



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



PORTUGAL
United Nations Security Council
2027/2028

**Statement by H.E. the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal,
Mr. Paulo Rangel,
on the Luncheon Reception marking Portugal's
UN Security Council candidature for 2027-28
and its
70th anniversary in the United Nations**

December 5th, 2025

New York City

Check against delivery

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

One year ago, in this same city, we officially launched Portugal's candidacy for the Security Council. I concluded that evening by saying: "June 2026 is tomorrow." Well, tomorrow is now today!

And today, I want to pick up exactly where we left off, but with even greater clarity of purpose. Last year, I said that Portugal believes in the United Nations — in the Charter, in international law, and in the irreplaceable role this Organization plays when crises multiply and divisions deepen. Since then, this conviction has only grown stronger.

With the adoption of the Pact for the Future, the membership made a clear choice: to reinvigorate multilateralism, to strengthen cooperation, and to adapt our institutions to the challenges and risks of the next decades. A choice that you all translate to practice here at the UN every single day.

Colleagues,

We are entering the decisive phase of this election.



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This is the moment when each of you must evaluate not only platforms, but behaviors: how countries negotiate, how they listen, how they vote, how predictable they are, and whether they truly serve the interests of the entire membership.

We know how demanding this period is. We approach it with respect, humility, and determination. But let me be very clear:

Portugal is not reinventing itself because there is an election.

We have not discovered new priorities in the last months.

We have not crafted messages to please audiences.

We are exactly the Portugal you have known for decades:

Coherent in principle and in practice.

Consistent across governments and across crises.

Predictable in negotiations and voting patterns.

Committed to the Charter and international law, not selectively but systematically.

Open to the Global South as a natural, long-standing, and structural orientation, not merely seasonal.

And above all, dialogue-driven, respectful, and instinctively bridge-building.

This is not a campaign narrative; it is our diplomatic DNA.

Excellencies,

What can Portugal bring to the Council?

(1) Real prevention and long-term vision

Portugal brings experience in mediation, preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, humanitarian access, and in addressing the main drivers of conflict, notably poverty, exclusion, climate vulnerabilities, sea-level rise, governance fragility, and digital divides.



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(2) Credible peacekeeping commitment

Portugal is a net provider of peace and security: with more than 20,000 peacekeepers deployed over 25 missions in the last 65 years; a QRF in MINUSCA; police officers in UNMISS; military observers in the UN Verification Mission in Colombia; and a long record of supporting host countries with training, expertise, and resources.

We are also the only country that voluntarily waives its peacekeeping discount: a concrete expression of responsibility and solidarity.

(3) A proven record of negotiation and consensus-building

Portugal has delivered consensus outcomes across a wide range of files: oceans, human rights, humanitarian affairs, development financing, including as co-chair of FFD4 with Burundi. We bring seriousness, patience, and the capacity to work across regional lines.

(4) A strong and credible agenda on climate and oceans

Portugal pushed for SDG 14 on Oceans, co-hosted the 2nd UN Ocean Conference, ratified BBNJ early, and champions international responses to sea-level rise, a crucial challenge for many Member States.

(5) Working methods and accountability

We support inclusive and transparent working methods, stronger GA–SC interaction, meaningful briefings for non-Council members, ACT initiatives, the Veto Initiative, and responsible use of the veto.

This also includes supporting an SG selection process that is transparent, inclusive, guided by the Charter, and that strengthens the authority and legitimacy of the SG at a moment when global leadership is needed more than ever.

(6) International law without ambiguity

Portugal's positions on Ukraine, on Palestine, Sudan, Haiti, Afghanistan and on peace and security in Africa reflect decades of coherence: International law, including humanitarian law, the protection of civilians and the authority of the ICJ and ICC are not optional elements of our policy: they are its core.



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Excellencies,

Portugal wants to contribute to UN from the Council's table, at a moment that will also coincide with the start of a new Secretary-General's mandate and with the implementation of the Pact for the Future.

Let me say it clearly:

Portugal is ready.

Ready to contribute.

Ready to engage.

Ready to listen.

Ready to build bridges.

Ready to deliver.

Ready to serve the entire membership with determination.

But readiness is not enough.

In the months ahead, what matters is your trust.

So today, let me say openly and sincerely:

Portugal asks for your confidence, for your support and for your vote next June.

Not because we claim to be perfect,

but because we are consistent,

because we are principled,

because we are constructive,

and because we will remain, if elected,

a country that listens, that builds bridges, and that works for solutions serving the entire membership.

Portugal will be your voice at the table.

Portugal is different.

And on your behalf,

On behalf of your people, Portugal will make the difference.