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Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries



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**VIII ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE
COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES
Coimbra, 17 and 18 July 2003**

RESOLUTION

ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries - CPLP, meeting in Coimbra, Portugal, at the VIII Ordinary Meeting, on 17 and 18 July 2003;

Aware of the preparatory work for the World Summit on Information, convened by the United Nations to address the potentials and challenges emerging in this domain, as well as to reduce the digital gulf between developed and developing countries, which will take place in Geneva (2003) and in Tunis (2005);

Recognising the importance of the impact of information and communication technologies on society in general, on citizens in particular and on economic and social development in the 21st century;

Recalling the objectives and targets of the Millennium Declaration and the decisive contribution that information and communication technologies can make to its fulfilment;

Considering the opportunities that information and communication technologies, as instruments to share information and knowledge, offer for the development of democracy, sustainable economic growth, social cohesion and political and cultural development in an information society for all;



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Underlines the need:

- a) to strengthen cooperation and build a culture, within the scope of the CPLP, in the area of information and communication technologies, through innovative initiatives, such as the CPLP's Electronic Government Project;
- b) for an appropriate framework for the development of the Information Society, which includes the adoption of basic principles (Human Rights, Rule of Law, Freedom of Expression and Good Governance);
- c) to promote lines of development for applications, including in key areas such as electronic government (*e-government*), electronic learning (*e-learning*), electronic health (*e-health*), and electronic business (*e-business*);
- d) to take advantage of the potential of the Information Society for countries and citizens, with a view to their participation in the information flow, economic, scientific and cultural exchanges, and economic and social development;

DECIDES:

- a) To encourage member states to participate actively, within the scope of their regional groups, in the formulation and discussion of positions for the Summit and to hold consultations within the scope of the CPLP, with a view to studying areas of convergence of positions for the Meeting;
- b) To recommend to Member states that, within the scope of the preparation of the Summit, they should make their best endeavour to value aspects related to cultural diversity and the promotion of local contents, including the right of all peoples to express themselves in their own language and be represented on the Internet, as a catalyst for the presence of the Portuguese language in the information society;
- c) To recommend that our development and cooperation policies take the best advantage of the use of information and communication technologies;



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- d) To support within the scope of the preparation of the Summit political actions and actions that contribute to a reduction in the digital gulf and, thereby, to a more balanced share on a global scale of the benefits of the Information Society;
- e) To support the actions resulting from the World Summit aimed at the exchange of experience and the empowerment of staff in the area of Electronic Government between member states of the CPLP and between the CPLP and other international organisations;
- f) To stimulate the creation of a site on the Internet, linked to the CPLP Portal, containing information on the Summit, documents under discussion and the contributions from countries, as a way of increasing participation and stimulating the commitment of Portuguese-speaking communities in the Summit process.

Coimbra, 18 July 2003