

# **PORTUGAL – Summit for Democracy – Written Statement**

## **1. The crucial task of cherishing while improving democracy**

- We believe that it is only by improving the quality of democracy that we can effectively fight populism and extremism, which can undermine democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights.
- We need more effective democracies, which ensure elections with integrity that legitimize the elected candidates and provide the public with confidence in their leaders and institutions. We need to tackle inequalities, economic, social and political, which also means building more inclusive democracies, while fostering the participation of all in the political system. And we need to champion democracy, which is always a work in progress – we need to cherish it, defend it and reform it for future generations.
- We have therefore committed to promote the full participation of all in public affairs, renew and qualify our political class, bring legislation closer to the people, protect human rights and invest in effective citizenship education.

## **2. The importance of upholding human rights**

- We pledge to continue to guide our participation in the different multilateral fora in support of an effective, rules-based multilateralism with the United Nations at its center.
- Portugal has ratified all but one of the United Nations Human Rights Conventions, and all Option Protocols establishing complaint procedures, and it has done so without reservations of any kind. We have also assumed human rights obligations at the regional level. We pledge to reaffirm our commitment to all our human rights obligations.
- We pledge to support a Human Rights Council resolution establishing a new mandate for a Special Rapporteur for free and fair elections.

- We pledge to submit our application to join the Freedom Online Coalition.
- We pledge to continue to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including by adopting a National Action Plan.
- We pledge to support efforts to improve the work of the UN ECOSOC NGO Committee.
- We pledge to continue to support democracy and human rights in our development cooperation.
- We pledge to do strengthen the capacity of our National Committee for Human Rights (a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up), and to continue to be an active leader of the Group of Friends for such mechanisms, in Geneva. In this regard, we will cooperate with all States who seek our support, in particular with Lusophone countries.
- We pledge to support projects that strengthen local resilience in vulnerable communities, in particular those that seek to empower young women and girls through education and empower them to be drivers of change in their respective communities.
- We pledge to deepen our support to Mozambique on counterterrorism and capacity-building efforts, both bilaterally and with the UN and other partners, in areas such as countering financing of terrorism, education and development of local communities, justice, inter-religious and intercommunal dialogue to build communities resilient to terrorist narratives.

### **3. The need to tackle corruption**

- Portugal has, in recent years, intensified its efforts to prevent and fight corruption and related crimes, namely money laundering.

- Portugal ratified the legal instruments approved by the international organizations to which it is a party, namely the UN, the Council of Europe, the OECD and the European Union, related to the prevention and repression of corruption and of money laundering.
- Our legislation also protects whistle-blowers in corruption cases. We are currently transposing into Portuguese law EU Directive 2019/1937, which will provide even better protection for those who report these types of crimes.
- Portugal will continue to promote anti-corruption measures in the framework of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Portuguese-speaking Countries, and in the context of the Conference of Ministers of Justice of Ibero-American Countries.
- Portugal will continue to work on implementing the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), as the main universal document for combating corruption in all its forms, sharing best practices and supporting efforts to make cooperation more effective, in bilateral and multilateral dimensions, with strategic partners and relevant regional and international organizations.