



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by

**H. E. Mr. José Sócrates
Prime-Minister of Portugal**

**On the occasion of the General Debate of the
61st Session of the United Nations
General Assembly**

New York, 21 September 2006

Check against delivery

Madam President
Mr. Secretary General
Distinguished Delegates

1. I would like to start by extending my warmest congratulations to Her

has raised a serious question regarding security, and it is vital that they it is resolved if the country is to find stability.

We thus applaud the United Nations Peace Mission in East Timor, which represents the continuity of the significant investment made by the International Community and, more specifically by the United Nations, in East Timor.

on-going commitment to East Timor's political process over more than a decade.

I would also like to pay tribute to the memory of Sérgio Vieira de Mello, brutally murdered three years ago in Baghdad. We will not forget all that he did for the just cause of the Timorese people, and for the values that the United Nations embodies.

Madam President,

~~1. The last decade has been one of great changes. The United Nations have~~

I underline here Portugal's commitment towards multilateralism, for we strongly believe that this path is where one can better uphold the essential values of peace and development.

5. A big part of this multilateral action rests on a dialogue between cultures and

obstacles, prejudices and, principally, ignorance. Our challenge here is not to limit ourselves to mere declarations but to take firm and concrete steps towards greater interaction between peoples and cultures.

Despite the huge uncertainties and misunderstandings in the world today, we

The Middle East is not a military issue. It is, above all, a political and diplomatic challenge.

We should not, then, miss the window of opportunity offered by Resolution 1701 of the Security Council. It is a challenge where the United Nations and the [redacted] United States shared responsibility in promoting peace and stability.

Organization has been consolidating itself and reinforcing its involvement within

itself as a credible organization in the fostering of international partnerships with bilateral and multilateral entities with a view to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals.

In Bissau we pledged our commitment to reach the Millennium Development Goals, by defining and implementing a general cooperation strategy in which fulfilling them is the priority. This is also our priority. We shall implement it, within a bilateral and multilateral cooperation strategy that may speed up the fight against poverty, alleviate the pressure on migratory fluxes, and promote sustainable development.

9. September in New York must not be an annual pilgrimage to rediscover this Organization. At the end of the day, each and every one of us holds the