



Dear friend,

I am standing for President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the support of the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal.

I am standing for election because I believe that the IPU is the ideal forum to reach the goals of success we want for humanity: a world with more equality, social cohesion, peace, better environmental quality, and which can address, in unity, the global challenges we are now facing.

I view this candidature as a mission to which I have devoted much of my professional path ever since I embraced political life: **what drives me is wanting to do more and better for people.**

I was elected to the Assembly of the Republic at the age of 25. It was the confirmation of a love that has led me to never relinquish parliamentary life, with successive elections resulting from a devotion to the public cause, recognised by both my supporters and opponents, and confirmed by the voters, first at the domestic level and then in the international sphere.

I believe in the ideals of democracy and the rule of law as a way to better leverage the common good, which must be the ultimate goal of those who govern us.

I believe that it is possible to fight for our ideals, keeping an open mind to welcome various criticisms and perspectives, with a view to finding **consensual solutions** and, thereby, being more easily effective in their implementation.

I believe that democracy and governance are achieved with everyone and for everyone. We must maximise the **participation of younger people**, respect **gender balance** and **integrate minorities** so that democracy and the results we expect from it actually reach everyone.

I believe that, regardless of how hard a person or country tries, it will never be enough to achieve a better world. **Only by working hand-in-hand in multilateral cooperation will it be possible to address and overcome the challenges** that the world is now facing, be it in health, climate change, the fight against terrorism, or to combat poverty, and thus attain a better future for all the peoples we represent, in particular by reaching the millennium goals.

I have for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its ideals the same passion I have for parliamentary life, and I am available to serve the IPU with the same expertise, leadership and consensus-building that characterise me so that the IPU can resolve conflicts and assert itself in a more transparent and global way.

Together we will be stronger.

Best regards,

Duarte Pacheco, MP