Opportunities for Collaboration on Disaster Management among the Community of Portuguese Language Countries

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Introduction: CPLP and its focus on cooperation and development

The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (herein referred to CPLP) is a relatively new intergovernmental organization. It was established in the mid of 1990s the process was started in the early 1980s.\(^1\) CPLP comprises of 9 countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Mozambique, Portugal, and São Tomé e Principe). The CPLP operates under the following three general objectives:\(^2\)

» a) the politico-diplomatic dialogue among its members in matters of relations International, in particular to strengthen their presence in international fora;

» b) the cooperation in all fields, including education, health, science and technology, defence, agriculture, public administration, communications, justice, public security, culture, sports and media;

» c) the implementation of projects designed to promote and disseminate the Portuguese language, in particular through the International Institute of Portuguese Language.

As a manifestation of the implementation of the general objective (b), “the cooperation in all fields…”, CPLP also established 23 Sectorial Ministerial Meetings. The list of the Sectorial Ministerial Meetings are: Internal Administration, Public Administration, Agriculture, Environment, Maritime Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs, Science and technology, Trade, Posts and telecommunications, Culture, Defence, Sport, Economy and businesses, Education, Finance, Gender equality, Justice, Youth, Fisheries, Industrial Property, Health, Work and Social Affairs, Tourism.\(^3\)

The Global Development Agenda and CPLP

The establishment of the 23 ministerial meetings is an important milestone or foundation in terms of demonstration of commitment for a regional cooperation. The ministerial meetings can be viewed as one of the translations of the CPLP’s general objective…“(b). the cooperation in all fields…”.

These multi-sectorial ministerial meetings can be link, if not accelerated, with the new development agenda set by the United Nations, i.e. the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

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\(^2\) Article 3 (Objectives) of CPLP.