

## **Candidacy of Mr António Guterres for the post of United Nations Secretary-General**

The Prime Minister of Portugal has today written to the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council formally submitting the candidacy of Mr. António Guterres for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations, on behalf of the Portuguese Government.

This candidacy benefits from a broad domestic consensus.

With this step, Portugal actively contributes to the selection process by presenting a candidate who is exceptionally well qualified to be the next Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Throughout a long career of public service, notably as Prime Minister (1995-2002) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2005-15), Mr Guterres has demonstrated his commitment to the humanist ideals enshrined in the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, as well as his leadership and management capacities at the highest level. His diplomatic skills as a bridge-builder at the service of effective multilateralism are widely recognized. Mr Guterres has in-depth knowledge of the United Nations system and vast international experience, and in the exercise of his previous positions has shown a firm capacity to lead reform and unwavering commitment to gender equality, with tangible and lasting results.

During two successive mandates as UNHCR he has dealt with one of the most challenging issues facing the international community, performing his duties with irreproachable impartiality, competence and effectiveness, as well as with deep humanitarian awareness, to the benefit of refugees and displaced persons.

At a time when it is more urgent than ever to mobilize the world on behalf of peace and security, human rights and sustainable development, presenting Mr. António Guterres' candidacy for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations became an obvious imperative for the Portuguese Government.

Lisbon, February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016