

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE  
CANBERRA

***Amendment to the Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Commission:***

**Resolution, adopted by the Eighth Conference of the Pacific Community, on extending the territorial scope of the Pacific Community to include Timor-Leste**

(Suva, 19 November 2013)

Not yet in force  
[2014] ATNIF 1

Head agreement: [1948] ATS 15

**Resolution on extending the territorial scope of the Pacific Community to include  
Timor-Leste**  
(Suva, 19 November 2013)

The Conference of the Pacific Community,

Recognising Timor-Leste's interest in applying for membership of the Pacific Community,

Wishing to provide legal certainty to both members of the Pacific Community and to the Secretariat itself on the matter of application for full membership of the organisation,

Noting that the provision under Article II (3) of the Canberra Agreement, which states "*The territorial scope of the Community may be altered by agreement of all the participating Governments*", provides the mechanism to address this,

Resolves as follows:

On extending the territorial scope of the Pacific Community to include Timor-Leste

1. Timor-Leste has long-standing cultural and historical ties with the Pacific;
2. Timor-Leste has, through its contact with both the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and some members of the organisation, demonstrated that it shares the same vision and development aspirations and has the will and the capacity for substantive engagement with its Pacific neighbours in pursuit of sustainable development for the region;
3. In light of the above, the participating Government intend to extend the territorial scope of the Pacific Community to include Timor-Leste in line with Article II (3) of the Canberra Agreement;
4. To enable participating Governments to complete appropriate domestic processes, this agreement to expand the territorial scope of the Pacific Community will enter into force upon the expiry of one year from the date of this resolution, provided no participating Government lodges a written objection with the depositary (Government of Australia) prior to this date;
5. Should Timor-Leste lodge a formal request for membership, the Conference may invite it to become a member of the Pacific Community after the expiry of the one year period mentioned at point 4 above;
6. Should Timor-Leste wish to take up this invitation, it shall formally and legally be considered a full member of the Pacific Community upon completion of the procedure outlined in Article XXI (66) of the Canberra Agreement.