



**MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS**  
**Direção-Geral de Política Externa**

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**Statement by H.E. the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal**

**Mr. Paulo Rangel**

**On the Occasion of the**

**International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace**

Lisbon, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Check Against Delivery*

The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace highlights a fundamental truth: global challenges - from pandemics and climate change to armed conflict - cannot be solved by any state alone, no matter how big or strong.

Today's challenges are evermore borderless and interconnected. So, the answer can only be stronger cooperation. At international and regional level.

However, almost eighty-one years since the San Francisco Conference, the UN Charter is now under serious threat.

The global peace and security landscape is under great pressure. Conflicts are becoming more protracted. International law and human rights are experiencing a serious backlash. Extreme climate change is making vulnerable communities even more vulnerable. Climate change is threatening the future of our planet. Technology is bringing the world closer, but inequalities are increasing every day. Artificial Intelligence is making the world smarter, but with unknown risks for humankind.

Dialogue, diplomacy and multilateral solutions provide the surest path to a peaceful and just world. At a moment when faith in a rules-based order seems to be weakening, we must prove that a multilateral system can indeed respond to global anxieties and truly deliver for all.

When faced with violence, the response must be more diplomacy, more dialogue, more prevention and more partnerships;

When faced with unilateralism, the response must be more solidarity, more cooperation and more collective actions.

Together, "we the peoples" need to rebuild trust, to overcome divisions and to place humanity at the centre of peace and shared prosperity.



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And Excellencies,

Portugal is keen and ready to do its part.

Even more so, because Multilateralism is at the core of Portugal's foreign policy. Multilateralism is not in our DNA; Multilateralism is our DNA.

This is why Portugal is a candidate for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council 2027-2028, having presented its candidature 13 years ago, when the election was still in clean slate.

You know our motto, you know our priorities - PREVENT, PARTNER, PROTECT.

More than a slogan, these principles embody an agenda and a programme.

Prevention: promotes stability, enhances resilience and builds peace.

Partnership: ensures ownership, legitimacy and lasting solutions.

Protection: anchors security in human dignity and safeguards future generations.

The case of Timor-Leste illustrates clearly Portugal's integrated approach to peace and security. First Prevention, then Partnership and finally Protection.

For countries like Portugal, serving on the UN Security Council is about standing by consistent principles; showing that we can be a reliable and constructive partner; leading by example.

By showing leadership on the Ocean Agenda, on green and digital transitions; by focusing great part of our official development assistance on social objectives, by advocating for the reform of the global financing architecture.

Portugal has served previously on the Security Council. Each mandate reinforced our credibility and confirmed Portugal as an active contributor to international peace and security, backed by a stable and coherent foreign policy over more than five decades of democracy.

With your support, we are ready to serve once more. We will do so by listening to everyone's concerns, with independence, transparency, empathy and fairness.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are entering the decisive phase of this election. This is the moment when each Member State must evaluate not only platforms, but behaviours: how countries negotiate, how they listen and engage, how they vote, how predictable they are, and whether they truly serve the interests of the entire membership.



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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, nor discovered new priorities or 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 and Plural South as a natural, long-standing, and structural orientation.

And above all, dialogue-driven, respectful, and instinctively bridge-building. This is not a campaign narrative; it is our diplomatic identity.

If elected to the Security Council, Portugal will bring experience in mediation, preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, humanitarian access, and in addressing the main drivers of conflict, notably poverty, exclusion, climate vulnerabilities, sea-level rise or governance fragility.

We bring an unmatched capacity to engage with all countries and stakeholders across regional and political divides without compromising principles.

Portugal is also a net provider of peace and security: with tens of thousands of peacekeepers deployed, without caveats, over 25 missions in the last 65 years; a Quick reaction force 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 one of the very few countries that voluntarily waives its peacekeeping discount: a concrete expression of responsibility and solidarity.

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.

Portugal has also 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.



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We support a Security Council that is more transparent, inclusive and representative of today's world. We have long been working for stronger General Assembly/ Security Council interaction and for the responsible use of the veto.

For Portugal, there aren't first and second-class conflicts. All of you know our principled positions on Ukraine, on Palestine, on Middle East, on Lebanon. But all of you also know our principled positions on Sudan, on RDC, on Haiti, on Afghanistan and on peace and security in Africa. They reflect decades of coherence in international law, including humanitarian law, the protection of civilians and the authority of the ICJ and ICC. These are not optional elements of our foreign policy: they are at its core; they are its core.

Excellencies,

Portugal wants to contribute to the United Nations from the Council's table.

Let me say it clearly: Portugal is ready.

Ready to contribute, to engage, to listen, to build bridges, to deliver.  
Ready to serve the entire membership with determination.

So, today, Portugal asks for your confidence, your support and on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, for your vote.

Not because we claim to be perfect, but because we are consistent, principled, constructive, and above all, because we will remain, if elected, a country that listens, that builds bridges, and that searches for solutions serving the entire membership.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

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.