



Portugal, Brazil and CPLP: the road for Lusophone Smart Energy Security diplomacy

RUBEN EIRAS

Science Relations Executive at Innovation, Development and Sustainability Department of Galp Energia; and, PhD candidate in History, Defense and International Relations at ISCTE-IUL and the Military Academy.

Energy services are an ubiquitous component of modern lifestyles. They are needed to transport food, keep factories working, to run offices, cultivate and harvest agricultural products, distribute goods, and cool and heat houses and other buildings. Indeed, energy is not a commodity like any other, but instead is the precondition for making all other raw materials useful. Therefore, ensuring access to energy services in a secure manner is a crucial issue for any nation.

Since energy security is an ubiquitous concept and the challenges with which it is associated are so pressing, defining the concept rigorously is a difficult, yet necessary task.

What is energy security?

The modern notion of energy security emerged in the early nineteenth century as the mechanization of war accelerated the energy requirements for ships and vehicles, which were fueled with coal. Concerns about global energy security became prominent during the World Wars, in the oil shocks of the 1970s, in the Gulf

War, in the military intervention in Iraq, and in the recent intervention in Libya. Furthermore, the current trend of price stabilization of the oil barrel is in the range of US\$100 and the International Energy Agency (IEA) projects it will soon reach US\$150.

The IEA defines energy security as 'the uninterrupted physical availability [of energy] at a price that is affordable, respecting the environmental concerns'. The agency, as well as both the US Department of Defense and NATO, argues that climate change adaptation is an integral part of energy security.

In short, we can define energy security as comprised of four components:

1. Availability: assuredness of resources respecting energy supply and diversification of energy sources.
2. Accessibility: related to population's equal access to essential energy services.
3. Energy efficiency: rationalizing and reducing energy use through technological change and consumer habits.



4. Sustainability: focused on minimizing the environmental impacts arising from energy production, processing and consumption.

Measuring the Smart Energy Security Index

With this definition in mind, we can move forward with an indicator that helps to frame the assessment of a country's energy security strength. This indicator is designated as Smart Energy Security Index (SESI).

The SESI is a composite index that relates the performance achieved in five dimensions that influence energy sustainability across economic, environmental and geopolitical concerns, namely: energy intensity, carbon intensity, primary energy from renewable sources, renewable electricity and energy dependency on fossil fuels.

Based on information from Eurostat and the IEA, the SESI is calculated using an average of the first four indicators above. Energy intensity measures how much energy the country consumes to generate a unit of economic value. The carbon intensity quantifies the efficiency of the energy system. The primary renewable energy represents the share of renewables in the country's energy 'mix'. The "green electricity" indicator measures how much of a country's electricity is generated from renewable energy.

$$SESI = \sum < EI, Cies, PRE, GE > * ED$$

Finally, the normalized average of these four indicators is weighted by the country's degree of energy autonomy. The more dependent the country, the more vulnerable it is to geopolitical shocks and crude oil price volatility. The SESI scale ranges from 0 to 5; the better the performance achieved in an indicator, the higher the score.

Portugal's fragile energy security

According to SESI calculations, despite having one of the highest percentages of renewable sources in its primary energy mix in the EU (especially for electricity generation), Portugal's performance is very low (0,42). This means that the country's high level of energy vulnerability will remain until industrial energy and transport systems efficiency improves, and the country's extreme dependence on imported oil as a sole source for liquid fuels is reduced.

Currently, Portugal depends on fossil fuels imports - coal, natural gas and oil - to supply 83% of its energy needs. In fact, two-thirds of its electricity generation needs are met by fossil fuels, while the remaining one-third comes from renewable sources including hydro, wind and biomass. Indeed, the energy deficit represents half of the Portuguese external deficit (8.7%). As a result, Portugal is highly sensitive to oil's price volatility (as demonstrated by the SESI measurement).

This extreme dependence on imported, energy-intensive fossil fuels means that, apart from oil and gas exploration and production (E&P) in Portuguese offshore

areas to augment energy security, it is also crucial to increase renewable energy generation and put a greater emphasis on energy efficiency. This will also improve the country's overall environmental performance.

Thus, Portugal's energy strategy should focus first on short-term diversification through the introduction of biofuels, natural gas and electric mobility. Secondly, in medium-long term, Portugal should promote further E&P in its deep offshore areas in search of oil and gas, but also increase exploitation of unconventional fossil fuel sources like shale gas and methane hydrates. The prospects of deep offshore oil E&P conducted by the Petrobras, Galp Energia and Partex consortium are promising, but only in 2013 will there be sufficient knowledge of its true potential.

A smart cooperative energy security with Brazil and CPLP

Taking into account the above factors, we can stress that Portugal's energy vulnerability will be mitigated if it develops a smart energy security policy through a deep cooperative approach with Brazil within the framework of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

But why build further energy cooperation with Brazil and the CPLP? The facts speak for themselves. If we calculate the SESI for Brazil, when compared with the EU indicator, it clearly shows the Brazilian strategic success: 4,3 against 1,1. The South American giant is not only oil self-sufficient, but also its primary energy 'mix' is 50% from renewable sources. In contrast, the EU as a whole does not exceed 8% of clean energy in its portfolio. Brazil has managed this remarkable feat in renewable energy by focusing mainly on two fronts: 76% of electricity is generated by hydroelectric dams, and nearly 20% of its liquid fuels are produced from cane sugar. We must remember that the Brazilian biofuel project goes back to the 1970s, in response to the first oil shock. Four decades later, the Brazilian ethanol system is a safe bet in economic and environmental terms.

In addition, Petrobras is a world colossus in ultra deepwater oil and gas E&P. As mentioned before, it is the Brazilian company that, together with Galp and Partex, is leading the initiative in the Portuguese offshore areas. In fact, Petrobras is not only quickly catching up to the North American and European oil companies not only technologically, but also in oil reserves, production and refining capacity. In an interview with Forbes magazine in November 2010, CFO Guilherme Almir Barbassa said that Petrobras could be the world's largest oil producer within five years.

Currently, Barbassa said, the company has 14 billion barrels in proven reserves, a number that is growing. "Petrobras will become the company with 30 billion barrels of oil reserves", he said, suggesting that production, currently at 2.6 million barrels per day, could



catch up to Exxon (4 million) and BP (3.7 million). “We can double [production capacity] in the next 10 years”, he continued.

Asked when Petrobras could overtake the likes of Exxon Mobil, Chevron, and BP, Barbassa argued that this could occur by 2020, noting that Petrobras “grows organically, not through acquisitions”, like some rivals. “I bet we beat ‘em in five years”, he said. As its fossil fuel reserves grow, Brazil is using its energy resources as a geopolitical asset for the country’s global projection.

Portugal can and should learn from the Brazilian experience, which is an excellent opportunity for smart energy security cooperation between Brazil and Portugal, generating sustainable and sovereign wealth. In turn, this cooperative strategy should be aggressively developed within the CPLP, since most of its members have significant fossil energy assets located in their offshore areas, particularly Angola, Mozambique (gas), and Timor Leste. And all these have excellent conditions for the sustainable production of biofuels. In exchange, they can benefit from Portuguese know-how in wind and solar power production and energy efficiency.

Diplomacy for a smart energy security within CPLP

For energy to become an economic engine of sustainable competitiveness, Portugal, together with Brazil, should promote the establishment of a Diplomatic Platform for Smart Energy Security within CPLP. This political structure would not only secure access to critical energy resources at reasonable prices, but would also create a global market for energy technologies for all CPLP members.

To this end, the CPLP Diplomatic Platform for Smart Energy Security should cooperate in the following areas:

- Development of E&P of fossil energy resources and sustainable biofuels in order to create a strategic reserves network in the Lusophone space, with preferential access to CPLP members of the platform, as well as building endogenous technology skills.
- Development of a network infrastructure of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) storage, with preferential access to CPLP countries.
- Building endogenous skills for energy generation and management through the development of advanced training programs, R&D projects and technology transfer in the areas of renewable energy, decentralized energy systems and energy efficiency.
- Development of joint efforts to promote universal access to energy services at affordable prices in all markets represented in the CPLP.
- Development of programs for industry-university cooperation, with tax benefits associated with the creation of new energy companies based in emerging technologies in the world of the CPLP, and also promotion of companies based across CPLP member countries.

- Coordination of a strategy for the creation of an energy diplomacy policy to defend the interests of CPLP members in the global economy.

In conclusion, if Portugal promotes, together with Brazil, a diplomatic and political cooperation for a smart energy security within the CPLP, this initiative will bring greater robustness not only for a real sustainable Portuguese energy security, but will also increase the global geopolitical importance of Portugal, Brazil and of the Lusophone community as a whole.



Timeline of Events

Angola

3 November (Luanda):

Norwegian ambassador to Angola Jon Vea stressed that Angola is Norway's paramount partner in Africa. Vea highlighted the oil, energy, cleaning, fisheries, environment and academic/vocational training fields. Indeed, Norway's oil company, Statoil, holds important assets in Angola.

4 November (Luanda):

Vice-President Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos 'Nandó' swore in Maria de Luísa Perdigão Abrantes, the new head of the National Agency for Private Investment (ANIP). Maria Abrantes is a former wife of President José Eduardo dos Santos, and will substitute Aguinaldo Jaime in an Agency perceived as crucial for attracting foreign investment and promoting Angola's economic diversification.

7 November (Berlin):

New Angolan ambassador to Germany General Alberto Correia Neto presented his credentials to the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

7-8 November (Maputo):

Foreign Affairs Minister George Chicoti paid an official visit to Mozambique, where President Armando Guebuza received him. On this occasion, Chicoti presented a letter from José Eduardo dos Santos to Guebuza, containing a formal apology of the Angolan President over the mistreatment of Mozambican journalists during the SADC Summit in Luanda last August.

14-15 November (Luanda):

Serbian Foreign Affairs Minister Vuc Jeremic traveled to Angola, where he met President José Eduardo dos Santos and his counterpart George Chicoti. Jeremic stated that relations between the two nations are in good shape and were being deepened, while also praising Angola's impressive economic development.

15 November (Dar es Salaam):

Tanzanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Bernard Membe stated that his country would soon open an Embassy in Luanda.

17-18 November (Luanda):

Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho paid his first official visit to Angola. In this flash visit to Luanda, Passos Coelho intended to signal to the Angolan authorities Portugal's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and maintaining strong economic ties. President José Eduardo dos Santos asked for Portuguese support for the Angolan peace-building program in Guinea-Bissau and for Equatorial-Guinea's bid to join the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

18-24 November (Havana):

National Assembly Speaker Paulo Kassoma headed a delegation in an official visit to Cuba intended to reinforce parliamentary cooperation between the two countries, where his counterpart Ricardo Alcorón received him. Kassoma also met Cuban President Raúl Castro, with whom he reviewed the "excellent" relations between the two nations.

18-19 November (Brazzaville):

Foreign Affairs Minister, George Chicoti visited the Republic of the Congo, where he met his counterpart Basile Ikouébé. The two discussed bilateral relations between the two nations and expressed their wish to strengthen cooperation on defense, security, agriculture and border security.

22 November (Luanda):

President José Eduardo dos Santos received CEO of ENI Paolo Scaroni. ENI already holds several offshore oil explorations, where it extracts some 130.000 barrels per day. According to Scaroni, ENI intends to evaluate opportunities for new joint ventures with Angolan counterparts, in particular the Lobito Oil Refinery – a project long delayed but now set to begin in cooperation with Sonangol.

24-25 November (Luanda):

President of Equatorial-Guinea Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo paid an official visit to Angola, where his local counterpart José Eduardo dos Santos received him. The two discussed the state of bilateral cooperation, ways of strengthening it, as well as Equatorial-Guinea's plan to join the CPLP.

28-29 November (Durban):

Vice-President Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos 'Nandó' headed the Angolan delegation to the UN Conference on Climate Change. 'Nandó' transmitted a message from President José Eduardo dos Santos, currently also the Chairman of the SADC, to the conference, expressing Angola's optimism concerning the adoption of a global agreement on climate change.

Brazil

2-3 November (Cannes):

President Dilma Rousseff attended the G20 Summit, with the global economic situation and specially the sovereign debt crisis high on the agenda. Rousseff also took the opportunity to meet bilaterally with Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, President of the People's Republic of China Hu Jintao and Director-General of the International Labor Organization Juan Somavia.

7 November (Caracas):

Foreign Minister Antônio Patriota met with his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolás Maduro to review bilateral relations as well as international and regional issues of common interest. Patriota also took the opportunity to meet with Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

9 November (New York):

Foreign Minister Antônio Patriota attended a special meeting of the UN Security Council, focused on "The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts", chaired by Portuguese President Aníbal Cavaco Silva.

11 November (Brasília):

Foreign Minister Antônio Patriota welcomed his counterpart from Suriname Winston Lackin, seeking to intensify bilateral cooperation in a number of areas. Migration issues and increased bilateral and South American matters were also high on the agenda.

16 November (Bali):

Foreign Minister Antônio Patriota attended the Ministerial Meeting of the XIX ASEAN Summit, where he met with ASEAN's Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan and signed a declaration stating Brazil's interest in adhering to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of the Southeast Asia.



Patriota also took the opportunity to meet with his Indonesian counterpart Marty Natalegawa and to attend a Brazil-ASEAN business seminar.

19 November (Brasília):

President Dilma Rousseff met with Cape Verdean President Jorge Carlos Fonseca, with the reinforcement of bilateral relations and cooperation high on the agenda.

19-20 November (Salvador):

President Dilma Rousseff attended the Ibero-American High Level Meeting to Celebrate the International Year for People of African Descent, together with her counterparts from Cape Verde, Guinea-Conakry and Uruguay and several other high officials.

21 November (Brasília):

Foreign Minister Antônio Patriota met with his Guinean counterpart Edouard Gnakoye Lamah, with whom he signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement aimed at increasing relations between the two countries.

21 November (Brasília):

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Almagro met with his Brazilian counterpart Antônio Patriota, seeking to review the bilateral agenda and to prepare the upcoming Mercosul Summit in Montevideo.

22 November (Manaus):

Foreign Minister Antônio Patriota headed the XI Meeting of Ministers of External Relations of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). Environment, health, tourism, science and technology, social inclusion of the Amazon peoples, as well as each country's contribution to the upcoming Rio+20 Conference were high on the agenda.

24-25 November (Malabo):

Foreign Minister Antônio Patriota attended the VI Africa South America (ASA) Summit Ministerial Meeting, aimed at strengthening political dialogue and interregional cooperation.

29-29 November (Sal):

Brazilian Defense Minister Celso Amorim attended the XIII Gathering of CPLP Defense Ministers.

Cape Verde

12 November (Tunis):

Former President Pedro Pires officially received the 2011 Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

9 November (Praia):

After the meeting of the Local Supervision Group (LSG) of the EU-Cape Verde Special Partnership, both the EU Representative to Cape Verde Josep Coll and the Director for Political Affairs and Cooperation of the Foreign Relations Ministry Fernando Wahnon confirmed that Cape Verde is likely to witness an increase of the funding granted under the Special Partnership with the EU, despite the spillover effects of the global economic crisis.

17 November (Praia):

Prime Minister José Maria Neves met with his São Toméan counterpart Patrice Trovoada, during the latter's technical stop on his way to São Tomé. The reinforcement of bilateral ties and the possibility of a maritime connection between the two countries were high on the agenda.

17-20 November (Salvador-Brasília):

President Jorge Carlos Fonseca paid his first official visit abroad to Brazil where he attended the Ibero-American Meeting celebrating the International Year of the Afro-Descendants (Afro XXI). Fonseca also took the opportunity to meet with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, to review bilateral relations.

26-30 November (Bissau):

Prime Minister José Maria Neves headed an extensive business delegation to Guinea-Bissau, seeking to analyze business opportunities and develop bilateral relations. For his part, Neves held meetings with his local counterpart Carlos Gomes Júnior as well as with several other Guinean officials.

28-29 November (Sal):

Defense Minister Jorge Tolentino hosted the XIII Meeting of Defense Ministers of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). The preparation for future actions of multilateral interest in the fields of defense and security were high on the agenda.

Guinea-Bissau

3 November (New York):

During a meeting of the UNSC focused on Guinea-Bissau, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau Joseph Mutaboba assured that "the national authorities, with the assistance of the international community, have continued to steer the country in the right direction and have consolidated recent important gains, resulting in a better political and security

environment". He nevertheless warned about "the need to continue building on these gains, as we gradually approach critical phases of the reform process that require strong international support, and as the country embarks on a sensitive electoral process in 2012".

7 November (Bissau):

Angolan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Manuel Augusto met with Bissau-Guinean President Malam Bacai Sanhá, Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior, Foreign Minister Mamadu Djaló Pires, Defense Minister Baciro Djá, General Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces António Indjai, UN Special Representative Joseph Mutaboba as well as with officials from the Angolan Military Technical Mission/"Missang" in the country. The review of Angolan efforts towards the stabilization and reform of the country's security sector was high on the agenda.

15 November (Bissau):

Chairman of the West African Development Bank Christian Adovelande met with Bissau-Guinean Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Júnior to discuss cooperation and future prospects. Adovelande also re-stated that the funding already granted by the WADB would be exceeded taking into consideration that the bank plans to provide funding for projects in the road and electricity sectors and to support the private sector.

24 November (Bissau):

According to the Finance Ministry, the French government pardoned €8.56 million, totaling Guinea Bissau's entire debt towards France.

28 November (Bissau):

Cape Verdean Prime Minister José Maria Neves met with his counterpart Carlos Gomes Júnior, aiming to enhance bilateral relations and support Guinea-Bissau's own stabilization process.

28-29 November (Sal):

Defense Minister Baciro Djá attended the XIII Gathering of CPLP Defense Ministers.

Mozambique

4 November (Maputo):

After last month's record natural gas findings in northern Mozambique by ENI and Anadarko, Carlos Zacarias, exploration manager at the National Petroleum Institute of Mozambique, stated that a new bidding round would be held by the end of November for Lake Niassa, and



new offshore bids by December and again at the end of 2012.

4 November (Maputo):

The British Minister for Africa, Henry Bellingham, was received by President Armando Guebuza. In this first visit from a British official from David Cameron's government, Bellingham expressed the United Kingdom's wish to increase trade relations with Mozambique.

7-8 November (Maputo):

Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister George Chicoti paid an official visit to Mozambique, where he was received by President Armando Guebuza. On this occasion, Chicoti presented a letter from President José Eduardo dos Santos to Guebuza, containing a formal apology of the Angolan President over the mistreatment of Mozambican journalists during the SADC Summit in Luanda last August.

8 November (Maputo):

Italy will provide €16 million over the next three years to encourage agriculture in the Mozambican provinces of Manica and Sofala.

8 November (Pretoria):

Defense Minister Filipe Nyusi took part in the Mozambique-South Africa's 3rd Joint Permanent Commission on Defense and Security Session, alongside local Defense and Military Veterans Minister Lindiwe Sisulu. The two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the safety of regional seas by signing a Memorandum of Understanding to fight piracy.

9-11 November (Luanda):

Mozambique's Armed Forces Chief of Staff Paulino Macarique praised the bilateral military cooperation with Angola. Macarique visited Angola at the invitation of his local counterpart, Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda, and had the opportunity to attend to Angola's 36th independence anniversary ceremonies and meet with Angolan Defense Minister Cândido Pereira Van-Dúnem.

14 November (Maputo):

US Ambassador to Mozambique, Leslie Rowe, praised the Mozambique-South Africa anti-piracy agreement, which also involves Tanzania, as "innovative" and positive.

18 November (Maputo):

Swedish Minister of Development Cooperation Gunilla Carlsson hailed Mozambique's recent economic growth, but pointed out for the need to include women and children in that development process. President Armando Guebuza received Carlsson.

19 November (Maputo):

India granted US\$25 million for the electrification of the northern province of Niassa, in a program that will last 20 months.

20-22 November (Maputo):

Brazilian Minister for Development, Industry and Foreign Trade Fernando Pimentel met local Finance Minister Manuel Chang and defended that the tax revenues collected by Mozambique as a result of coal exports should be consigned to guarantee Brazilian investment in infrastructure in the country.

28 November (Maputo):

US company Anadarko Petroleum Corp. announced it had doubled its estimate concerning its offshore natural gas concession, up from 15 to 30 trillion cubic feet. The Japanese company Mitsui also holds a share in the concession.

28-29 November (Lisbon):

The first Portugal-Mozambique Summit took place in Lisbon. President Armando Guebuza headed the Mozambican delegation, while the Portuguese side was topped by Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho.

28-29 November (Sal):

Mozambican Defense Minister Filipe Nyusi attended the XIII Gathering of CPLP Defense Ministers.

Portugal

1 November (New York):

Portugal officially assumed the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council during November.

2-3 November (Bogota):

Foreign Minister Paulo Portas, accompanied by a vast business entourage, visited Colombia, seeking to revamp bilateral relations and expand economic ties. Portas thus took the opportunity to meet with his local counterpart María Ángela Holguín and with President Juan Manuel Santos.

7 November (Lisbon):

Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho met with his São Toméan counterpart Patrice Trovoada to review bilateral relations.

9-15 November (Washington, New York, Newark, California):

President Aníbal Cavaco Silva, accompanied by Foreign Minister Paulo Portas, paid a visit to the US, where he met with President Barack Obama

seeking to present Portugal's efforts to fight the ongoing crisis and discuss security issues in the international agenda. Cavaco also took the opportunity to preside over the UN Security Council meeting focused on "The Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts", having then later met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other UNSC representatives.

9-10 November (Lisbon):

Luxembourgish Prime Minister and Eurogroup President Jean-Claude Juncker met with Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho, Finance Minister Vítor Gaspar, and Parliament Speaker Assunção Esteves. The sovereign debt crisis and the accomplishment by Portugal of the measures imposed by the international troika were high on the agenda.

15 November (Lisbon):

After months of speculation, Foreign Minister Paulo Portas announced in the Portuguese Parliament that the reorganization of the country's diplomatic network would imply closing embassies in Andorra, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Kenya.

17-18 November (Luanda):

Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho, accompanied by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Luís Brites Pereira, paid a short visit to Angola, where he met with President José Eduardo dos Santos and Parliament Speaker Paulo Kassoma. The strengthening of bilateral relations, increased trade and the upcoming privatization process in Portugal were high on the agenda.

22-23 November (New York):

Foreign Minister Paulo Portas presided over the UN Security Council debate regarding the status of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor Leste (UNMIT), where the continuance of the international community's support to the country after the scheduled 2012 elections was high on the agenda. Afterwards, Portas also presided over a UNSC debate regarding "New Threats to Security" in which he proposed the creation of a working group in charge of developing an approach that can prevent new conflicts originating due to climate change or organized crime, for example.

25 November (Lisbon):

Foreign Minister Paulo Portas met with the Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean Youssef Amrani, with developments in Northern Africa high on the agenda.

**28 November – 2 December (Praia):**

Defense Minister José Pedro Aguiar-Branco attended the XIII Meeting of Defense Ministers of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). Afterwards Aguiar-Branco also took the opportunity to meet bilaterally with his Cape-Verdean counterpart Jorge Tolentino, with Prime Minister José Maria Neves and President Jorge Carlos Fonseca, seeking to reinforce bilateral defense ties.

28-29 November (Lisbon):

Mozambican President Armando Guebuza traveled to Portugal, where he attended the first Bilateral Summit between the two countries and met with President Anibal Cavaco Silva and Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho. Even though the excellent state of relations was reaffirmed, it was not possible to reach a consensus on the final sale of the 15% Portuguese share of the Mozambican dam, Cahora Bassa, due to technical and financial issues.

São Tomé and Príncipe

7 November (Lisbon):

Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada met with Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho, seeking to strengthen bilateral relations.

14-16 November (Havana):

Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada, accompanied by Foreign Minister Manuel Salvador dos Ramos traveled to Cuba, where he met with Cuban Vice President José Ramón Machado Ventura and paid tribute to the country's national hero, José Martí. Increased education, health and agriculture cooperation was high on the agenda.

16 November (São Tomé):

Representative for the African Development Bank Chavier Bieger announced that the institution would support São Tomé and Príncipe's food security program, worth US\$7 million.

17 November (Praia):

During his return flight, Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada made a technical stop in Cape Verde, where he took the opportunity to meet with his counterpart José Maria Neves, in a bid to reinforce bilateral relations.

Timor Leste

10 November (Kigali):

Deputy Prime Minister José Luís Guterres attended a UN Post-Conflict Peace Building Conference in Rwanda. Afterwards, Guterres took the opportunity to meet with Rwandan Prime Minister Pierre Damien Habumuremyi, with the possibility of cooperation in tourism and gas exploration high on the agenda.

11-12 November (Díli):

Prince Philipp of Liechtenstein, acting as chairman of the LGT Group Foundation, met with President José Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister José Alexandre 'Xanana' Gusmão, with whom he signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at reinforcing cooperation projects in the country.

17 November (Bali):

After its XIX Summit, ASEAN leaders agreed to form a working group to review the readiness of Timor Leste to join the organization, even though bureaucratic obstacles raised by some members are likely to slow down the intended process.

22 November (New York):

Foreign Minister Zacarias Albano da Costa attended a UN Security Council meeting that followed the presentation of the latest report by the UN Special Representative to Timor Leste Ameerah Haq. The succession of the UNMIT on the ground and the need for some kind of international presence in terms of security were high on the agenda.

25 November (Díli):

Secretary of State for Defense Júlio Pinto expressed his government's openness for Timorese forces to potentially take part in some form of joint military training with Australian and US counterparts, based in Darwin.

29 November (Busan):

During the IV High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Timor Leste's Finance Minister Emília Pires signed with Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd a development agreement committing both countries to working together in line with the goals set out in Timor Leste's Strategic Development Plan.

31 November (Díli):

Former Interior Minister Rogério Lobato formally announced his intention of running in next year's presidential election.

EDITOR | Paulo Gorjão

ASSISTANT EDITORS | Kai Thaler • Laura Tereno • Pedro Seabra

DESIGN | Atelier Teresa Cardoso Bastos PRINTING | Europress

Portuguese Institute of International Relations and Security (IPRIS)
Rua Vitorino Nemésio, 5 - 1750-306 Lisboa
PORTUGAL

<http://www.ipris.org>
email: ipris@ipris.org

IPRIS Lusophone Countries Bulletin is a publication of IPRIS.

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