

# SEMINAR

## “Embracing Multilingualism: A Spotlight on the Portuguese Language”

09:30 | May 13th | Polak Room, Residence Palace

To mark the World Portuguese Language Day, proclaimed by UNESCO in 2019, the Embassy of Portugal in Belgium and the United Nations Regional Center for Western Europe (UNRIC) cordially invite you to this seminar, which will address the relevance of multilingualism, its multifaceted challenges, such as the rapid development of artificial intelligence, and the role of the Portuguese language in Belgium, in Europe and in the World.



### Programme

**09h30 – Welcome Coffee**

**10h00 – Opening remarks**

Sherri Aldis, Director, United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe  
António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (pre-recorded video)

**10h10 – Keynote speech**

Sven Gatz, Minister of the Brussels-Capital Region Government, responsible for the Promotion of Multilingualism

**10h25 – Panel discussion: Multilingualism in Europe: an asset for the future?**

Moderator – Caroline Petit, UNRIC Deputy Director  
UNESCO representative (*tbc*)

Anna Solé Mena, Expert in Multilingualism, European Commission

Pauline van der Straten Waillet, Logopedist and Chargée de cours, ULB

**11h15 – Coffee Break**

**11h35 – Panel discussion – The Portuguese Language in Belgium, in Europe and in the World**

Moderator – Ana Corga Vieira, Camões IP Lecturer, ULB

Ana Paula Fernandes, President of Camões I.P. (*tbc*)

João Mendes Pereira, Ambassador of Brazil to Belgium

António Branco, PORTULAN CLARIN Research Infrastructure for the Science and Technology of Language (Director General) and University of Lisbon (Professor)

**12h25 – Closing remarks**

Jorge Cabral, Ambassador of Portugal to Belgium