



Presidencia de la Repùblica del Perú

Press Secretariat

Decade of People with Disabilities in Peru
Year of Promoting Responsible Industry and Climate Commitment

Address to the Nation by President Ollanta Humala Tasso after hearing the verdict of the International Court of Justice in The Hague on the maritime dispute between Peru and Chile

Lima, January 27, 2014.

Compatriots, the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, today rendered its judgment in the case concerning the maritime dispute between Peru and Chile, after a historical process of over six years.

The most gratifying thing is that the Court has recognized the validity of the Peruvian position, which means that there is no path of 200-mile maritime boundary with Chile. Accordingly, it proceeded to establish a boundary that grants Peru sovereign rights over an area estimated to be around 50,000 square kilometers.

The Court concludes that the maritime boundary between the Parties starts at the intersection of the parallel of latitude passing through Boundary Marker No. 1 with the low-water line, and extends for 80 nautical miles along that parallel of latitude to Point A. From this point, the maritime boundary runs along the equidistance line to Point B, and then along the 200-nautical-mile limit measured from the Chilean baselines to Point C.

Consequently, the Court has considered that it is not necessary to rule on the second request of Peru, concerning about 28,000 square kilometers called

outer triangle, given that the established delimitation line incorporates this area into our sovereignty. The outer triangle is ours.

With respect to the starting point of the maritime boundary, the Court has concluded that the maritime boundary between the Parties starts at the intersection of the parallel of latitude passing through Boundary Marker No. 1 with the low-water line.

I want to emphasize that this does not prejudice or affect the sanctity of the land border established by the Treaty of 1929 and the work of the Joint Commission on the Limits of 1929 and 1930, which established its starting-point at the Concordia Point.

The International Court of Justice has not ruled on the land border because the dispute was on maritime delimitation.

Peru is pleased with the outcome of this peace option. In full conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, an impartial third party, the most important court of justice in the world has settled this dispute by establishing the maritime boundary between the two States in a final and peaceful way and in accordance with international law.

This ruling, which is binding and can't be appealed, will be obeyed and implemented by Peru as we are faithful to its tradition of absolute respect for international law, particularly the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.

To this end, we will take immediate actions and measures for its prompt implementation. In this sense, Peru hopes that the Government of Chile will act similarly, based on the continued expressions that its highest authorities have made public throughout this process.

The end of the dispute will also open a new chapter in our relations with Chile, moving towards the consolidation of a relationship of mutual respect, trust, cooperation and friendship; a relationship that favors common interests, boosts the broad bilateral agenda with particular emphasis on border integration, and

promotes the development of both countries for the direct benefit of our peoples.

I want to express my appreciation to the International Court of Justice for its important contribution to international peace and security.

With the settlement of this dispute in accordance with international law, the Court has once again contributed to the affirmation and development of law by fulfilling the important mandate granted by the United Nations Charter, which is binding on all member states.

I congratulate the Peruvian people, the powers of the State, the regional and local governments, the political forces and institutions of civil society, for the spirit of unity shown throughout this process, which has involved the efforts of three successive democratic governments around a model state policy.

We are confident that this attitude will continue during the execution of the judgment.

I want to highlight in particular the work of the legal and diplomatic team that defended our national interests with dedication, professionalism and patriotism.

Compatriots, today is a historic day, on the eve of celebrating the Bicentennial of the Independence of Peru, its boundaries have been defined, let's honor the memory of all those who over generations have contributed to this crucial task. Future generations will remember these moments with pride, as an example of what Peruvians can achieve when we work together, putting the national interest in its proper place.

On this date, Peru can feel satisfied with the work done as we have won sovereign rights over some 50,000 square kilometers of maritime territory, representing over 70 percent of our demand.

Our resources and best efforts, including those of our foreign policy, can now converge on the great national goal of promoting economic development, social inclusion, with the help of all Peruvians.

The process which ends today has shown us that this unity is possible on important national objectives. Today we proclaim a victory of peace, a victory of all of us, a victory of the Peruvian people.

Long live Peru!

Thank you very much.