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