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**United States of America
and
Timor-Leste**

Status of Forces Agreement between the United States of America and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. Washington, 1 October 2002

Entry into force: *1 October 2002 by signature, in accordance with article IX*

Authentic text: *English*

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**États-Unis d'Amérique
et
Timor-Leste**

Accord relatif au statut des forces armées entre les États-Unis d'Amérique et le Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Timor-Leste. Washington, 1^{er} octobre 2002

Entrée en vigueur : *1^{er} octobre 2002 par signature, conformément à l'article IX*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

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[ENGLISH TEXT - TEXTE ANGLAIS]

STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

PREAMBLE

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), recognize the importance of closer cooperation between our two countries, and further recognize that the following principles and understandings are intended to enhance the cooperation between the Parties in furtherance of the objectives of this agreement:

1. The Parties recognize the independence and sovereignty of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as matters of the highest importance;
2. The Parties recognize the importance of this agreement to their bilateral interests, regional peace and security, and humanitarian undertakings;
3. The Parties reaffirm that the principles of mutual respect, friendship, good faith, partnership and cooperation will guide the implementation of this agreement;

Therefore, the Parties have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

United States military and civilian personnel of the United States Department of Defense who may be present in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in connection with humanitarian and civic assistance, ship visits, military training and exercises and other agreed activities shall be

accorded a status equivalent to that accorded to the administrative and technical staff of the Embassy of the United States of America under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961.

Such personnel may enter and exit the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste with United States identification and with collective movement or individual travel orders; the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste shall accept as valid, without a driving fee or test, driving licenses or permits issued by the appropriate United States authorities to United States personnel for the operation of vehicles; such personnel, including contract security guards, be authorized to wear uniforms while performing their official duties and to carry weapons when their orders call for it.

ARTICLE II

Vehicles, vessels and aircraft owned or operated by or for the United States armed forces shall not be subject to the payment of landing, navigation, overflight or parking charges, port and pilotage fees, or overland transit fees while in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; however, the United States armed forces shall pay reasonable charges for services requested and received. Aircraft, vessels and vehicles of the United States shall be free of inspections.

ARTICLE III

The Government of the United States of America, its military and civilian personnel, contractors and contractor personnel shall not be liable to pay any tax or similar charge assessed within the territory of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The Government of the United States of America, its military and civilian personnel, contractors and contractor personnel may import into, export out of, and use in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste any personal property,

equipment, supplies, materials, technology, training or services utilized in connection with activities covered by this agreement. Such importation, exportation and use shall be exempt from any inspection, license, other restrictions, customs duties, taxes or any other charges assessed within the territory of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

ARTICLE IV

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste shall cooperate in taking such steps as shall be necessary to ensure the security of the United States personnel and property in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

ARTICLE V

In the event that the Government of the United States of America awards contracts for the acquisition of articles and services, including construction, to implement this agreement, such contracts shall be awarded in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Government of the United States of America. Acquisition of articles and services in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste by or on behalf of the Government of the United States of America in connection with activities covered by this agreement shall not be subject to any taxes, customs duties or similar charges in the territory of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

ARTICLE VI

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste recognizes the particular importance of disciplinary control by U.S. military authorities over United States personnel and, therefore, the Government of the Democratic