

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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**MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD PORTUGUESE
LANGUAGE DAY**

NEW YORK, 5 MAY 2022

On this date when we celebrate the World Portuguese Language Day, I extend a very special greeting to the Member States of the CPLP and to all Portuguese speakers.

Languages of global communication, such as the Portuguese language, play a crucial role in promoting understanding, affection, mutual respect and coexistence among peoples and citizens of the most distinct geographical origins.

Indeed, the serious challenges we face on a global level require solidarity and cooperation between countries and peoples from different geographies, enhancing the factors that bring them together. I believe that the bridges created by the CPLP and the Portuguese language play an important role in this context.

This year, allow me to make a special reference to two anniversaries:

First, the fact that 2022 will mark the bicentenary of Brazil's independence. I express my deep appreciation for the contribution that this founding country of the United Nations has made to the Organization over the years.

Secondly, the fact that we are celebrating the centennial of José Saramago, the first Portuguese-speaking writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, in 1998.

I reiterate the greeting with which I began this message, in the firm belief that the vitality and multicultural character of the Portuguese language will continue to project it as a factor for understanding and proximity among countries, peoples and persons.