the latter covers matters of a political, economic and cultural nature; and
- (d) to prepare, coordinate and transmit the instructions issued to diplomatic missions, permanent representative offices and consular posts of Timor-Leste.

3. For the exercise of its competencies, the National Directorate of Bilateral Affairs is divided into:

- (a) the Asia Service;
- (b) the Indonesia Service;
- (c) the Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific Islands Service;
- (d) the Europe and Americas Service;
- (e) the Africa and Middle East Service.

4. The services referred to in the previous subsection are charged, within the limits of their respective geographic area, with:

- (a) gathering information of a political, economic and cultural nature and ensure an update on all of the elements about the political, economic and cultural reality from the different countries of the said areas;
- (b) to study, issue opinions and do the paperwork relating to political, economic and cultural matters concerning those countries;
- (c) to prepare the elements deemed necessary for clarifying Timor-Leste's foreign policy or defending national interests overseas and transmit instructions to the diplomatic and consular missions of Timor-Leste, as deemed convenient;
- (d) to initiate negotiations and participate in the process of signing or denouncing international treaties or conventions of a political, economic and cultural nature, ensuring to that effect the coordination of the necessary elements in close collaboration with other competent ministries and services;
- (e) to assist other services of the Ministry and other Government departments in the preparation of instructions and elements to be sent to Timorese representative offices with international organizations of a political, economic and cultural nature.

Section 12

Directorate of Regional Affairs

1. The Directorate of Regional Affairs is the service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation directly responsible for the relations between Timor-Leste and regional organizations worldwide, with a special emphasis on those to which Timor-Leste is or wants to become a party. The primary goal of this service is to ensure economic development and social well-being, through the defence of the interests of Timor-Leste in the region.

2. The competencies of the Directorate of Regional Affairs are:

- (a) to monitor processes related to Timor-Leste's participation or preparation to participate in international organisations and meetings of a political, economic and cultural nature;
- (b) to lead and coordinate Timor-Leste's participation in regional organisations and meetings;

- (c) to monitor the functioning of other regional organizations of which Timor-Leste is not a member, but whose activity is of interest to the country;
- (d) to prepare, coordinate and transmit instructions that, within the scope of its competence, are to be sent to the diplomatic missions, permanent representative offices and consular posts of Timor-Leste on matters related to the country's participation in regional organisations;
- (e) to initiate negotiations and participate in the process of signing and denouncing treaties or conventions on the establishment of political or economic organizations, or the transformation or dissolution thereof, and, in particular, those processes related to Timor-Leste's participation in such organizations.

3. For the exercise of its competencies, the Directorate of Regional Affairs is comprised of:

- (a) the ASEAN Service;
- (b) the Regional Affairs Service.

Section 13

Directorate of Multilateral Affairs

1. The Directorate of Multilateral Affairs is the service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation intended to ensure the monitoring of matters related to Timor-Leste's participation in international organisations and bodies, as well as in other relevant organisations in the area of the country's foreign policy, also covering economic and cultural areas of a multicultural nature.

2. The competencies of the Directorate of Multilateral Affairs are:

- (a) to monitor processes related to Timor-Leste's participation in international political, economic or cultural organisations of a multilateral nature;
- (b) to provide guidance and coordinate Timor-Leste's participation in the United Nations Organisation and specialized institutions;
- (c) to provide guidance and coordinate Timor-Leste's participation in other organizations and meetings of a multilateral nature outside the regional space Timor-Leste is a part of;
- (d) to monitor the functioning of other organizations Timor-Leste is not a member of, or is yet to become a member of, but whose activity is of interest to the country;
- (e) to initiate negotiations and participate in the process of denouncing treaties and conventions on the establishment of international political or economic organizations, outside the regional geographic area the country is a part of, or the transformation or dissolution thereof, and, in particular, in those processes related to Timor-Leste's participation in such organisations;
- (f) to monitor problems resulting from the participation of Timor-Leste in international organizations and meetings on matters of a political, economic or commercial nature, within the scope of its competence;
- (g) to prepare, coordinate and transmit instructions that, within the scope of its competence, are to be communicated to the permanent representative offices, Timorese delegations to international congresses, conferences and other events of

- a political or economic nature and to the consular posts of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste;
- (h) to gather all information and elements required for the country to take a stance on all matters related to international cooperation and security, and disarmament control;
 - (i) to monitor meetings between the European Union-Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific (UE.ACP);
 - (j) to actively participate in meetings of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries; and
 - (k) to closely monitor the activities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB).

Section 14 **Directorate of Legal Affairs and Treaties**

1. The Directorate of Legal Affairs and Treaties is the service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation intended to ensure consultation with and assistance to the Ministry in matters of a legal nature, with particular emphasis on the area of international law.

2. In the field of international law, it is incumbent upon the Directorate of Legal Affairs and Treaties:

- (a) to issue opinions, respond to queries and conduct studies on international legal matters;
- (b) to prepare, assist and ensure Timor-Leste's participation in the negotiation of international treaties and agreements;
- (c) to monitor the final procedures for rendering the State internationally bound;
- (d) to act as the depositary of international treaties and agreements where the State Timor-Leste has appointed it to that effect;
- (e) to participate in national or international committees and at international meetings or conferences on matters that fall within its competence;
- (f) to provide assistance in contentious international issues to which the State of Timor-Leste is a party;
- (g) to prepare a synopsis and compile all solemn acts of an international nature to which Timor-Leste is a party, or has an interest in, as well as decisions rendered by the country's higher courts on matters related international law, and decisions rendered by international courts the jurisdiction of which Timor-Leste has accepted or before which it has been a party;
- (h) to transmit and receive extradition warrants; and
- (i) to transmit and receive letters rogatory and commissions, as well as other judicial acts of interest to foreign countries.

3. In the field of domestic law, it is incumbent upon the Directorate of Legal Affairs and Treaties:

- (a) to issue opinions, reply queries and conduct studies on matters related to domestic law;

- (b) to assist in legal drafting, as requested;
- (c) to draft replies in contentious appeals and also monitor the respective proceedings at their different procedural stages;
- (d) to intervene in any investigations, enquiries or disciplinary proceedings; and
- (e) to assist competent authorities in preparing and monitoring the proceedings required for the trial of any matters involving any Service of the Ministry.

Section 15

Directorate of Administration

1. It is incumbent upon the Directorate of Administration:

- (a) to ensure, in consultation with all other departments, the recruitment, management and training of the Ministry's human resources, at the headquarters and in the diplomatic and consular missions;
- (b) to ensure the Ministry's financial and budgetary management;
- (c) to ensure the management of the Ministry's property and make sure that the State's property assigned thereto be maintained and that an inventory list thereof be prepared;
- (d) to coordinate and provide technical and administrative support to the external services, within the scope of financial and budgetary management;
- (e) to ensure the articulation of the external services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with the competent services of the Ministry of Planning and Finance in the area of financial administration;
- (f) to ensure compliance with the laws, regulations and other legal provisions of an administrative and financial nature;
- (g) to guarantee material and logistic conditions for the participation of the Ministry's delegations at meetings, conferences and other events both inside and outside the country.

2. The internal and external services and all other entities of the Ministry shall provide the Directorate of Administration with the information required for the exercise of their respective competencies.

3. It is also incumbent upon the Directorate of Administration:

- (a) to store, classify, catalogue and record all of the Ministry's documents that may be referred thereto by the services for that purpose;
- (b) to compile, in microfilm, documents of greater interest and value;
- (c) to promote the archiving of all documents from diplomatic and consular missions the storage of which in the respective filing cabinets is deemed unnecessary from a political and administrative viewpoint;
- (d) to receive incoming correspondence and register, microfilm and distribute it among the relevant services;
- (e) to send out correspondence referred thereto by the different services of the Ministry; and

- (f) to organize, close and dispatch diplomatic pouches and receive, open and distribute correspondence addressed to the Ministry in a diplomatic pouch by diplomatic and consular missions.

Section 16

Department of Information Technology and Overseas Communications

The Department of Information Technology and Overseas Communications, under the purview of the Secretary-General, is a support structure instrumental to all the internal and external services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Its action consists of dealing with automated information, communications, and cryptography, with the following tasks being incumbent upon it:

- (a) in the area of communications, the dispatch, receipt and processing of telegrams, aerogrammes and teletypes sent or received through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- (b) in the area of cryptography, to prepare the Ministry's cryptographic codes; to use and regulate the use of cryptographic keys and encoding equipment; to ensure the custody and storage of cryptographic keys, and the preparation and storage of transfer notes relating to technical and cryptographic materials;
- (c) in the area technical assistance, to install telecommunications and encoding equipment in internal and external services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; to provide for the maintenance of its operating conditions and ensure its repair; to issue opinions on technical aspects relating to the adoption of new technologies and equipment; and
- (d) in the area of information technology, to carry out activities relating to the collection, preparation and entry of data to be processed by computer, and monitor and disseminate processing products; to organize and execute work of a technical nature relating to computer applications; to ensure the correct operation and maintenance of equipment, ensuring that technical failures detected be immediately repaired and assisting in formulating training systems and preparing the master plan for the area of information technology.

Section 17

Directorate of State Protocol

It is incumbent upon the Directorate of State Protocol:

- (a) to organize the State Protocol in line with international practices;
- (b) to define, organize and adhere to the rules governing state ceremonial, etiquette and propriety in accordance with international practices and the country's traditions;
- (c) to ensure compliance with and promote the application of the norms and precepts pertaining to exemptions and privileges inherent in the diplomatic status;
- (d) to prepare, monitor and organise state ceremonies, receptions or solemnities involving the Head of State, the Speaker of the National Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet members, and other entities on the protocol list;

- (e) to organise the order of state precedence, as well as prepare and edit the list of the diplomatic corps accredited to Dili;
- (f) to organize, in conjunction with the Office of the President, state visits by the President of the Republic overseas, leading the respective advance parties and escorting the President on his or her trips;
- (g) to organize, in conjunction with the Office of the Speaker of the National Parliament, the Office of the Prime Minister and/or the Office of the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, official trips by these dignitaries overseas;
- (h) to arrange for and monitor official and unofficial visits and trips by Heads of State, Prime Ministers, and Ministers of Foreign Affairs to Timor-Leste, as well as by other high-ranking foreign officials or entities, as may be specifically assigned thereto;
- (i) to draft letters of ratification, diplomatic credentials and recredentials, letters granting plenary powers, cabinet letters, and letters patent, as well as all other instruments or credentials for official delegations;
- (j) to handle accreditation applications or requests for agrément for diplomatic envoys or Timorese consular agents overseas;
- (k) to issue diplomatic passports granted by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and ensure compliance with the legal provisions pertaining to the granting and use thereof;
- (l) to prepare and send, as requested, messages of congratulations or of condolences to be addressed to foreign authorities or entities on behalf of the Head of State, the Speaker of the National Parliament, the Prime Minister or the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- (m) to oversee the application of and compliance with the international norms and precepts governing relations between Timor-Leste and foreign diplomatic and consular missions based in the country and also with representative offices of international organisations having a status equivalent to that of the former;
- (n) to promote the application of the international norms and precepts inherent in the diplomatic status, granting to foreign diplomats, and other officials with an equivalent status and residing in Timor-Leste, the exemptions and privileges they are entitled to;
- (o) to register and issue number plates for vehicles owned by diplomatic missions based in the country and those owned by foreign residents of Timor-Leste enjoying diplomatic status;
- (p) ensure the application of and compliance with the international norms and precepts that obligate the State of Timor-Leste to assure foreigners residing in the country and enjoying diplomatic status their inviolability and safety, providing adequate protection to them; and
- (q) to issue ID cards to foreigners residing in the national territory and enjoying diplomatic status.

Section 18

Directorate of Consular Affairs and Timorese Communities

1. The Directorate of Consular Affairs and Timorese Communities is the department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation intended to ensure the effectiveness and

continuity of the Government competence in the area of the management of consular posts, at the level of international relations of a consular nature and in the coordination and execution of the policy for support of Timorese communities overseas. This Directorate is comprised of the three following services: The Service for Consular Protection and Legal and Social Support; the Service for Timorese Communities Overseas and Visas, and the Service for Consular Financial Administration.

2. The competencies of the Directorate of Consular Affairs and Timorese Communities are:

- (a) to provide guidance to and supervise the activity of the consular posts;
- (b) to ensure the State's concerted action in the area of international relations of a consular nature;
- (c) to assist in formulating the policy for support of Timorese communities overseas, and coordinate and execute actions arising from that policy;
- (d) to propose, promote and execute programmes of support for Timorese citizens residing overseas in consultation with public and private entities, national or foreign, and international organisations pursuing, by and large, similar goals; and
- (e) to ensure that the Ministry be represented in interministerial committees and other national bodies where the respective competence of the latter covers matters of a consular nature or relating to the situation of Timorese nationals residing overseas and the interests deriving therefrom;

3. The competencies of the Service of Consular Protection and Legal and Social Support are:

- (a) to authenticate or certify documents issued overseas and meant to produce effects in Timor-Leste;
- (b) to conduct and monitor civil registration acts and functions performed by consular posts;
- (c) to deal with citizenship matters submitted by consular posts and coordinate the treatment thereof with other public services that also have competence in this area;
- (d) to attend meetings in the country or overseas in the area of consular affairs;
- (e) to deal with matters pertaining to spoils, compensations or pensions to Timorese nationals overseas in collaboration and coordination with services of other government departments that also have competence in this area;
- (f) to provide passports and other travel documents to, and monitor the issuance thereof by, consular posts, and attend coordination meetings with the State departments responsible for issuing all travel documents cited above;
- (g) to gather information regarding living and working conditions in foreign countries and prepare updated information on those conditions;
- (h) to provide social and legal assistance to Timorese nationals residing overseas, as deemed necessary;
- (i) to propose and foster actions aimed at defending the interests in Timor-Leste of Timorese nationals residing overseas.

4 The competencies of the Service of Consular Affairs and Timorese Communities Overseas and Visas are:

- (a) to promote and implement activities of a consular nature between Timorese communities overseas;
- (b) to assist Timorese communities in host countries in their different forms of expression, namely in terms of culture, entertainment and sports;
- (c) to take part in initiatives launched by Timorese cultural centres overseas;
- (d) to make a survey of cultural institutions run by Timorese communities overseas;
- (e) to promote and support initiatives aimed at fostering an ever-increasing social integration of Timorese communities; and
- (f) to promote the collection of data relating to Timorese communities residing overseas.

It is incumbent upon the Service of Visas:

- (a) to handle matters relating to the issuance of visas by consular posts and sections, after consultation with other departments, as required;
- (b) to participate in the negotiation and denouncement of agreements on visas, movement of people and other border procedures; and
- (c) to ensure the protection of collected data under its custody;

5. The competencies of the Service of Consular Financial Administration are:

- (a) to verify the application of the schedule of consular fees and the collection of the corresponding revenue, keeping the necessary articulation with other services;
- (b) to issue opinions on the allotment of human and financial resources to consular posts and sections;
- (c) to design and recommend programmes, including their respective budgets, for cultural promotion and economic activities of Timorese communities overseas.

Section 19

Directorate of Public Relations

It is incumbent upon the Directorate of Public Relations:

- (a) to coordinate the action of all services and bodies of the Ministry in the area of social communication;
- (b) to gather, select and disseminate news of interest to the different services and bodies of the Ministry;
- (c) to ensure the broadcasting of the news that should be publicised;
- (d) to provide assistance and support to foreign correspondents accredited to Timor-Leste, and coordinate contacts between those professionals and other foreign journalists with official entities;
- (e) to organise and maintain press clippings files and other information media;
- (f) to assist in organising and covering official trips by high-ranking officials to Timor-Leste.

Section 20

External Services

1. Missions overseas comprise diplomatic missions, permanent representative offices and temporary missions.
2. Consular posts comprise career consulates, consular sections of diplomatic missions and honorary consulates.
3. The identification, category and location of the existing diplomatic missions, permanent representative offices, consular posts and temporary missions are mentioned in a list approved by a ministerial order jointly enacted by the Minister of Planning and Finance and the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.
4. Diplomatic missions and consular posts to be established in countries with which Timor-Leste has or may eventually have diplomatic relations, permanent representative offices with international organisations, and temporary missions, shall be established by a ministerial order jointly enacted by the Minister of Planning and Finance and the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

CHAPTER V

PERSONNEL

Section 21

Diplomatic officials

Diplomatic officials are governed by legal provisions applicable to civil servants in Timor-Leste until such a time as a specific statute taking into account the specificity of the diplomatic career, which shall be the object of a separate decree, is drafted and approved.

Section 22

Form of acts

1. The appointment and dismissal of ambassadors and of officials acting as head of diplomatic mission, consuls-general and consuls, as well as the promotion to the rank of ambassador shall be by decree, under the terms of the Constitution.
2. The following acts shall be jointly performed by the Prime Minister and the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation:
 - (a) assignment and reassignment of diplomatic officials; and
 - (b) appointment, dismissal or promotion of diplomatic officials up to the rank of plenipotentiary minister.
3. The following acts shall be performed by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation alone:

- (a) confirmation of recruited officials after serving a one-year probatory period;
- (b) appointment and dismissal of honorary consuls; and
- (c) all other acts that may change or abolish the status of diplomatic officials.

Seen and approved by the Council of Ministers on 23 May 2003. .

To be published:

The Prime Minister

[Signed]
(Mari Bim Amude Alkatiri)

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

[Signed]
(José Ramos-Horta)