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## The Development of Oil and Gas Diplomacy Policy between Timor Leste and Australia in the Timor Sea

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### **Abstract:**

*Political strategy and future development of Oil and Gas Diplomacy in the Timor Sea from the Countries of Timor Leste and Australia for the development of the oil and gas industry in the interests of the country's economic welfare. The Timor Sea is an area that contains oil and gas (oil and gas) values, such as the Elang-Kakatua Oil Field and the larger Laminaria-Corallina Field, which is localized in the west, the Greater Sunrise Field. Where Bayu Undang is gas worth more than 30 to 50 billion US dollars, it is located closer to the south coast of Timor Leste than oil and gas areas or other islands located in the Timor Sea or in the area of the Timor Leste Sea and Australia, around \$ 64.5 Billion from oil and gas production in the Timor Sea, big profits from these oil and gas fields in the future. The aim of the oil and gas diplomacy policy-making held by Timor Leste and Australia is to increase the value of Timor Leste-Australia diplomacy policy in future cooperation in oil and gas diplomacy between the two countries, as well as to explore the strategic factors expected by both countries which will be able to maximize the positive impact of policy development. The future of diplomacy on oil and gas energy sources between the two countries on the Timor Leste-Australia Maritime Border is to maintain national energy security to ensure general prosperity. In this work, the author uses qualitative research methods to collect data that is very relevant and useful to enrich writing and that is worthy of access. Then the results of this writing are used to deepen the future policy of oil and gas diplomacy between the two countries to strengthen diplomatic relations between Timor Leste and Australia, as well as open up opportunities for the political and social-cultural aspects of the two countries which prioritize the concept of a win-win solution from the beginning toward the future.*

**Keywords:** Future of oil and gas diplomacy, Timor Leste-Australia, Timor Sea

### **1. Introduction**

The position of the State of Timor Leste-Australia in the policy environment for the future of oil and gas production on the border of the Timor Sea countries can be analyzed using the concept of balance or the concept of balance of power as a system and method where adopted in relations between countries or the nations where international stability can be achieved through efforts, which deliberately pursue the goal of stability of the national prosperity. This is the same as Adam Smith's perspective, which said that if each person pursues his own interests, then the interaction of each individual's egoism will actually increase national welfare. Likewise, international relations theorists argue that if every country pursues power, even at the expense of other countries, then no country will have dominance. The common interest will instead be maintained due to various selfish individual interactions. However, it should be noted that the balance of power system sometimes fails to prevent war if there is a rapid change in that balance. The concept of balance of power can prevent the possibility of a country or group of countries seizing hegemony and can guarantee equilibrium toward the achievement of peace.

Then, according to Stephen Haggard and Beth A. Simmons (1987), international regimes emerged as an important focus of empirical research and theoretical debate in international relations (Rendi Prayuda et al.). The significant differences between the competitive, zero-sum-game model of interstate relations and the authority of domestic politics appear to take too much of the explanation of behavior among developed countries. In reality, when there is a policy dilemma created by a growing sense of interdependence since the world war, it has produced a new form of coordination and organization that is completely incompatible with the realist framework of thinking, which considers cooperation between countries to be impossible. The presence of this international regime arises because of dissatisfaction with the dominant concept of international rules, authority and organization. In the context of international relations, the State of Timor Leste became a sovereign State on May 20, 2002; the existence of the State of Timor Leste is approaching 22 years

in the eyes of the global community (Winda Trisen, 2020). The country of Timor Leste is a country rich in oil and gas in the Timor Sea, the border of the Timor Leste Sea and Australia; the Timor Sea is an area that contains the highest oil and gas value of around \$64.5 billion from oil and gas products in the Timor Sea for the development of the national economy for the future of the country of Timor Leste (Irhas Novianti Yasma'un et al., 2018). The names of these oil and gas fields include the Elang-Kakatua Oil Field, the larger Laminaria-Corallina Field, which is localized in the western part, and the Greater Sunrise Field. Bayu Undang is gas worth more than 30 billion US dollars and is located closer to the southern coast of Timor Leste than oil and gas areas or other islands located in the Timor Sea or in the border area of the Timor Leste Sea and Australia. The results from several oil and gas fields can be a barometer for the development of national economic development for the welfare of the country (Lao Hamutuk, 2003). Timor Leste is a rich country with oil and gas as an economic force for its future prosperity. Unfortunately, it has been decades since, as a sovereign State, the clarity and change in social welfare in the State of Timor Leste has not yet been seen realistically because the number of complaints from the people of this State continues to increase from period to period until now. Therefore, this country, which is rich in oil and gas, needs a strong diplomatic strategy to redress the complaints of State sovereignty which originate from the people of Timor Leste by prioritizing the development of the Future of Oil and Gas Diplomacy with Australia to harmonize the State's welfare environment, especially the development of Oil and Gas Industry Diplomacy in the Timor Sea, Timor Leste-Australia border.

The country of Timor Leste is an oil and gas country which has abundant oil and gas wealth in the Timor Sea; for the future economic prosperity of the State of Timor Leste, as a sovereign country, the State is working with various political and diplomatic strategies for the benefit of oil and gas industry development policies in the Timor Sea. Because of this political and diplomatic strategy, Timor Leste is required to open and activate the best diplomatic relations with Australia in order to prepare an active strategy and diplomacy in developing the oil and gas industry on the borders of the two countries in the Timor Sea, especially to harmonize their respective national economic interests, as well as with other countries when they have the same interests in developing oil and gas diplomacy policies or have the same perspective on the future of oil and gas diplomacy. As a sovereign country, oil and gas energy resources are a very important need because energy is needed in various fields, starting from household electricity needs and the industrial sector; everything depends on an adequate energy supply; this explains why energy consumption is a benchmark for the level of progress of a country and its society. In countries everywhere in the world, when oil and gas energy consumption increases, it becomes a big concern that a country and its society are in the midst of moving into the era of industrial revolution on earth. The concept of energy security has come to the fore for several reasons. Namely, the concept of energy security has come to the fore because of several things, such as:

- First, it is not clear whether oil will be affordable and available if demand continues to increase every year or every period when supply is disrupted.
- Second, fossil fuels are less environmentally friendly and expensive in terms of production costs and use.
- Third, nuclear, which was designed as an alternative energy source to replace fossil energy with an abundant, clean and cheap supply, actually contains risks which, over the previous decades, have caused fatal accidents for the state in national development, which started with the state having to have a strategic economic plan.

Starting from several things, this became the concept for Timor Leste with various political strategies and oil and gas diplomacy to prioritize the national interest and focus discussion with the Australian Government on the role of politics and diplomacy between these two countries. The country of Timor Leste is required to have guidelines for developing future oil and gas diplomacy policies with large countries like Australia to find the best way to realize the welfare value of the rehabilitation of the strategy system for developing political diplomacy and economic diplomacy including cultural diplomacy in achieving the national development goals of the State of Timor Leste, through diplomacy, where diplomacy is the management of International Relations which through harmonized negotiations is then regulated by ambassadors and representatives, businessmen, or you could also say the artistic performance of diplomats (Sri Wulan Destriyani1 et al, 2020), in order to harmonize the future oil and gas diplomacy with Australia, which can increase the value of trust between the two countries, designing new plans or new strategies in developing the oil and gas industry in the Timor Sea (EFitri Utfaeni Sadiyah et al, 2024). The value of the State's welfare begins with leadership performance in the state diplomacy development period with various strategies to find the State's goals by increasing the value of developing the oil and gas industry in the Timor Sea (Puji Chaerani, 2020) to fulfill the state development goals expected by the people of Timor Leste as a whole since the State was established as a sovereign state in the midst of the international community. In the context of development with the aim of creating future oil and gas diplomacy policies that are localized in the Timor Sea, between Timor Leste and Australia in order to bring major changes to the development of the oil and gas industry, which can increase the process of increasing welfare values in terms of the national development of the State of Timor Leste in the future. In the future prosperity of the country with the aim of sharpening the development of Timor Leste-Australia oil and gas diplomacy policy in the Timor Sea for the sake of and in order to:

- Understand the continued impact of the Timor Leste-Australia diplomacy policy to increase the strength of the value of cooperation in the future of oil and gas diplomacy between the two countries in the Timor Sea.
- Exploring strategic factors that are expected to maximize the positive impact of future policy development on oil and gas energy resources diplomacy between Timor Leste-Australia in the Timor Sea or the Timor Leste-Australia Maritime Border in the context of maintaining national energy security to ensure the future prosperity of the community and the country in general (Winda Trisen, 2020).

These two points serve as a guide to analyze and dig deeper into the process of developing future oil and gas diplomacy policies between Timor Leste and Australia to harmonize diplomatic relations between the two countries

towards a period full of harmonious communication between the two countries in the fields of politics, economics and culture, social through various interactions of State characteristics for the future of each country. Then, for the future of the State of Timor Leste and Australia, especially in national development through the development of oil and gas diplomacy in the Timor Sea, in order to bring the State of Timor Leste towards the future in the quite distant future, Timor Leste still needs a lot of learning processes that are full of various approaches such as the Politics, Economics, Social Culture to strengthen the power of development and safeguard national interests as a sovereign State in the international world, in particular providing protection to high-value assets (Oil and Gas) for the national economy of the State of Timor Leste (Vionencia P.S. Faria Freitas, et al, 2023 ). The strategy for developing oil and gas diplomacy policies will be passed down to future generations; the country of Timor Leste is now ready to be prepared in various fields of study, from basic education to higher education (primary school up to university level in the country of Timor Leste). Therefore, in the future development of diplomacy, the oil and gas industry in the Timor Sea will become a national economic strength for the future of the State of Timor Leste. However, now, what a big problem for the Countries of Timor Leste and Australia is in making future oil and gas diplomacy policies to avoid suspicion in the process of developing and sharing the results of the oil and gas industry in the Timor Sea, starting from now towards the future of the Countries of Timor Leste and Australia that the people of both countries hope forward. From the perspective of national economic development for the future life of the country, according to Aristoteles, the relationship between the state and citizens as partners to realize the state's goals, namely the common good (Raimundus Bulet Namang, 2020). The state must be a means of realizing a good life for every element of society; for this realization, citizens do not become elements of society who only develop individualistic attitudes but are required to become partners of the state who truly create prosperity for each community in fulfilling national interests which constitute the future life of the State.

Furthermore, what is assumed by the author in writing this journal is the existence of a sovereign and prosperous state anywhere in the world; the state lives from economic prosperity and political prosperity in order to position the state in a harmonious environment to continue its future life in accordance with the desired social normality. In all countries in the world, therefore, the desire for the future of a sovereign State is not far away or cannot be separated from economic stability and political stability within a sovereign State, where the state can live in peace from Political, Economic and Social Cultural influences and disturbances on its sovereignty. Then, a sovereign State has the most important authority in planning the future of its national interests through a fairly strong economic and political strategic plan to organize the life of the State in the future better and more harmoniously, which includes improving various approaches such as politics, economics, diplomacy and social culture to achieve the main needs of the state in the international environment. This is the same as what is happening in the future of oil and gas diplomacy policy between Timor Leste and Australia, where the two countries are looking for strategic ways to strengthen oil and gas diplomatic relations in the Timor Sea, as well as maximize the best impacts in the future of oil and gas diplomacy both countries in the Timor Sea, in particular, provide harmonious security for the development of the oil and gas industry in the interests of national energy protection for the future of their country's national interests which:

- Increase the strategic value of Timor Leste-Australia diplomacy policy in order to increase the strengthening of the value of cooperation in the future of oil and gas diplomacy between the two countries in the Timor Sea;
- Maximize political strategies for developing future policies for diplomacy on oil and gas energy sources between Timor Leste-Australia in the Timor Sea or the Timor Leste-Australia Maritime Border, especially maintaining national energy security to guarantee the future prosperity of society and the State in general, especially avoiding oil and gas supplies from abroad or the politics of importing oil and gas from abroad.

## 2. Research Methods

To understand the theory, qualitative research should be added in the form of participatory action or discourse analysis by cheek (Milasari et al., 2021). Then, in this writing, there is also more emphasis on the meaning of data, as is done in content analysis. Discourse analysis tends to focus on available references but must be analyzed from the results of existing literature. To go deeper into writing this work, according to Zed (2004), the writing method uses library research, namely a method of collecting data by understanding and studying theories from various literature related to the title of the research, preparing various bibliographies, then organizing time and reading and recording existing research materials (Miza Nina Adlini et al., 2022). Data collection also involves searching for sources and reconstructing written works from various sources such as books, journals and available research. The analysis method uses content and descriptive analysis; library materials obtained from various references are analyzed critically and in-depth to support propositions and ideas related to this written work. The tendency of discourse analysis is to reveal the content, nuances and meanings recorded. In the available literature analysis approach, research data sources can be published documents/notes, textbooks, journals, and articles. This type of approach can also explore someone's thoughts as expressed in published books. This approach will later provide an overview of a related topic and then explain the various implications that arise; in this writing, we attempt to interpret the available literature to gain a new understanding.

## 3. Theoretical Framework

In writing this work, the author uses the theory of policy and diplomacy to look at the existence or characteristics of countries in the international relations system and avoid conflicts between countries when the perspective of countries concentrates on developing national interests and increasing values for the purpose of advancing the future welfare of the country for this writing, we use policy theory, oil and gas diplomacy theory, in which countries that have oil and gas resources seek to protect their wealth to strengthen, revive the strength of national interests and strengthen prosperity in

order to increase the value of state sovereignty and maintain supreme sovereignty in the eyes of the international community.

### 3.1. Policy

According to Hudson, introducing a strategy on how to study the personality of an individual decision-maker as an executive leader and member of a decision-making group depends on the form of country or type of regime in power. Furthermore, Hudson borrowed concepts from perception and cognition (Valerie Hudson, 2013). Perception is a thought process that occurs in our thinking world, which decides what we want to see, hear, study, and consciously or unconsciously ignore. We tend to do this because we determine for ourselves the capacity of our brain to process information. Our brain processes a variety of information through which we consciously or unconsciously participate in sorting information or making thought selections and also involving considerations and thoughts that come from the basic or initial knowledge that we have from the experiences we have had and other information that we consider important. Then, according to Edward and Sharkansky (1998), State policy is "what the government says and does, or does not do, it is the goals or purposes of government programs", meaning what is stated and done or not done by the government, State policy is in the form of the objectives of government programs for the national interests of the State (Sholih Muadi et al., 2016). Therefore, state policy can be concluded as a series of actions carried out or not carried out by the government, whether carried out by a person or a group of people to achieve a certain goal that is oriented towards the interests of society. Furthermore, Policy Theory, according to Anderson (1998), states that a policy is a series of actions that have a specific aim which is followed and implemented by an actor or group of actors in order to solve a particular problem (Sholih Muadi et al. I, 2016). Based on the understanding of the policy described above, it can be concluded that the policy can be implemented in general. However, in reality, it is more often and widely used in government actions or behavior as well as state behavior in general, which is better known as the state policy or public policy in the interests of the state. Meanwhile, the meaning of public or state policy itself is also defined differently by experts, as stated by Dye (1998), that state policy is "whatever the government chooses to do or not to do." The policy strategy, in accordance with the above view, continues the argument that if the government chooses to do something, it must have a purpose and include all government actions (Sholih Muadi et al., 2016). Then, according to Anderson, this policy theory also consists of five values that public policy-makers must pay attention to: political values, organizational values, personal values, policy values and ideological values. In these five points, the main goal of social justice and prosperity for society and the country is realized (Ridwan, 2022).

### 3.2. Oil and Gas Diplomacy Policy and Its Implications on Community Welfare

In the science of international relations, diplomacy is an important instrument in achieving national interests related to other countries or international organizations. Diplomacy is a political process to maintain the foreign policy of a government in influencing the policies and attitudes of other countries' governments (Suryokusmo, 2004), then the same as contemporary diplomacy also not only concerns economic, socio-cultural, human rights and environmental aspects that are used in any situation in international relations, to create peace in the global political arena and achieve the national interests of a country in the international community (Sofia Martauli, 2015). Then, diplomacy, as a tool for a country's goals, is closely related to foreign policy because diplomacy is the implementation of foreign policy carried out by trained official officials. In many countries, foreign policy is designed and formulated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Department of Foreign Affairs staff. Bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, as well as daily activities, are carried out by diplomats and representatives stationed abroad and in international organizations. The concept of diplomacy, according to G.R. Berridge, refers to political activities carried out by actors to pursue their goals and defend their interests through negotiations (Rizki, 2017). Through diplomacy, the relations between countries can build an image of their country's sovereign existence flowing and developing towards a future full of brilliant prosperity. In international relations, diplomacy is the first step or level for a country that wants to carry out bilateral, trilateral, regional and multilateral relations for the country's future. In this writing, the author uses the State level of analysis in the study of International Relations. In summary, the level of analysis is the individual unit, country or system that is the focus of several of those mentioned in this journal article, where basically the position of the state in international relations, the behavior of those who start from individual groups and organizations, institutions and political processes which are of concern for State behavior in the international system with the aroma of several theories mentioned in this writing.

In this scientific writing, we also use an institutionalist's perspective to analyze how the international relations system develops, which is categorized into two things:

- First, to understand the definition of international organizations, institutions and regimes.
- Second, the study carries out a theoretical study of international phenomena.

With this theoretical study, according to Robert Cox and Andrew Linklater, international relations studies that have existed so far have usually taken a realist perspective, which has resulted in the understanding that international organizations are more of a means of advancing national interests and international organizations are more of false promises, promised of international institutions (Andaru Satnyoto, 2017). International organizations can eliminate their role, and international organizations/institutions/regimes are faced with national interests; the study places great emphasis on the development, success and roles of international organizations, institutions or international regimes from the institutional liberal perspective group or institutional groups, especially the international relations science group (Andaru Satnyoto, 2017). Then, Diplomacy Theory, according to G.R. Berridge (2012), said that the concept of diplomacy refers to political activities carried out by actors to pursue their goals and defend their national interests, so in this case, it will be seen that diplomacy tends to be dynamic because it is adjusted to how state actors will use diplomacy to advance

the future, state in the sense of increasing the welfare value of state sovereignty. The developments in diplomacy can occur at any time, where the emergence of new actors and issues that develop as a result of globalization automatically have an impact on the development of diplomacy in the contemporary era (Berridge & Lornel Lyod, 2012). There is a response to the emergence of new actors in international issues; diplomatic practices are experiencing expansion in terms of diplomatic activities, which are now more flexible because they can be carried out by the State, private sector and public sector. Responsibility for developing issues through diplomatic practice is now carried out in more varied ways than before. For example, the issues of trade, finance, migration, human rights and the environment are issues that cannot be resolved simply by using hard power. This is what then encourages the emergence of creativity in diplomatic practice. Media intermediaries will make diplomatic performance more effective, and other forms of creativity in diplomatic practice can be found in the various diplomatic concepts that develop according to the national interest.

### 3.3. Oil and Gas Diplomacy Policy

In this world, for countries that generate their income from oil and gas energy, from a geopolitical perspective, energy, especially oil and gas, plays a vital role in economic development and military strength. Therefore, the state must be actively involved in efforts to secure energy supplies. This strategy can take the form of protecting domestic energy sources or regulating how to exploit oil and gas products. Countries can also use the power of diplomacy to control energy sources in areas rich in oil and gas energy and protect supply routes from security disturbances for their oil and gas areas, which, with oil and gas diplomacy, can guarantee national energy security (Nikolaus Loy, 2020). Diplomacy in the study of international relations is used as an initiative to promote a country, increasing its existence or influence on other countries for the national interests of each country. In the current globalization environment, countries in the world tend to fulfill state interests by carrying out one or various diplomacies for their respective national interests. This diplomacy is carried out at special meetings between countries. Conventionally, diplomacy is a country's effort to pursue national interests in the international realm. It can be interpreted as a foreign relationship between one country and another country, where diplomacy is one way to achieve the interests of a peaceful country. Thus, diplomacy is carried out by establishing relations between countries, which involve many countries (multilateral) or relations involving only two countries (Haryana, Komang A.Y. Lestari, 2021). Furthermore, Barston defines diplomacy as the management of relations between countries or a relationship between countries and other international actors (Boy Anugerah & Jacob Junian Endiartia, 2017). Diplomacy can be carried out in special meetings or general conferences; it is through diplomacy that a country can build its country's image. In relations between countries, diplomacy is generally applied at the initial level when a country wants to have bilateral relations with another country until the two develop diplomatic relations to the next level. Diplomacy is closely related to foreign policy; foreign policy is designed and formulated by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Department staff. The success of diplomatic activity is assessed from the initial goal, where a diplomat carries out diplomacy to pursue national interests by continuously exchanging information with other countries.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Future Development of Diplomatic Policy in the Timor Sea

In the international environment, aspects or factors related to oil and gas natural resources for the present and future are always of great concern for the countries internationally, where oil and gas resources are the primary energy source throughout the world compared to other energy sources, for example geothermal, nuclear, hydraulic, solar energy and wind energy (non-fossil energy). Oil and gas not only have strategic value but also have a pillar that is especially important in meeting national energy needs in the national economic arena, which leads to the international economy (Cut Asmaul Husna TR, 2018). In the international world, governments that have underground and marine oil and gas reserves contract international oil companies to discover, dig, process and export their oil resources. The country of Timor Leste is on the path to becoming one of the countries in the world most dependent on oil revenues. Timor Leste is designing various strategies for the future of oil and gas diplomacy to secure the abundant oil and gas in the Timor Sea. Timor Leste, as a sovereign state, is active in learning from the experiences of other countries and closely monitors and directs the oil industry in the Timor Sea in order to ensure the prosperity of its national economy as it moves into the future (La'o Hamutuk Bulletin, 2002). Countries are fighting to control oil and gas natural resources because not all countries in the world have potential oil and gas reserves. Hence, this opportunity affects relations between countries, especially countries that have strong economic and military stability and sharp expertise in the sense of wanting to obtain the economic value that the country really needs for the country's interests. In order to strengthen state sovereignty over the wealth of oil and gas, natural resources are carried out by all countries in the international world, especially countries with abundant natural oil and gas resources. For example, in the Middle East and Latin America, countries with large levels of oil and gas consumption and natural resources with relatively limited resources, for example, Western European countries, China and the United States and also countries that relatively do not have natural oil and gas resources (Kompas.id, 2018).

Countries with various instruments and policies are trying to secure and gain access to the world's natural oil and gas resources. The state has the right to regulate the potential for exploration, development, and production of natural oil and gas resources in the Marine Area, either through direct or indirect involvement in realizing a dynamic balance. Legally binding power over oil and gas natural resources is an inseparable element of state sovereignty. Naturally, countries whose geological location contains potential natural oil and gas resources seek to protect their country's sovereignty. Geographically, the countries that are rich in natural oil and gas resources are starting to shift exploration and development from onshore areas to offshore areas where oil and gas resources are of higher quality. There are various methods for analyzing oil and gas composition data below the ground surface on land and in the deep sea, including

drilling to take rock samples, gravity measurements, seismic surveys, magnetic surveys and remote sensing from satellites in the hope of finding and increasing commercial reserves and production Oil and Gas. The territory of a country over which that country has sovereignty consists of 3 (three) dimensional territories, which include Land, Water and Air Territory (Annisa Purwatiningsih, Masykur, 2012). Then, the principle of every country having full and exclusive sovereignty (Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources) was developed into guidelines for countries in managing natural resources. Oil and gas in the Timor Sea are the only significant sources of oil for Timor Lorosa'e, and Timor Lorosa'e's future depends on its revenues. Australia, on the other hand, has four times the amount of gas that other parts of its territory do. These circles indicate the location of Australia's "Proven and Probable" natural gas reserves, gas underground or under the sea that can be extracted and sold. The size of each circle indicates the amount of gas in "Trillions of Cubic Feet" (Trillions of Cubic Feet, tcf). Oil reserves are not indicated; Australia has about 110 Tcf of natural gas worth about US\$850 billion (\$850,000,000,000); in this amount, it will generate about \$400 billion in government revenue. Australia has more gas than is used domestically, so most of the gas in the Timor Sea will be exported to Japan (La'o Hamutuk Bulletin, 2002). Then, one-fifth of Australia's gas, 22 Tcf, is located under the Timor Sea. Part of it is located in Australian territory and part in the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA), divided between Timor Leste (90%) and Australia (10%) under the Timor Sea Agreement.

This agreement provides revenue from 4.7 Tcf of Timor Sea Gas to Timor Lorosa'e and 17.5 Tcf to Australia. If Timor Leste's full maritime border is implemented, 7.9 Tcf of this 17.5 will belong to Timor Leste (La'o Bulletin Hamutuk, Volume 3, Number 5, July 2002). Next, there is a maritime economic zone shown with shading: the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) created based on the illegal Timor Gap Agreement between Indonesia and Australia in previous years. Based on the Timor Sea Treaty, JPDA is 90% owned by Timor Leste and 10% by Australia. Under the current principles of international maritime law, 100% belongs to East Timor, The Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) or the Exclusive Economic Zone, which will belong to Timor Lorosa'e according to current international law, The Timor Sea Treaty gave Australia a zone that undoubtedly belonged to Australia, Indonesia or Timor Leste. Oil and gas fields that are produced and will be produced in the future are marked with circles near the field names underlined or connected by an arrow; larger circles indicate that the content is greater. The thick line is the Australia-Indonesia sea shelf boundary agreed in 1972. While this line is based on outdated principles and is closer to Indonesia than Australia, this boundary is still in effect today; the lighter dotted line is the middle line (median), which is halfway between the coastlines of Australia and Indonesia or Timor Leste. Where the principles of the Law of the Sea currently apply, this will be the boundary of the sea shelf (La'o Hamutuk Bulletin, Volume 3, Number 5, July 2002). There are many oil and gas fields (Brow Basin) in the southern part of West Timor due to the 1972 agreement belonging to Australia, although some of them are closer to Indonesia. Since 1931, Australia has controlled four small, uninhabited islands called Ashmore Reef. As a result, Australia's economic zone expanded closer to Roti Island and West Timor, encompassing many oil and gas fields (Oswald L. Ziegler, 'Commonwealth of Australia).

#### 4.2. Timor Leste-Australia Oil and Gas Diplomacy Policy Development

Political strategy in developing future oil and gas diplomacy policies in the Timor Sea will bring major changes to increase the value of the economic welfare of the Timor Leste-Australia country, which will enrich the dynamics of diplomatic relations between the two countries and harmonize the sense of trust between the leaders and people of the two countries, as well as guide prosperity and the future of the country in terms of political, economic, social, and cultural aspects between the people of the two countries. Therefore, the future policy of Timor Leste-Australia oil and gas diplomacy will guide the two countries to increase the value of state-diplomatic relations that are more active in international communication between the two countries in order to revive state political activities for a fairly broad period of time into the future, especially providing protection for national interests between countries to fulfill the State's goals in a safe and protected environment, especially to fulfill the welfare expectations of State leaders and their people, furthermore, with various approaches to bring development aspirations for the future of the two countries that are expected by the people and leaders of their countries. To maintain political and economic harmony and diplomatic relations between the two countries towards the future for quite a long time, including active state communications, on the 23rd of 2024, the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, (Mr. Francisco Monteiro), visited Kanbera to discuss development of the CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) Project for the future in the Bayu Undang Area of Oil and Gas Fields, in the Timor Sea (Media TATOLI, 2024). The Statement of the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources at the same time emphasized that Timor Leste has Oil and Minerals, and Australia, as a neighboring country, also has a lot of Oil and Mineral Resources, which, with the development of oil and gas diplomacy between the two countries is very necessary and enhanced to control, provide protection and management in order to improve the future economic value of the two countries, where both countries also have a strong interest in continuing to improve and develop the oil and gas or petroleum sector in the future. The main objective for the future development of Timor Leste-Australia oil and gas diplomacy, where Timor Leste is the center for processing and storing the oil and gas industry in the Timor Sea, the Timor Leste-Australia border in order to sharpen diplomatic relations between the two countries, especially for the strength of the national economy, in order to increase values and an environment of harmony economics for the future of the country's sovereignty in the eyes of the international world.

## 5. Conclusion

In the Development of the Future Policy for Timor Leste-Australia Oil and Gas Industry Diplomacy in the Timor Sea, starting from diplomatic relations between the two countries with a routine character to produce a diplomatic policy that allows for harmony and trust between the two countries to continue oil and gas industry activities in the Timor Sea

for the sake of economic prosperity both countries are moving towards their respective national futures in time and accordance with oil and gas diplomacy policies determined by both parties, Timor Leste and Australia are moving towards the future. The results of the development of future oil and gas policies between the two countries are to understand the continued impact of Timor Leste-Australia's diplomatic policy in efforts to strengthen cooperation in the future, and then explore strategic factors that are expected to be able to maximize the positive impact of future oil and gas diplomacy policies for Timor Leste-Australia.

## 6. Recommendation

Political strategy in developing future oil and gas diplomacy policies between Timor Leste-Australia, which enriches the dynamics of diplomatic relations between the two countries and harmonizes the sense of trust between the leaders and people of the two countries, as well as a guide to the future welfare of the countries in the political, economic and cultural aspects, social relations between the people of the two countries. The hope for Timor Leste-Australia is to increase the value of more active state diplomatic relations to avoid mistrust between the two countries regarding the oil and gas revenues in the Timor Sea.

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## 8. Author's Contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration with all authors; Julio Ximenes designed the study, performed the analysis, and wrote the first draft according to the manuscript by Asrinaldi, Najmudin M. Rasul as the Lecturer, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, who managed the literature review and study recommendations.

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