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DE LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA

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Tackling Inequalities Beyond 2015 through Social Protection

UN Headquarters (New York), Conference Room 9 (Conference
Building)

September 23, 2013

Statement by the Executive Secretary
of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries
(CPLP)
Murade Murargy

- *Mr. Moderator*
- *Excellencies*
- *Ladies and gentlemen*

It is a great pleasure and honour to take the floor on behalf of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP). I would like to express my thanks to Belgium, Brazil and the ILO in organizing this important meeting.

The founding Declaration of the CPLP arising from “perennial values such as Peace, Democracy and the Rule of Law, Human Rights,



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Development and Social Justice," establishes a concern with "the collective future" of its member States, committing to "reinforce the ties of solidarity and cooperation that join them, combining initiatives for the promotion of social and economic development of their peoples and for the growing affirmation and dissemination of the Portuguese language.

On the path to its 20th anniversary in 2016, CPLP intends to continue to strengthen itself from a bottom up perspective, at the civil society level, promoting and reinforcing its cultural, social, economic, political and development ties which more than simply joining together, united our States through coordination and cooperation.

That is the reason why our member States remain deeply committed with the prosecution of the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda.

And that is particularly clear in the area of social protection where the Community is striving to pursue a social protection strategy in articulation with other complementary areas such as education, health and agriculture.

In that sense, CPLP aims at implementing social protection sustainable policies with some predictability able to deal with scenarios of risk and poverty as well as in emergency conditions.

Gradually our member States, in alignment with ILO recommendation, are adopting public policies to create and



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consolidate social protection systems that bear in mind social protection basic needs.

One step forward in that direction will be the forthcoming signing of a CPLP Multilateral Agreement on Social Protection that will be applicable in the areas of disability, aging and death as foreseen in the national legislations of the Member countries part of the agreement (health, social assistance and non-contributory regimes are excluded from this agreement).

The CPLP Agreement envisages equality of treatment once any CPLP citizen residing in a member State where the agreement is into force will benefit from the same rights and obligations and in the same conditions like any national of those States.

On the other hand the Agreement will also be aligned with other international coordination instruments of social protection, prevailing, of course, the most favourable dispositions.

In a logic of South-South and triangular cooperation, CPLP is also committed and engaged with the Decent Work Agenda, with special emphasis in the area of child labour, where our Community is at the forefront dealing with this issue by means of CPLP tripartite networks.

Regarding social protection CPLP holds regular summits and politic coordination among its ministries (a ministerial meeting is conveyed every two years). A network of focal points is active and under that frame CPLP has implemented 3 working groups on labour markets,



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social integration and professional training indicators. Cooperation projects are also active.

We also would like to enlighten that CPLP manages, in close cooperation with ILO office in Lisbon, an on-line Information Centre on Social Protection, called CIPS (www.cipsocial.org) that has grown as a participative electronic platform providing information on social protection in Portuguese language.

CIPS responds to the social protection information needs of the Portuguese-speaking countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Timor-Leste) and makes available information on the existing social protection realities of these countries. The website is directed to the international community, national public and civil society stakeholders, as well as all those involved with, and interested in, social protection.

Finally and to conclude, we believe that among many opportunities within CPLP it is the capacity to work as a network (and through sectorial focal points) in many fundamental areas of the organization that allows us to establish and spread partnerships with the most diverse development partners.

One of the most relevant examples is the cooperation currently undergoing with ILO, which we recognize as being one of the most active within the UN family.

I thank you for your attention.