



Bissau Declaration

For a Transformative Public Education in Lusophone Countries

We, participants of the International Forum "Promoting Effective Collaboration to Reinvent Public Education", call on decisionmakers, employers and all actors in the educational sector of Portuguese-speaking countries to join forces to transform public education.

Gathered in Bissau, in the context of the XV Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), the education trade union concluded that the current situation of public and private schools requires a true and renewed social and policy dialogue.

The challenges faced by children, young people and education workers, in schools, universities and training centres, impose the need for a collective effort. It is necessary to promote a culture of dialogue, with effective collaboration mechanisms that favour the search for innovative solutions that are viable and appropriate to the realities of our countries.

Faced with a global scenario marked by uncertainties and great challenges for humanity, united, Lusophone countries can point out a new path for public services. With urgency, strategy and political will, we can fully realise the transformative potential of education. With dialogue and method, it is possible to overcome old problems, such as the quality of education, curricular relevance, equitable access to prepared professionals and underfunding and face new and emerging challenges, such as digitisation, artificial intelligence and climate change.

Society demands a better school and it is our responsibility to reinvent it.





This reinvention requires an institutionalised social and political dialogue, based on respect, mutual trust and mechanisms for effective participation. This is the basis for collectively building innovative, realistic and impact-based public policies. It is our obligation, as social partners, to actively contribute so that the public school responds to the demands of society and is the engine of fair and sustainable social and economic development.

It is imperative that the CPLP in close collaboration with trade unions act proactively to promote policies that ensure the inclusion and adequate training of educators, ensuring that all professionals in the sector feel able to use digital technologies. The impact of artificial intelligence on the education sector is multifaceted and needs immediate attention from governments to move forward with stability, finding ethical solutions to potential replacements of crucial tasks in the teaching-learning process. Thus, by promoting a continuous social dialogue, it is possible to build an educational model that uses technological innovations not only as a response to current challenges, but as a pillar for the future development of educational institutions in Portuguese-speaking countries.

We, trade union organisations affiliated with the Trade Union Confederation of Education of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP-SE) and Education International, affirm that there is, in our countries, sufficient knowledge, creativity and technical capacity to develop public policies capable of facing educational challenges. Therefore, we call on governments, decision-makers and employers to join our initiative and collaborate effectively in the transformation of public education into Lusophony.

It's time to fulfil, with courage and commitment, the promise of a quality education for all.

Adopted in Bissau, July 16, 2025.

