

**NATIONAL PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION NO. 23/2009
of 10 June**

**APPROVES, FOR ADHESION, THE CONSTITUTIVE
DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-
SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

On proposal of the Government pursuant to article 95.3(f) of the Constitution of the Republic, the National Parliament resolves to approve, for admission, the Constitutive Declaration of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries signed in Lisbon on 17 July 1996. The corresponding text, in Portuguese version, is published as an annex.

Approved on 6 April 2009.

The Speaker of the National Parliament,

Fernando La Sama de Araújo

For publication.

Done on 5 May 2009.

The President of the Republic,

Dr José Ramos-Horta

**Constitutive Declaration of the Community of Portuguese-speaking
Countries – CPLP**

The Heads of State and Government of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and São Tomé and Príncipe, having met in Lisbon on 17 July 1996,

Deeply attached to the immutable values of Peace, Democracy and the Rule of Law, of Human Rights, Development and Social Justice;

Bearing in mind the respect for the territorial integrity and the non-interference in the internal affairs of each State, as well as the right of each State to determine the forms of its political, economic and social development and to adopt in a sovereign manner all appropriate policies and mechanisms in these fields;

Aware of the historic opportunity offered by this Conference of Heads of State and Government to provide responses to the aspirations of and appeals from the peoples of the seven countries and having in mind the auspicious results of the meetings of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and External Relations of the Portuguese-speaking countries, convened in Brasilia on 9 February 1994, in Lisbon on 19 July 1995 and in Maputo on 18 April 1996, as well as those of their meetings, held on the occasion of the 48th, 49th and 50th Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations; Consider that it is imperative to:

- Consolidate the national and multinational cultural reality that confers upon the Portuguese-speaking countries an identity of their own, while reflecting the special character of their relationship and the experience of a fruitful concerted action and co-operation that has been built up over the years;
- Enhance a progressive international assertion of the Portuguese-speaking countries as a whole which, although being a geographically discontinued area, are identified by their common language;
- Reaffirm, on this highly meaningful occasion for the collective future of their countries, their commitment to strengthen their ties of solidarity and co-operation by taking concerted initiatives designed to promote the economic and social development of their peoples and to further develop the assertion and dissemination of the Portuguese language.

Reaffirm that the Portuguese language

- Constitutes, among their peoples, both an historic link and a common heritage which have been nurtured by their friendly relationship throughout the centuries and which must be enhanced;
- Is a privileged means of disseminating the cultural creation among the Portuguese-speaking peoples and of internationally promoting their cultural values, in an open and universal perspective;

- Provides, at the world level, a solid foundation for an increasingly significant and influential concerted action, as well;
- Tends to be, in view of its wide nature, a tool of communication and work within the international organisations, thus enabling each country, within its specific regional context, to be the interpreter of their common interests and aspirations.

Hence, fully confident in the future and determined to achieve the following objectives:

- To contribute to the reinforcement of the human ties, solidarity and brotherhood among all peoples for whom the Portuguese language is one of the pillars of their specific identity and, accordingly, to promote ways and means to facilitate the movement of Member countries' citizens within the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries area;
- To encourage the dissemination and enrichment of the Portuguese language by further developing and strengthening the institutions which have been or will be established therefor, in particular the International Portuguese Language Institute;
- To enhance the cultural exchange and the dissemination of the intellectual and artistic creation within the framework of the Portuguese language by making use of all means of communication and of the international co-operation mechanisms;
- To endeavour to establish in certain Member countries concrete forms of co-operation between the Portuguese language and other national languages in the fields of research and enhancement;
- To widen their co-operation in the field of political and diplomatic concerted action, particularly within the framework of international organisations, so as to give an ever-greater expression to their common interests and needs within the international community;
- To encourage the development of their parliamentary co-operation;
- To develop their economic and entrepreneurial co-operation and to enhance the existing potential by drawing up and implementing projects of

common interest, exploring to this end the various forms of bilateral, trilateral and multilateral co-operation;

- To give a new impetus to, and intensify, their co-operation in the academic field, as well as in vocational training and in the various sectors of scientific research and technology, aiming at a growing enhancement of their human and natural resources, and to promote and reinforce the training policies of officials;

- To mobilise internal and external efforts and resources aimed at assisting in the reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes, as well as in the humanitarian aid and emergency actions for their countries;

- To promote the co-ordination of the activities of the various public agencies and private bodies, economic associations and non-governmental organisations which are engaged in the development of the co-operation among their peoples;

- To promote, in the respect for the international commitments undertaken by Member countries, measures designed to overcome the problems faced by the immigrant communities in the Member countries, as well as to co-ordinate and foster co-operation in the field of immigration policies;

- To encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation with the aim of protecting and preserving the environment in the Member countries and achieving a sustainable development;

- To promote actions of co-operation between themselves and multilateral co-ordination with a view to ensuring full respect for human rights, both in their countries and all over the world;

- To promote measures, particularly in the pedagogic and judicial fields, with a view to eradicating racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia;

- To promote and foster measures designed to effectively improve the living conditions of the child and to ensure his/her harmonious development, in the light of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

- To promote the implementation of specific projects of co-operation with a view to strengthening the social condition of women, thereby recognising the crucial role they perform in the well-being and development of society;
- To foster and promote exchange of young people, for training and exchange of experiences, by implementing specific programmes, particularly in the fields of education, culture and sports;

Have decided, acting faithfully in view of the vocation and the will of their peoples, while fully respecting the sovereign equality of States, to constitute as from now the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries.

Done in Lisbon on the seventeenth day of July in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six.

For the Republic of Angola

For the Federal Republic of Brazil

For the Republic of Cape Verde

For the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

For the Republic of Mozambique

For the Portuguese Republic

For the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe