



TRADUÇÃO DE CORTESIA/COURTESY TRANSLATION

**14th CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE
COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

**28th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
OF THE COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

São Tomé, 25th of August 2023

Resolution on the Amendment to the Associate Observers Regulation

The Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) meeting in São Tomé for its 28th Ordinary Meeting on 25 August 2023;

Recalling the Declaration on the New Strategic Vision of the CPLP (2016–2026), adopted by the 11th Conference of Heads of State and Government (Brasília, 31st of October and 1st of November 2016) and advocating for the full implementation of the guidelines presented by the Council of Ministers' Resolution on the Operationalization of the New Strategic Vision of the CPLP (Brasília, 20th of July 2017), particularly regarding the “Strengthening of cooperation with Associate Observers”;

Bearing in mind the Resolution on Strengthening Cooperation with Associated Observers, adopted by the 22nd Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers (Brasília, 20th of July 2017), as well as the Resolution on Amending the Regulation for Associated Observers, adopted by the 24th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers (Mindelo, 19th of July 2019);

Considering the Resolution on the Amendment to the Associate Observers Regulation, approved at the 16th Extraordinary Meeting (Luanda, 25 August 2023);

DECIDED:

1. To approve the amendments to the Regulation of the Associated Observers of the CPLP, annexed to this Resolution in its consolidated version.



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**ANNEX
ASSOCIATED OBSERVERS' REGULATION OF THE COMMUNITY OF
PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

**CHAPTER 1
General Provisions**

**Article 1
(Object)**

The purpose of this Regulation is to define the conditions for granting, maintaining and operating the status of Associate Observer of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP).

**Article 2
(Scope)**

The Regulation applies to entities who wish to benefit, or already benefit, from the Associate Observer status in their relationships with the CPLP.

**CHAPTER 2
Granting Associate Observer Status**

**Article 3
(Granting Conditions)**

1. The Associate Observer status may be granted to: States that do not meet the requisites for full membership of the CPLP; international, universal or regional organizations; intergovernmental bodies; and territorial entities with autonomous administrative bodies.
2. The status of Associate Observer of the CPLP requires that the applicant share the statutory principles of the CPLP and pursues objectives identical to those of the Organization through its policies or programs.
3. The granting of Associate Observer status of the CPLP aims to establish a partnership within the scope of the general objectives of the CPLP: political and diplomatic

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consultation in matters of international relations; cooperation in all areas; and the dissemination and promotion of the Portuguese language.

Article 4 (Procedure)

1. The application process for Associate Observer status of the CPLP shall be subject to the following procedures:
 - a) The applicant shall submit a declaration of interest stating the reasons for the application in a letter written in Portuguese and addressed to the Executive Secretary of the CPLP, which shall be forwarded to the Permanent Concertation Committee for preliminary consideration;
 - b) Upon consent of the Permanent Concertation Committee, the Executive Secretariat shall request the candidate to submit a Partnership Plan, as described in Article 11 (2), which must be received by the Executive Secretariat no later than three months prior to the date of the Conference of Heads of State and Government;
 - c) The application, including the Partnership Plan, shall be subject to a reasoned opinion issued by the Executive Secretariat and, with regard to the promotion and dissemination of the Portuguese language, by the International Portuguese Language Institute (Portuguese acronym IILP);
 - d) The Permanent Concertation Committee shall review this opinion and decide whether to forward the application to the CPLP Council of Ministers;
 - e) The Council of Ministers shall then review the application and make a recommendation for a decision by the CPLP Conference of Heads of State and Government.
2. The Executive Secretariat shall ensure that the submitted application follows the procedure defined in this article and provide any clarification about the process to the CPLP bodies and to the candidate.

Article 5 (Guiding Criteria)

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1. During the application review process, the following elements, among others, shall be taken into consideration:
 - a) The applicant's commitment to the objectives pursued by the CPLP, its guiding principles and the General Principles of International Law, under the terms of Article 7(1) and (2) of the Statutes;
 - b) The applicant's contribution to promoting the objectives of the CPLP demonstrated in concrete actions;
 - c) Proposals for joint implementation of initiatives or co-financing of programs, projects and specific actions, as adequately described in the respective Partnership Plan;
 - d) The existing political and diplomatic relations between the applicant and the CPLP and between the applicant and CPLP Member States;
 - e) A shared history, understood as the identification of the presence and/or relationship between the CPLP Member States and the applicant in the past;
 - f) Geographical proximity between the applicant and one or more Member States and the relationships inherent in that proximity;
 - g) The sharing of cultural traits, other than the Portuguese language, between the applicant and the Community;
 - h) The presence of diasporas from CPLP countries in the applicant's territory;
 - i) The existence of signed agreements between the applicant and the CPLP or its Member States.

2. In addition of the above, in the case of intergovernmental bodies and international, universal or regional organizations: the fact that one or more Member States of the CPLP are part of the applicant entity above mentioned; the promotion of consultation bodies or mechanisms, including within the framework of other international forums; the use of the Portuguese language and activities aimed at promoting it, among other relevant aspects arising from the applicant's mandate.



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Article 6

(Maintaining Associate Observer Status)

1. Maintaining the Status of Associate Observer of the CPLP is subject to compliance with the provisions of this Regulation, as well as the continuity of the conditions which led to the granting of said status.
2. The status of Associate Observer may be suspended, by decision of the Permanent Concertation Committee, if there is a change in the conditions that led to its recommendation, as described in Article 7(1) and (2) of the CPLP Statutes and in Article 3 above, or if there is a failure to comply with this Regulation.
3. In the event of suspension, and if the circumstances which motivated it persist, the Permanent Concertation Committee shall consider a proposal from the Executive Secretariat for temporary or definitive withdrawal of Associate Observer status.
4. The Council of Ministers shall consider the proposal to withdraw Associate Observer status and make a recommendation for a final decision by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP.
5. All decisions referred to in this article must be communicated to the Associate Observer within a period not exceeding 15 days.

CHAPTER 3

Rights and Duties of Associate Observers

Article 7

(Rights)

1. Associated Observers have the following rights:
 - a) To participate in the Conference of Heads of State and Government, Meetings of the Council of Ministers and Sectoral Ministerial Meetings, without voting rights;
 - b) To access unclassified information resulting from the meetings indicated in the previous paragraph;



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- c) To present communications at the meetings indicated in sub-paragraph a), with the prior authorization of the Member States, seeking rotation among the Associated Observers, as much as possible;
 - d) Preferential status as institutional partners in initiatives promoted by the CPLP;
 - e) The possibility of attending the Sectoral Technical Meetings, upon invitation.
2. Without prejudice to the above, any Member State may, if deemed appropriate, request that Observers do not attend a meeting, or a part thereof.

Article 8

(Duties)

1. Associate Observers have the following duties:
 - a) To support and promote the objectives and guiding principles enshrined in the Statutes of the CPLP;
 - b) To implement initiatives and finance or co-finance programs, projects and specific actions as described in the respective Partnership Plan.
 - c) To submit, no later than three months prior to the Conference of Heads of State and Government, a four-yearly summary report on the activities carried out under the Partnership Plan, based on the attached model of the “Roadmap for the Elaboration of the Partnership Plan between the Entity Applying for Associate Observer and the CPLP” (hereinafter referred to as the Roadmap);
 - d) To maintain a diplomatic mission in at least one CPLP Member State, in the case of sovereign states;
 - e) To promote the accreditation of its Representative to the CPLP by submitting the necessary “letter of credence” to the Executive Secretary and to keep the Representative’s contact details up to date.

CHAPTER 4

Partnership between the CPLP and Associate Observers

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Article 9

(Scope of Partnership)

1. The granting of Associate Observer status of the CPLP shall occur within the following framework, without prejudice to others that may be identified:
 - a) Political and diplomatic coordination between the CPLP and the Associated Observers, including in other international forums;
 - b) Partnership in the implementation of initiatives of common interest aligned with the general objectives of the CPLP;
 - c) Co-financing of programs, projects and specific actions through a contribution to the CPLP Special Fund;
 - d) Institutional, technical or financial support for initiatives to promote or disseminate the Portuguese language, namely within the framework of the celebrations of World Portuguese Language Day and the CPLP International Portuguese Language and Culture Day on the 5th of May;
 - e) Holding of joint events in the context of international conference meetings and relevant dates on the international agenda, as well as supporting efforts with multilateral agencies to identify mutually beneficial partnerships and sources of funding.

Article 10

(Guiding Documents of the Partnership)

1. The development of the partnership between the CPLP and the Associated Observers shall be guided by the following documents:
 - a) The CPLP's New Strategic Vision (2016–2026);
 - b) The CPLP Strategic Cooperation Document (DEC);
 - c) The Strategic Cooperation Plans of the Sectoral Ministerial Meetings;



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- d) The Action Plans issued by the International Conferences concerning the Future of the Portuguese Language in the World, with regard to guiding initiatives to promote and disseminate the Portuguese language;
 - e) Resolutions and other documents issued by the Organization's decision-making bodies.
 - f) The UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets, prioritized according to the national context of the Member States.
2. In the previous paragraph, the indication of a document shall be understood as referring to its most recent revision, update or replacement, whenever promoted by the competent body for that purpose.

Article 11 (Partnership Plan)

1. The application for Associate Observer status of the CPLP requires the submission of a Partnership Plan between the CPLP and the applicant entity.
2. The Partnership Plan shall set out the applicant's contribution to the objectives of the CPLP, be drawn up on the basis of the roadmap annexed to this Regulation and include the identification of activities aligned with the priorities and strategic documents of the CPLP, as well as an indication of the resources required to make the said activities viable.
3. CPLP reserves the right to request additional elements or clarifications that may substantiate the applicant claim or facilitate the analysis of the application.

Article 12 (Monitoring and Updating of the Partnership Plan)

1. The CPLP and the Associated Observer shall assess the development of the Partnership, namely the implementation of the activities provided for in the respective Plan. This assessment shall be based on the four-year report provided for in Article 8(b).



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2. Whenever a joint assessment of the Partnership's development requires the need to update the Plan, it shall be promoted by means of a proposal submitted by the Associated Observer to the Executive Secretariat.
3. Without prejudice to the preceding paragraph, the Partnership Plan shall be updated within a maximum period of eight years from its approval or last update.
4. The Executive Secretariat and, with regard to the promotion and dissemination of the Portuguese language, the IILP shall issue a reasoned opinion on the proposed update.
5. The Executive Secretariat shall present the reasoned opinion to the Permanent Committee for approval.

Article 13

(Working sessions between the CPLP and the Associated Observer)

1. Within the framework of the Partnership, an Extraordinary Session of the Permanent Concertation Committee shall be held at least once a year, with the participation of the Representatives of the Associated Observers.
2. By agreement between the Presidency and the Member State hosting the meeting, a working session may also be held on the sidelines of the Council of Ministers or the Conference of Heads of State and Government.
3. As part of the monitoring of the partnership, the Executive Secretariat shall promote individual or joint working sessions with the Associate Observers, ensuring, where appropriate, the participation of the CPLP Presidency-in-Office.

Article 14

(Information Exchange)

Information on the activities carried out within the framework of the Partnership between the Associated Observers and the CPLP may be freely disseminated through the institutional communication channels of the two parties.

Article 15

(Working Methodology)



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The development of the Partnership established between the CPLP and the Associated Observers shall follow the CPLP's working methodology for the design and implementation of joint activities.

Article 16 (Applicable Rules)

The implementation of programs, projects and specific actions agreed within the framework of the Partnership requires prior approval by the competent bodies of the CPLP and the Associated Observer, within the framework of the respective regulations.

CHAPTER 5 Final and Transitional Provisions

Article 17 (Transitional Provision)

1. This Regulation shall apply, with the necessary amendments, to entities that were granted the status of CPLP Associate Observer prior to their approval.
2. On the date this Regulation takes effect, the Associated Observers must, within the four-year period following their approval, submit their Partnership Plan to the Executive Secretariat, which shall follow the procedure set out in Article 12 of this Regulation.

Article 18 (Proposed Amendments)

Proposals to amend this Regulation must be submitted by the Member States to the Executive Secretariat for approval and communication to the Permanent Concertation Committee, which shall decide whether to submit them to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Article 19 (Legal effects)

This Regulation shall take effect on the day following the 13th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP.

Drafted in São Tomé, the 25th of August, 2023.

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ANNEX TO THE REGULATION OF THE CPLP ASSOCIATE OBSERVERS

Roadmap for the Preparation of the Partnership Plan between the CPLP and the applicant for the Associate Observer status

The application process to become an Associate Observer of the CPLP requires the submission of a Partnership Plan within the scope of the CPLP's general objectives: political-diplomatic consultation on international relations; cooperation in all areas; and the dissemination and promotion of the Portuguese language.

The partnership shall be implemented through joint initiatives or the co-financing of programs, projects and actions within the scope of the CPLP's activities, which shall be aligned with the Organization's strategic documents and approved by the relevant CPLP bodies.

The Partnership Plan includes a first part relating to the explanatory statement of reasons underlying the application and a second part relating to the identification of joint initiatives to be implemented within the scope of the future partnership, in line with the general objectives of the CPLP.

A. Statement of Reasons

The application for Associate Observer status must be based on:

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- The commitment assumed by the applicant in pursuing the guiding principles, values and objectives stated in the CPLP's Constitutive Declaration and in respecting and promoting the norms and general principles of International Law;
- The applicant's commitment to promote the Portuguese language and the cultural diversity of the CPLP;
- The strengthening of relations, namely political, diplomatic, cultural, economic and cooperative in all areas, between the CPLP and the applicant, as well as with the CPLP Member States.

Aspects such as a shared common history, geographical proximity and the existence of diasporas, among others, are also valued.

In the case of international organizations, joint initiatives should also be identified and aspects such as the existence of common members, the promotion of instances or mechanisms of coordination, including within the scope of other international forums, and the use of the Portuguese language and actions aimed at its promotion, among other important aspects arising from the mandate of the applicant organization, should also be valued.

B. Identification of initiatives within the Partnership

1. Political and diplomatic coordination

In this regard, the applicant shall:

- 1.1. Provide an overview of relations with the CPLP and its Member States, highlighting the existence of relevant agreements, programs or projects.
- 1.2. Express its willingness, when the necessary conditions are met, to support CPLP initiatives within other International Organizations; promote political-diplomatic consultation on relevant issues on the international agenda or within the framework of regional forums and international conferences; exchange and disseminate information on matters of common interest.

2. Cooperation in all areas

The CPLP's cooperation activities are aligned with the commitments set out in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The activities planned and carried out within the scope

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of cooperation in all areas are based on the guidelines set out in the CPLP Strategic Cooperation Document 2020–2026 (DEC), as well as the strategies approved by sector and the priorities defined by the presidencies in office.

To this end, the applicant shall:

- 2.1 Identify which Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are considered a priority and relevant for cooperation with the CPLP.
- 2.2 Consider the CPLP Cooperation Strategy Document (DEC) (<https://www.cplp.org/id-4176.aspx>) and identify the intended sectors to develop concrete cooperation activities with the CPLP.
- 2.3 Take into account the Strategic Cooperation Plans of the Sectoral Ministerial Meetings (<https://www.cplp.org/id-4176.aspx>) and indicate which activities within the CPLP it intends to develop:
 - a) Cooperation activities in partnership with CPLP bodies and/or structures, committing resources from the applicant in addition to resources identified by the CPLP itself. In this case, it shall identify up to 3 CPLP Strategic Sector Cooperation Plans (PECSET) to contribute to and the forecasted resources to be allocated.
 - b) Specific cooperation activities, using only the applicant' agencies, resources and funding.
- 2.4 Support the CPLP's efforts within multilateral agencies to identify new partnerships and sources of funding, as well as promote the submission of joint applications for funding mechanisms/programmes that include CPLP Member States as beneficiaries.
- 2.5 Identify other proposals within the scope of cooperation in all areas, such as holding joint events in parallel and/or on the sidelines of major international conferences, among others that may be identified.
- 2.6 Within the framework of the partnership to be developed, observe, if applicable, the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the proposed activities and indicate how it might:
 - a) Improve the installed capacity of actors in the beneficiary CPLP Member States.
 - b) Seek to create leverage effects in terms of results.

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- c) Develop synergies/partnerships with relevant CPLP Member States and regional or international entities.
- d) Produce synergies with past, ongoing or planned initiatives (policies, programs or projects).

2.7. Identify:

- a) The national agency or other institutions that could work jointly with the CPLP.

Name of the institution

- b) The Focal Point for regular contact with the CPLP Executive Secretariat.

Name of Focal Point	Represented Institution	Position	Contacts (telephone, email)

3. Promoting the Portuguese language

The International Portuguese Language Institute (IILP) is the body within CPLP with the mission of planning and implementing programs to promote, defend, enrich and disseminate the Portuguese language as a vehicle for culture, education, information and access to scientific and technological knowledge and for use in international forums, in accordance with the strategic guidelines set out in the 2010 Brasilia Action Plan, 2013 Lisbon Action Plan and 2016 Dili Action Plan. [INSERT LINKS]

In this section, the applicant shall provide information to characterize the Portuguese language context and identify actions to promote and disseminate the Portuguese language therein.

3.1 Information on the Portuguese language

3.1.1 Contexts in which the language is present (indicate the predominant situation)

CONTEXTS	High Presence	Medium Presence	Low Presence

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Foreign Language			
Heritage Language			
Others			

3.1.2 Portuguese in higher education

	No. of public institutions	No. of private institutions	Total number of teachers	Total number of students
Institutions offering higher education in Portuguese				
Institutions offering Portuguese as a curricular/ extracurricular option				
Institutions offering Portuguese training programs for teachers				

3.1.3 Portuguese in basic education

	No. of public institutions	No. of private institutions	Total number of teachers	Total number of students
Institutions offering higher education in Portuguese as a Second Language (PSL)				
Institutions offering Portuguese as a non-curricular language in PSL/PHL (Portuguese as a Heritage Language)				
Institutions offering Portuguese training programs for teachers				

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3.1.4 Portuguese in society

	Estimated number or description of situation
Institutions offering Portuguese courses (open courses and private institutes)	
Portuguese Speakers	

3.1.5

	Estimated number
Literary works	
Scientific works	
Other	

3.2 Identification of Actions for the Promotion of the Portuguese Language

The initiatives to be developed by the candidate entity shall contribute to the dissemination of the Portuguese language, from a multilateral and polycentric perspective, namely to:

- Integrate the teaching of Portuguese language into the candidate state's school curricula;
- Train Portuguese language teachers by offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses;
- Train Portuguese language teachers by offering technical and specialization courses;
- Value IILP as a forum for dialogue and assistance in the development of Portuguese language projects by Associated Observers;
- Strengthen and develop language promotion programs in local academic and/or technical reference institutions;
- Support programs to translate national authors from the candidate state into Portuguese and from Portuguese-speaking authors into the language of the candidate state;
- Promote programs, books, reading and the creation of libraries (physical and virtual) in educational or other institutions in CPLP countries;
- Position the Portuguese language as a language of science through research programs on and in the Portuguese language and mobility programs for teachers and students;
- Expand the circulation of the creative economy in Portuguese, in areas such as audiovisual, radio and electronic games;
- Support Portuguese as a Foreign Language certification projects; and
- Carry out activities within the scope of World Portuguese Language Day and CPLP International Portuguese Language and Culture Day on 5 May.

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Within the scope of the sectors defined above, please indicate:

- a) The national institute or other institutions that may work jointly with the IILP.

Designation of the institution

- b) The focal point for regular contact with the CPLP Executive Secretariat and IILP.

Name of focal point	Represented institution	Position	Contacts (telephone, email)

ANNEX 1

- 1) Identify which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are considered priorities and relevant for cooperation with the CPLP;

Sustainable Development Goals	
SDG 1 - No Poverty	
SDG 2 - Zero Hunger	
SDG 3 - Good Health and well-being	
SDG 4 - Quality Education	
SDG 5 - Gender Equality	
SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation	
SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy	
SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth	

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SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
SDG 10 - Reduce Inequalities	
SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities	
SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production and	
SDG 13 - Climate Action	
SDG 14 - Life Below Water	
SDG 15 - Protection of Life on Earth	
SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	
SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals	

(Mark with an X)

- 2) Considering CPLP’s Strategic Cooperation Document (DEC) (<https://www.cplp.org/id-4176.aspx>), please identify three sectors where you intend to develop concrete cooperation activities with the CPLP:

Priority Intervention Sectors DEC 2020–2026	
Environment and Climate Change	
Science, Technology and Higher Education	
Culture	
Human Rights and Good Governance	
Education	
Energy	
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
Youth and Sports	
Health	
Food Security and Nutrition Safety	
Tourism	

(Mark with an X)

CPLP Strategic Sector Cooperation Plans (PECSET)	Mark with (X)	Forecast resources (in euros)
Health Strategic Cooperation Plan (PECS-CPLP)		
CPLP Food Security Nutrition Strategy (ESAN-CPLP)		
Environment Strategic Cooperation Plan (PECA)		
CPLP Strategy of the Sea		

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Equality Gender and Women's Empowerment Strategic Cooperation Plan (PECIGEM)		
CPLP Youth Charter		
Energy Strategic Cooperation Plan		
Tourism Strategic Cooperation Plan (PECTUR)		
CPLP Strategic Plan for Multilateral Cooperation in Science, Technology and Higher Education		
Strategic Plan for Multilateral Cooperation in Education		
CPLP Strategic Plan for Multilateral Cultural Cooperation		
CPLP Action Plan to Combat Child Labor		

- 1) Considering the Strategic Cooperation Plans of the Sectoral Ministerial Meetings (<https://www.cplp.org/id-4176.aspx>), please identify up to 3 CPLP Strategic Sectoral Cooperation Plans (PECSET) to which the proposed activities could contribute along with the forecasted resources to be allocated: