Statement by
H.E. Ms. Sofia Borges
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations
On behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP)
To the General Assembly on the occasion of the consideration of draft resolution
A/RES/69/L.78 "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of
Portuguese Speaking Countries"

It is my honour to, on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) – Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and my own country, Timor-Leste – introduce, under agenda item 123 (h), draft resolution A/69/L.78, entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries”.

The Community encompasses 240 million people in nine countries and four continents bound by a common language and strong cultural ties. Its main goals are to strengthen diplomatic and political dialogue, enhance cooperation in all areas and promote the Portuguese Language. The CPLP is committed to reinforcing cooperation amongst its Member States, with other States as well as with regional and multilateral organizations such as the United Nations and its agencies, funds and programmes.

At the last Conference of Heads of State and Government, held in Dili on 23 July 2014, under the theme “CPLP and Globalization” the leaders recognized the need to strengthen the economic and entrepreneurial cooperation and reiterated their commitment to reinforcing the human right to adequate food in national and community policies. At this conference Equatorial Guinea was admitted as the ninth member of the Community; and Georgia, Japan, Namibia and Turkey were admitted as Associate Observers.

As stated during the High-Level Thematic on strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional and sub-regional organizations, the draft resolution is aimed at deepening its partnership with the United Nations in the pursuit of common objectives, particularly in the sectors of human rights, health, education, science, culture, food and agriculture, public administration and science and technology, among others.
The draft resolution commends Guinea-Bissau’s return to constitutional order, noting the active engagement of the Secretary-General and of his Special Representative as well as that of bilateral and multilateral partners, namely the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the CPLP and the European Union and recognizing the role played by the Peacebuilding Commission and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau. The draft resolution also welcomes the reactivation of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau as a key example of cooperation between the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries to the benefit of the people of Guinea-Bissau. The draft resolution also takes note of the successful holding of the International Conference that took place in Brussels on 25 March 2015, co-hosted by the government of Guinea-Bissau, the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in which the CPLP also participated.

We would therefore like to kindly request that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote.

In conclusion, allow me to express, on behalf of the CPLP Member States, our deep appreciation to the countries that contributed to the text and those that sponsored the draft resolution.