Statement

by

H.E. Ms. Sofia Borges
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of Timor-Leste to the United Nations

on behalf of the Community of the Portuguese-Speaking Countries

to the

48th plenary meeting of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations:
joint debate under agenda items 123 (a) to (y)

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Check Against Delivery
Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), whose member States are Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and my own country, Timor-Leste. I wish to remind members of the General Assembly of the relevance of the Portuguese language in international affairs, unifying 240 million people in nine countries and four continents, and to highlight CPLP’s political commitment to promote the use of Portuguese in international and regional organizations, including the United Nations and its agencies, funds and programs.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the cooperation between the United Nations and the CPLP (see A/69/228), reflecting the positive effects of joint actions that have materialized over the course of the past two years. Resolution 67/252 adopted by the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session in 2013, noted with appreciation that dynamism also reflects the strengthened partnerships among the member States of the Community and the United Nations, including its agencies.

The United Nations system continued to be an important partner, actively pursuing its cooperative ties with our community through concerted political and diplomatic actions. Similarly, that cooperation is expressly visible in several vital areas that contribute greatly to the development of our countries, particularly in the sectors of Human Rights, health, education, science and culture, food and agriculture, public administration, and science and technology, among others. Two examples of such partnerships include the support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for the establishment of common measures to prevent and combat corruption by civil servant agents in international commercial transactions as well as a declaration and action plan on trafficking persons in the Community; and the Portuguese Unit of United Nations Radio, which continues to play a fundamental role in facilitating daily coverage of issues of concern to the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Mr. President,

The Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries welcomes the establishment of a legitimate Government in Guinea-Bissau earlier this year, and takes note, with satisfaction, of the positive steps already taken by the democratically elected authorities, remaining mindful of the considerable challenges that still lie ahead. As part of its political coordination, the Community and its member States are deeply involved in coordinating efforts with the United Nations and other international partners aimed at supporting the priorities set out by the government of Guinea-Bissau with a view to promote stability, respect for human rights, democratic institutions, the rule of law and social and economic development. In that regard, we recall Security Council resolution 2157 (2014) and the importance of convening an international pledging conference on the recovery of Guinea-Bissau, to which the CPLP
remains fully committed, as well as of a renewed and strengthened future mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peace-Building Office in Guinea-Bissau.

In this regard, the relaunching of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau is an essential instrument for the effective coordination of international assistance in Guinea-Bissau. The ICG-GB would also have the role of assisting with organizing the Donor pledging conference, support the SSR and national reconciliation efforts.

The ICG-GB is currently co-chaired by the CPLP and ECOWAS and the 10th meeting of the ICG-GB will be held on 18 November here in New York.

The Community welcomes the appointment of the former President of São Tomé and Príncipe, Miguel Trovoada, as Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Guinea Bissau. We also acknowledge and congratulate the former SRSG Mr. José Ramos-Horta for his achievements in Guinea-Bissau and welcome his appointment to chair the High-Level Independent Panel on Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions.

Mr. President,

In July of this year, Timor-Leste hosted the CPLP Heads of State and Government Summit under the theme “CPLP and Globalization” where, inter alia, the leaders recognized the need for a strategy on economic and entrepreneurial cooperation, and reiterated their commitment to reinforce the human right to adequate food in national and community policies. The Community also welcomed Equatorial Guinea as its 9th member, as well as Turkey, Georgia, Namibia and Japan as associate members.

Allow me to take the opportunity to inform of the CPLP member States intention to submit, during the current session of the General Assembly, a draft resolution on the “Cooperation between the United Nations and the CPLP”, for which we humbly seek the support of all Members States of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

I should like to conclude by reiterating the determination of the CPLP to strengthen its partnership with the United Nations in the pursuit of common objectives, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as our commitment to continue to play a positive role in shaping the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations under the framework reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Thank you.