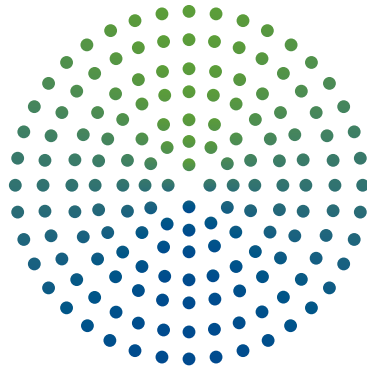




Award Ceremony of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe 2010





Award ceremony of the north-south
Prize of the council of europe
2010

Cerimónia de entrega do prémio norte-sul
do conselho da europa
2010



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The North-South Prize



Based in Lisbon, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and solidarity (North-South Centre) of the Council of Europe opened its doors in 1990 with the objective of providing a cooperation framework within Europe to raise public awareness of global interdependence issues and to promote policies of solidarity in conformity with the aims and principles of the Council of Europe. Through its different programmes (Global Education, Youth and Intercultural Dialogue), the North-South Centre works to increase understanding and cooperation between people from the North and South. Although it is composed of member States, one of the distinguish features of the North-South Centre is that it does not work merely at an intergovernmental level. It operates, rather, as a “quadrilogue”, a framework for co-operation between governments, parliaments, non-governmental organisations and local and regional authorities.

In order to divulge the work of those who have stood out internationally for their dedication to the promotion of global interdependence and solidarity, and for their engagement in supporting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has awarded, since 1995, the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe to two candidates, one from the North and one from the South.



Introduction

Denis Huber

Executive Director of the North-South Centre
of the Council of Europe



» In setting up the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (more commonly known as the “North-South Centre”), in November 1989, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe – and more specifically the Centre’s ten founder States – took a visionary decision. At a time when the Berlin wall was falling down and all eyes in Strasbourg were turned to the East, retaining a global dimension and a Southern perspective was inevitably a medium and a long-term concern. In April 1990, the North-South Centre was set up in Lisbon. From the start, it has built on what, until today, still constitutes its fundamentally pioneering dimension and major development potential:

- » **Its objectives, both broad and ambitious:** to provide a framework for European co-operation designed to heighten public awareness of global interdependence issues, and to promote policies of solidarity complying with the Council of Europe’s aims and principles: respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- » **An open house:** from the outset, the Centre was open not only to the Council of Europe’s member States and the other Parties to the European Cultural Convention but also to any other interested State and the European Community;

- » **Its decision-making process:** unlike the other partial agreements (and the Council of Europe itself), the decisions – including those on the programme and budget – are not taken by the member States alone. The Executive Committee, the NSC’s decision-making body, reflects a balance between the four components of the Centre’s action (governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society). This “quadrilogue” composition gives the NSC not only its originality but «also real credibility in a field of action where non-governmental players are heavily involved;

- » **Its functioning and working methods:** the practical implementation, unique in the Council of Europe, of the “quadrilogue” concept also has a direct impact on the NSC’s functioning and working methods, which are more open, more transparent and more inclusive than those of a classic intergovernmental organisation. At the same time, the fact that the Centre is an offshoot of the Council of Europe is a major asset, giving it access to the intellectual and operational resources of the “parent institution”, as well as the partnerships forged between the Council of Europe and the other European or international organisations relevant to the Centre’s work.

More than 20 years after the fall of the Berlin wall, Europe – and the world – have gone through profound changes. Indeed, a new paradigm – often called the “post-9/11” era – has gradually imposed itself, leading to:

– Increasingly acute awareness that the fundamental strategic challenges for world stability now lie in the South rather than in the East; growing evidence that many of the issues to which modern societies are confronted are not only of global nature but also put at stake the future of humanity as a whole; ever growing complexity of the international relations sphere, where many

actors have emerged in addition to / competition with the traditional “players” (the states and the international organisations), and where basic notions such as multilateral action, the rule of (international) law and universally shared values are more necessary but also more contested than ever; renewed priority attached to an already old concept with revised contours: intercultural dialogue (as a response to the diagnosis of a “clash of civilizations” formulated back in 1993, by the American political scientist Samuel Huntington).

In this new area, the North-South Centre’s capacity of acting in different dimensions and mobilizing all relevant actors, together with its expertise in the fields of global education, youth co-operation and intercultural dialogue, are strong added values. Having concentrated its action, in recent years, on two priority geographical areas (Africa and the Southern Mediterranean), and promoted synergies with major actors such as UNESCO, the African Union, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the UN Alliance of Civilizations, it also has a greater chance to “make a difference”. Recent initiatives within the Council of Europe (in particular the “White Paper on intercultural dialogue” which has been published in 2008) or the European Union (such as the joint EU-Africa strategy or the Union for the Mediterranean) offer important opportunities in this respect.

Against this background, the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe is progressively turning from a “public relation” event into a political event of major importance. Awarded annually since 1995 to two public figures (one from the North and one from the South, preferably a man and a woman), it highlights the importance of the “human factor”. The winners of the North-South Prize are recognized for their deep commitment, outstanding achievements and/or the hope they have generated in the field of individual rights protection, the defense of pluralist democracy and North-South solidarity and partnership.

But they are also living examples that, in all circumstances and throughout history, individual men and women have been able, and are still capable, of stimulating overall progress for humanity. This has been of course the case of all previous North-South Prize winners, among which appear leading figures such as Peter Gabriel, Mary Robinson, Graça Machel, Mário Soares, Stéphane Hessel, Bob Geldof, Kofi Annan, Simone Veil, Jorge Sampaio, Queen Rania of Jordan or Mikhail Gorbachev.

Luiz Inácio da Silva and Louise Arbour, the two winners of the 2010 North-South Prize, have brought a further highlight to the Prize. They are living symbols of the values of global tolerance, international co-operation, dialogue and mutual respect (between cultures and civilisations), which are today more important than ever. They also represent, in a most convincing manner, the fundamental principles of universality and indivisibility of human rights, which include the principle of equality between men and women, wherever they live. Indeed, they are among the people who make our world, one world. And I would add: a better world.



A portrait of Jaime Gama, Speaker of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic, wearing a dark suit and a blue tie, speaking at a podium.

Jaime Gama

Speaker of the Assembly
of the Portuguese Republic



Senhor Presidente da República, autoridades, laureados, Senhora Louise Arbour, Exmo. Senhor Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, em nome da Assembleia da República gostaria de expressar a nossa satisfação pelo facto de que todos os anos, nesta sala do Senado, neste edifício, somos capazes de sedear a cerimónia do Prémio Norte-Sul. Estamos muito felizes de acolher esta iniciativa do Conselho da Europa mais uma vez, e o Senhor Presidente da República Portuguesa associa-se a este evento. Desejo a todos o melhor nesta sessão, a esta homenagem que estamos a prestar aos laureados, e deixem-me dar a palavra à Presidente do Conselho Executivo do Centro Norte-Sul.

President of the Republic, authorities, laureates, Mrs Louise Arbour, Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on behalf of the Assembly of the Republic, I should like to express our satisfaction for the fact that every year in this senate room, in this building, we are able to host the award ceremony of the North-South Prize. We are very happy to host this initiative of the Council of Europe once again and the President of the Portuguese Republic associates himself to this event. I wish you all the best in this session, in this tribute that we are paying to the laureates and let me give the floor immediately to the Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre.



Deborah Bergamini

Chair of Executive Council of the North-South
Centre of the Council of Europe

“We are proud to act as bridge-builders in the name of democracy, in the name of the Council of Europe. Today more than ever. We are proud to contribute to the shaping of a true European Mediterranean policy based on human rights”



First of all, on behalf of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, I wish to express our gratitude to the Portuguese Parliament for its hospitality, and to the Portuguese authorities for their continuous support to the Centre. I have indeed a renewed feeling of pride and honour when addressing each year, at this special event, such a distinguished audience in such a beautiful historical setting. I would like more particularly to thank both the President of the Portuguese Republic, Mr Aníbal Cavaco Silva, and the President of the Portuguese Parliament, Mr Jaime Gama, for their continuous support and encouragement to the North-South Prize and to the work of the North-South Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since 1995, the Council of Europe recognises, through its North-South Prize, the work of women and men who have stood out for their remarkable contribution for promoting North-South solidarity in our world; women and men that strive for just societies and a peaceful world by promoting worldwide the core values of the Council of Europe.

As you all know, last year the North-South Centre celebrated its 20th anniversary. 20 years of work dedicated to foster international solidarity and global interdependence with great accomplishments when it comes to giving an European dimension to multilateral co-operation and strengthening the ties with civil society, with a focus on youth policies.

The role of interface between Europe and the South, which was at the origin of the Centre's creation, is today more important than ever. Indeed, we are living in a radically changing international environment, and we are facing impressive changes in North Africa and the Middle East. The impact of these changes goes well beyond those regions, and has a direct influence on our own multicultural societies.

Our commitment to universal values, which was sometimes denied by *regimes*, has regained full legitimacy through the voice of the *people*, women and youth ahead. The North-South Centre capacity of acting in different dimensions and mobilising all relevant actors, together with its expertise in the fields of global education, youth co-operation and intercultural dialogue, are powerful added values on which we can build for a new era of trust and co-operation between Europe and its Southern neighbours. We are proud to act as bridge-builders in the name of democracy, in the name of the Council of Europe. Today more than ever. We are proud to contribute to the shaping of a true European Mediterranean policy based on human rights.

As far as the Centre is concerned, the developments that have occurred over the past three years bear witness to its growing relevance: five new countries – including two non-Europeans countries, Morocco and Cape Verde – have joined, my own country (Italy) returned, and the co-operation with

the European Union has been fully renewed and is today stronger than ever. Furthermore, the Centre has developed privileged co-operation links with the United Nations and actively contributes to the Alliance of Civilizations' regional strategies being implemented in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2011 is a decisive year in the life of the North-South Centre. The future of the institution lies with the adoption of a new statutory resolution, as proposed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe following an initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly. I am very happy that the process has now reached its final stage, as the new Resolution will be adopted in the coming weeks by the Committee of Ministers. This will certainly give to the Centre increased political momentum and the administrative and financial stability that it needs to carry out its mission at the best.

Today, as we stand at the crossroads, I look forward with optimism. We will continue on our journey of bringing the North and South closer together, taking inspiration from the paths followed by our two prize winners being honoured today, as living examples that, in all circumstances and throughout history, individual men and women, side by side with institutions, have been able to foster overall progress in the benefit of humanity as a whole.





José Vera Jardim

Presidente da Delegação Portuguesa
da Assembleia da República
no Conselho da Europa

*“Ambos os laureados tomaram a sério
o Direito e os direitos, cada um, à sua maneira
e na sua circunstância, deram um sentido
à esperança num mundo melhor,
em condições difíceis,
como as que vivemos”*



A Assembleia da República acolhe mais uma vez, a cerimónia da entrega do prémio Norte-Sul desta vez a duas distintas personalidades como são a Senhora Louise Arbour e o Presidente Lula da Silva. Esta cerimónia é sempre para todos nós ocasião de poder homenagear os que, nas mais diversas situações e em condições sempre de dificuldade, deram testemunho da defesa de valores que constituíram o fundamento da criação do Conselho da Europa e são ainda a sua matriz fundamental – direitos humanos, democracia e Estado de Direito.

Num tempo de incerteza, de crise de valores, de desregulação mundial, de tentações de defesa egoísta de interesses, de sacrifícios acrescidos, que recaem muitas vezes sobre os mais destituídos, assume uma relevância especial a invocação e homenagem aos que deram testemunho dum empenhamento excepcional na defesa concreta, determinada e corajosa da dignidade humana, inscrita nos textos jurídicos fundamentais, mas tantas vezes esquecida na prática.

Com percursos de vida muito diferentes a Senhora Louise Arbour e o Presidente Lula da Silva têm um lugar de muito relevo entre os que guiaram as suas vidas, nas circunstâncias próprias de cada percurso pessoal, pela defesa intransigente do respeito pelas pessoas e da sua inalienável dignidade.

A Senhora Arbour jurista de formação e ocupando no seu país cargos de muito relevo, foi chamada a desempenhar funções que representaram desafios muito difíceis, na defesa do aperfeiçoamento duma ordem internacional que desde os anos 90 do século XX, se defrontou com novas missões de resposta à opressão, crimes contra a humanidade e genocídio, tendo exercido a função de Chief Prosecutor no Tribunal Penal Internacional para julgar os crimes cometidos na ex-Jugoslávia.

Fê-lo com coragem assinalável, e rara determinação contribuindo para levar por diante, vencendo obstáculos sérios, a afirmação da resposta do direito internacional ao exercício ilegítimo da força que tanto sofrimento causou no continente europeu.

Foi chamada posteriormente a exercer o alto cargo de Comissária das Nações Unidas para os direitos humanos e também aí deixou uma marca própria, imprimindo às suas funções uma direcção corajosa de afrontamento com todos aqueles que em situações mais diversas, violaram o direito internacional.

Foi incómoda para muitos interesses, esteve sempre presente, mesmo no sentido da presença física, onde conflitos e estratégias dos mais poderosos punham em risco, as vidas, a integridade e a dignidade das pessoas.

A Senhora Arbour deu um contributo notável, corajosos e optimista (como ela própria o qualifica) para o progresso da ordem jurídica internacional, afirmando sempre a predominância do direito sobre a força.

Ocupa hoje um alto cargo no aparelho judiciário do seu país, mas continua como Presidente do “*International Crisis Group*”, uma das organizações mais prestigiadas na prevenção de conflitos, a estar presente no combate activo pela predominância do direito e pela defesa da paz na ordem internacional.

“Merci Madame Arbour, pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour defendre en toutes circonstances la dignité humaine.”

O Presidente Lula da Silva teve uma acção como dirigente político máximo do país irmão, o Brasil sempre norteadada por uma preocupação fundamental – transformar as condições de vida de milhões de brasileiros, lutando sistematicamente contra a fome, a miséria e o despojamento de tantos dos seus concidadãos.

Ao fim, de dois mandatos que exerceu ao mais alto nível do Estado, deixou um país diferente, com muitos milhões de pessoas que passaram a viver com condições de dignidade.

O Presidente Lula da Silva é hoje uma referência mundial pelo desassombro das suas posições, pela sua frontalidade e coragem na defesa da causa da Paz e da igualdade entre os povos e no seu posicionamento sobre os grandes problemas dum mundo desigual e à procura de equilíbrios justos e duma nova governação mundial.

O Presidente Lula da Silva é hoje também uma referência para todos os que entendem o exercício do poder, como um instrumento poderoso de emancipação e dignidade numa sociedade mais equilibrada e decente. V.Exa Senhor Presidente deixou um Brasil diferente e melhor e deu-nos a todos nós, políticos e cidadãos, uma lição quanto à forma justa do exercício do poder – com desassombro, coragem, emoção e compaixão na defesa dos direitos dos seus concidadãos.

Por isso, Senhor Presidente, lhe agradecemos a sua acção e continuaremos a contar consigo na procura dum mundo mais justo e igual.

Ambos os laureados tomaram a sério o Direito e os direitos, cada um, à sua maneira e na sua circunstância, deram um sentido à esperança num mundo melhor, em condições difíceis, como as que vivemos.

São assim inteiramente merecedores da homenagem que o Conselho da Europa hoje lhes presta, através do Centro-Sul, com o patrocínio do Presidente da República, e na “casa da democracia” de Portugal.





José Vera Jardim

President of the Portuguese Delegation
to the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe

*“Both the Prize-winners have taken both law
and rights seriously. Each of them, in their own way
and in their own specific walk of life, has given
a meaning to the hope for a better world
in the current difficult times”*



The Assembly of the Republic is once again hosting the award ceremony for the North-South Prize, this time being presented to two distinguished personalities, Ms Louise Arbour and President Lula da Silva. This ceremony is always an opportunity for us all to pay tribute to those who, in widely varying situations and under conditions which are invariably difficult, have been involved in protecting the values which underpinned the creation of the Council of Europe and which still constitute the Organisation’s bedrock, namely human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

At a time of uncertainty, crisis of values, global deregulation, of temptation to defend selfish interests, of increased sacrifices, that very often affect mainly the most deprived sections of the population, it becomes of particular importance to recognise those who have shown exceptional commitment to the pragmatic, determined and courageous defence of human dignity, which is enshrined in our fundamental legal texts but which has so often been forgotten in practice. Despite their very much different life paths, Ms Louise Arbour and President

Lula da Silva are both very important figures who have spent their lives, in their own particular circumstances, engaged in an uncompromising defence of respect for human beings and their inalienable human dignity.

Ms Arbour, a qualified lawyer who held a very high office in her country, has fulfilled very demanding functions aimed at improving an international order which, since the 1990s, has been facing new challenges in terms of responding to oppression, crimes against humanity and genocide, having performed, as Chief Prosecutor with the International Criminal Tribunal, the trial of crimes committed in former Yugoslavia.

She carried out her work with outstanding courage and extraordinary determination, overcoming a range of serious obstacles in order to identify the requisite international legal response to the illegal use of force which had led to so much suffering on the European continent.

She was subsequently appointed to the high office of United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, and here again she left her mark, ensuring that her work took the courageous path of confronting all those who had violated international law in a wide variety of situations.

She disturbed many vested interests, and was always present, often physically, where conflicts and strategies put in place by the powerful threatened the lives, integrity and dignity of human beings.

Ms Arbour has provided an important, courageous and (as she herself would put it) optimistic contribution to moving forward the international legal system, always asserting the predominance of law over force.

She now holds an important position in her country's judicial system, but is still President of the International Crisis Group, one of the most prestigious organisations responsible for preventing conflict, actively fighting for the rule of law and defending peace within the international order.

Thank you, Ms Arbour, for everything you have done to defend human dignity under all circumstances.

President Lula da Silva held the office of the supreme political leader of our sister country, Brazil. His action has always been guided by the fundamental concern of transforming the living conditions of millions of Brazilians, single-mindedly combating hunger, poverty and the exploitation of so many of his fellow citizens.

After two terms at the highest State level, President Lula da Silva had succeeded in transforming his country, with many millions of individuals now living in decent conditions consonant with human dignity.

President Lula da Silva is now a global reference thanks to the boldness of his positions, his forthrightness and courage in defending the cause of peace and equality among the peoples and his position on the major problems of an unjust world which requires a fair equilibrium and a new global governance.

President Lula da Silva is also a reference for all those wishing to exercise power as an effective instrument for emancipation and dignity in a more balanced and decent society. Mr President, you have left Brazil a different, better place and you have given us all, politicians and citizens alike, a lesson in the just

exercise of power – with determination, courage, emotion and compassion in defending the rights of our fellow citizens.

Therefore, Mr President, we should like to thank you for your action, and we shall continue to rely on your help in seeking to establish a fairer and more just world.

Both the Prize-winners have taken both law and rights seriously. Each of them, in their own way and in their own specific walk of life, has given a meaning to the hope for a better world in the current difficult times.

They therefore richly deserve the tribute being paid to them today by the Council of Europe, through the intermediary of the North-South Centre, under the patronage of the President of the Republic and in the Portuguese “house of democracy”.





Thorbjørn Jagland

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

“One world – our world. This is an excellent summary of the ideals which are behind the Council of Europe North-South Prize”



In Lisbon I always like to go to the impressive Castle of São Jorge. There, overlooking this beautiful city and the Atlantic Ocean, one is automatically drawn to the sea and to explore the world, as so many Portuguese have been doing during times.

The Portuguese authorities’ continued strong support of the North-South Centre here in Lisbon is very much in line with this spirit; opening the eyes to the world and bringing people together. Let me also thank the Portuguese Parliament for hosting this event and as always making it so memorable to us all.

Albert Einstein once said that “The world is not dangerous because of those who do harm but because of those who look at it without doing anything”.

Through history human suffering has repeated itself because people stood by, not acting. But history has also shown great progress because brave people acted to protect and advance humanity.

The lesson we learned from World War II was that if human dignity does not apply to everyone, it applies to no one.

The Council of Europe was established as a consequence of this horrible war, and the understanding that universal human rights and values are fundamental to safeguard humanity.

And it was on the same notion that the North-South Centre was established twenty one years ago. To advance the understanding between Europe and other regions on the universality of human rights.

Today I believe it is clear to all of us, that although there might be many regions, we are one world. And as there might be many cultures, we only have one Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and as we have become billions of people, there can only be one set of human rights – applicable to every one of us.

One world – our world. This is an excellent summary of the ideals which are behind the Council of Europe North-South Prize.

This year two winners, like all prize winners since 1995, have been working their whole life in favour of global interdependence and solidarity, universal human rights and the promotion of intercultural dialogue and intercontinental co-operation.

With Louise Arbour, we recognise the vital importance of the international rule of law, based on universal human rights, impartial justice and political accountability.

As Prosecutor of the International Tribunals set up for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, she represented the determination of the international

community to make sure that war crimes and crimes against humanity would not remain unpunished.

As United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, she has upheld the fundamental principles of universality and indivisibility of human rights, which are so dear to the Council of Europe.

And in her present functions, at the helm of the International Crisis Group, she continues to play an indispensable role in the prevention and the management of international tensions.

Our second Prize winner, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, is a striking example of someone who had fewer chances in life than many of us, but made more out of them than any of us will ever do.

Unlike many other “self-made men”, when reaching the top he never forgot about where he came from: as President of Brazil, he brought education, social justice and the fight against poverty at the top of the political agenda.

And such a policy not only served his country but also strengthened its place on the world stage.

President Lula is a symbol of our new – multipolar – world, in which North-South relations are not based any more on development aid and unbalanced exchanges, but on fruitful co-operation between equal partners.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen,

Europe no longer absorbs the world with its problems. Neither does it absorb the world with its ambitions. It has become just a partner in solving global

problems, and its political way and role in the world today is different from what it once was. But that is natural. The Council of Europe and the North-South Centre is a consequence of this.

I read that some say Europe is going through a mid-life crisis. They overlook the fact that after the mid-life crisis comes the time when most people feel the greatest satisfaction with life.

It has nothing to do with power or influence. It is simply about knowing what really matters for a good and decent life, what matters for human dignity. Human rights, guaranteed by the rule of law and developed in the framework of democracy, have proven to be the best recipe for such a life.

The emergence of the “South” as a key actor in international affairs is not a threat to the “North”: it is just another partner in protecting and advancing universal values, and a good and decent life to more people. And that is why international law and its supporting institutions, upholding core principles and values, are fundamental to the world and its future.

This year’s winners have in different ways done something about what matters the most. They have acted and made the world a better place.

I congratulate Ms Louise Arbour and Mr Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva as this year’s North South Centre prize winners.





Mevlüt Çavusoglu

President of Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe

*“the North-South Prize is a symbol,
but also a cause. A noble cause which
aims at bridging gaps and uniting people
across the globe around their most
fundamental and cherished
freedoms and rights”*



The action of our two prize-winners is so widely known and admired across the world that, in theory, they hardly need yet another prize to acknowledge their talent and their achievements.

But the North-South Prize has a special meaning, which goes beyond being a simple reward. It is a symbol and a cause.

First of all, it is a symbol of the one world in which we are all living. A world in which the North and the South, the East and the West, should be nothing more than geographical references. Unfortunately, in people’s minds, they also represent different political realities. They symbolise seemingly different worlds inhabited by seemingly different people, some of which enjoy prosperity and human rights, and others do not.

The Council of Europe played a huge role in bridging the East-West divide in Europe following the fall of the Berlin wall. We are now facing a new important challenge with the ongoing revolutions in the Arab world: not only because

these are our closest neighbours with whom we share geographical, cultural, spiritual and historic references, but also with who we need to tackle together the greatest issues of our modern times: economic crisis, migration flows, confrontation between communities and nations, international terrorism and organised crime, climate change.

Will the current events in the Arab world bring us closer to bridging also the North-South divide? It is high time to do this, but we must be up to the challenge. We need to support with our expertise the democratic movements, but also to find an appropriate response to the action of tyrants who cling on to power through violence and total disregard for basic human rights principles.

The Parliamentary Assembly is actively involved in bringing non-member states of the Council of Europe closer to our standards through a newly created status of partner for democracy. Morocco and Palestine have already made requests which are currently under examination. We are also maintaining close contacts with the new authorities of Tunisia where our Presidential Committee will make a visit shortly.

But values, conventions and legal instruments would be senseless if they were not carried out by people. The world moves forward thanks to the power of the masses and thanks to the strength, courage and vision of exceptional individuals. We are greatly honoured to have two such individuals with us today.

Mrs Arbour, out of your very impressive CV I wish to dwell on two of your functions which have a special meaning for the Parliamentary Assembly that I have the honour to chair. These were also the two functions in which you addressed the Assembly, once in 1999 and once in 2007.

As a Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia you assisted a process which is vital for the peace and reconciliation in the Balkans and Europe as a whole. This process is not finished yet and I bear a fresh witness of this, as I have just come back from official visits in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia. But thanks to the action of the Tribunal one essential idea has now, hopefully, been entrenched in the collective mind and it is that one cannot build a future based on peace and justice if one does not bring justice to the past.

Mrs Arbour, you also attended one of the Assembly major annual debate on the state of democracy and human rights in Europe in 2007 in your capacity of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. When referring to the achievements and challenges in Europe in this respect, you said that the issues related to the fight against terrorism and expanding migration flows, as well as persistent racist, xenophobic and discriminatory attitudes and practices, lead the range of human rights concerns that should dominate Europe's agenda. These words remain as relevant as ever and will remain at the heart of the Council of Europe's action.

President Lula, your name will forever remain the symbol of the rise of a nation, which is now amongst the most powerful in the world. Through your political action you have demonstrated one of the most essential principles that the Council of Europe has been defending and promoting. No long-lasting stability and economic prosperity are possible if they are not put on the solid foundations of democracy, human rights and in particular the eradication of social discrepancies and injustices.

I wish to also praise your commitment in favour of dialogue and understanding amongst cultures and religions, which found its culmination last year in the hosting of the World Forum of the Alliance of the Civilizations. This is an issue to which I am also deeply attached and, in two weeks in Strasbourg the Parliamentary Assembly will hold a major debate on the religious dimension of inter-cultural dialogue, with the participation of religious leaders representing all the major faiths on the European continent.

Dear friends, I said at the beginning that the North-South Prize is a symbol, but also a cause. A noble cause which aims at bridging gaps and uniting people across the globe around their most fundamental and cherished freedoms and rights. We hope that you, Mrs Arbour and President Lula, will join us in this cause with your political experience and huge moral authority. Thank you very much for accepting to be together with us.





Louise Arbour

Winner of the North-South Prize 2010 (North)

*“Despite challenges to its universality,
I suggest to you that one of the great
unifying forces of our pluralistic
world has been the international
human rights framework”*



I am very honoured to be with you today to receive this prestigious prize from the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and I am particularly happy to share this occasion with President Lula, a great world leader and an exemplary Latin American democrat.

As its name indicates, this prize has something to do with geography. But geography, particularly north/south geography, can be deceiving. I am of course a person of the North, and I perceive myself as such. I come from Canada, a member of the Circumpolar Conference, a country about which Gilles Vigneault, one of our leading poets and songwriters, has written the famous verse: “Mon pays ce n’est pas un pays c’est l’hiver” (my country is not a country it’s winter).

Yet within Canada, I’m from the South. The North, in Canada, is the international South. It is where many aboriginal communities still aspire to the fulfilment of their social, economic and cultural rights on par with their fellow

citizens. So I hope they will not take offence that I stand here today, receiving this prize as person of the North. In part I say to them that they are well represented by the Southerner President Lula, and more importantly I know that they are generous enough to share their northerness with me on this occasion.

Geography has of course another connotation.

During the Cold War, the world was defined in East/West terms, and political competition was heavily centered on security interests. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the geographic metaphor shifted to the North/South dividing line, emphasising development, more than security concerns. We then witnessed the emergence of South/South co-operation, as evidence of the increasing significance of a multipolar world. And despite challenges to its universality, I suggest to you that one of the great unifying forces of our pluralistic world has been the international human rights framework.

And the human rights agenda has had a long, invariably positive history in the Council of Europe.

I have long been an admirer of one of its leading institutions, the European Court of Human Rights. It is very fitting that the court received the 2010 International Four Freedoms Award from the Roosevelt Foundation in light of its splendid contribution to the development and the enforcement of human rights norms among the large membership of the Council. I point to the court because of my own background. While much of my international work has focused on international criminal justice and human rights, it is in the courts of Canada that I began, learned and refined my understanding

of the fundamental principles of life in a democracy. It is in the courts that minorities are most likely to find protection and that the exercise of power, even legitimately and democratically acquired political power, can be put in check against the constraints of the constitution. This is one of the most important features of the Rule of Law.

So I stand here today in this beautiful parliamentary setting, taking this opportunity to pay tribute to the judiciary, where and when it behaves as a true upholder of human rights.

I have now moved on, in my own work, into the broader international field of prevention of deadly conflict. Recent and on-going events in North Africa speak loudly about the democratic aspirations of people everywhere, and of the profound failure of the international order to assist them in the pursuit of those legitimate aspirations, at least when it could have been achieved without the spilling of blood. I mentioned North Africa, but I could just as easily have pointed to Côte d'Ivoire or Afghanistan, or any number of countries where the proper balance of development, security and human rights is still a distant dream.

It is once again a call on our conscience, as though we had not inherited enough moral failures. But it is also a loud and clear recognition of the universality of rights and an unambiguous rejection of the claims of cultural specificity upon which overturned leaders had sought to establish their authority. It is above all an ethical movement, one that calls for justice, rather than corruption, for decency, rather than greed, and for the simple right of all to participate in their own governance.

I hear it also as a call to the North/South solidarity that we celebrate today. It is fitting that we should do so in Portugal, at a time when social and economic stresses find an outlet in robust democratic institutions.

If I may conclude on a personal note. Particularly in the presence of President Lula, I want to pay tribute to another great Brazilian, Sergio Vieira de Mello, an extraordinary international civil servant who stood for everything this Prize stands for, and who was my immediate predecessor as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He was killed in Bagdad, along with 21 colleagues, and his life and death must continue to remind us of the honour – and at times the cost – of service for the greater good, in the spirit of North-South solidarity.

I am once again very grateful, and very honoured, to be with you today.





Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Laureado do Prémio Norte-Sul 2010 (Sul)

*“Em um mundo interdependente,
precisamos de instituições mais democráticas
e soluções mais equitativas.
Devemos falar com voz comum na
construção de uma ordem mundial
que traduza nossas aspirações
de liberdade e justiça social”*



Estou honrado em compartilhar este importante prémio com a Dr.^a Louise Harbour, que teve uma profícua carreira na área jurídica, mas que se destacou internacionalmente em sua luta contra as violações dos direitos humanos, primeiro no Tribunal Penal Internacional e agora no Grupo Internacional de Crises, destacada organização não-governamental que atua para promover a paz e denunciar o desrespeito aos direitos humanos em todo o mundo.

Para mim é motivo de grande alegria receber este prémio do Centro para Interdependência Global e Solidariedade, mais conhecido como Centro Norte-Sul, que funciona como a “janela para o mundo” do Conselho Europeu e recebê-lo justamente na Assembleia da República do nosso querido Portugal, diante de lideranças políticas e civis tão expressivas.

O mundo não pode tolerar a violência contra as pessoas, a violação de seus direitos vitais, inscritos na Declaração Universal de Direitos Humanos, proclamada pela Organização das Nações Unidas em dezembro de 1948, que

definia com precisão no início do seu texto e nunca será demais repeti-lo: “Todas as pessoas nascem livres e iguais em dignidade e direitos”.

Esta declaração, peça básica do processo civilizatório e das sociedades democráticas, nasceu logo depois dos horrores da Segunda Guerra Mundial e agora, 62 anos depois, ainda não é respeitada em vastas regiões do mundo. Somente se tornará realidade se houver uma ação corajosa e contínua dos organismos multilaterais, das organizações da sociedade civil e, especialmente, das vítimas da privação de seus direitos essenciais.

Não podemos tolerar violações aos direitos humanos inscritos na declaração da ONU de 1948. Não podemos compactuar com a violação dos direitos fundamentais dos seres humanos, pelos quais mulheres e homens vêm lutando há séculos, em todos os cantos do planeta.

A sociedade civil em diversos países teve especial importância na luta pelos direitos humanos, pois não era possível suportar processos genocidas, perseguições políticas ou religiosas que vitimaram milhões de seres humanos em todo o mundo. Ainda há muito por fazer, mas avanços significativos já foram alcançados. Responsáveis por genocídios foram julgados e condenados pelo Tribunal Internacional.

Cada vez mais, o mundo se convence de que o conceito de direitos humanos vai muito além da garantia das liberdades individuais, da faculdade de expressão e de escolha dos seus dirigentes. O processo democrático ganha nova dimensão quando acompanhado da garantia dos direitos económicos e sociais básicos, da redução das desigualdades e da construção de uma sociedade mais justa do ponto de vista social e económico.

O desenvolvimento económico tem que estar a serviço da redução das desigualdades sociais, sem paternalismo, promovendo a inclusão das pessoas mais pobres à plena cidadania, para que sejam protagonistas, expressem suas vontades, lutem e obtenham conquistas dentro de um processo democrático.

Os países emergentes estão demonstrando na prática que é perfeitamente possível combinar um crescimento económico vigoroso e continuado com uma forte distribuição de renda e ampliação dos direitos sociais. A melhor resposta à crise é a retoma do crescimento mundial. O ambiente de extagnação ou de recessão é o pior para a causa dos direitos humanos. Sociedades enquadradas numa ordem internacional injusta e expeculativa tendem ao rancor quando não à xenofobia.

Por outro lado, a paz que desejamos só será completa e duradoura se formos uma ordem económica internacional menos desigual e excludente. Precisamos avançar nas negociações da Rodada de Doha, para que diminuam e, se possível, desapareçam as barreiras protecionistas nos países desenvolvidos que impedem às nações pobres ou emergentes ampliarem suas exportações para os países ricos.

Um sistema multilateral de comércio fortalecido é parte fundamental da resposta à crise internacional, inclusive para impedir que as nações mais pobres paguem a conta do ajuste. Só teremos êxito na recuperação da economia global se não houver retrocesso no compromisso de fazer reformas estruturais no sistema financeiro internacional.

É preciso banir definitivamente práticas irresponsáveis e parâmetros frouxos de supervisão das instituições financeiras que provocaram a crise em 2008. É necessário coibir a especulação financeira no mercado internacional de *commodities*.

Acho muito importante que o Centro Norte-Sul, na busca de promover a solidariedade internacional e de combater as violações de direitos humanos, tenha como um de seus objetivos promover maior diálogo e integração entre as organizações não-governamentais dos dois hemisférios.

Temos visto, nos últimos 30 anos, um protagonismo cada vez maior das organizações não-governamentais nas grandes lutas transformadoras. As bandeiras iniciais eram a luta pela paz, contra a ameaça do Holocausto Nuclear. A busca do desenvolvimento ambiental sustentável foi uma decorrência lógica e envolveu milhões de militantes em todo o mundo e fez brotar uma nova consciência que envolveu pessoas, empresas, governos e organismos multilaterais.

Vivemos num mundo interdependente, onde se multiplicam novas ameaças como o aquecimento global, a insegurança energética e alimentar. Ao mesmo tempo, as velhas mazelas da pobreza extrema e da violência continuam a alimentar-se mutuamente.

São grandes os desafios. A plenitude dos direitos sociais, políticos e económicos ainda exigirá muito comprometimento, ação, batalhas. Exigirá uma nova governança mundial, em que os organismos multilaterais correspondam à velocidade com que a sociedade civil se indigna e se mobiliza contra as injustiças políticas, sociais, económicas e contra as violações dos direitos humanos.

Não tenhamos dúvida: Soluções consistentes e duradouras para essas mazelas exigem reforma da governança mundial. Em um mundo interdependente, precisamos de instituições mais democráticas e soluções mais equitativas. Devemos falar com voz comum na construção de uma ordem mundial que

traduza nossas aspirações de liberdade e justiça social. A começar pela reforma das Nações Unidas e do Conselho de Segurança, para que reflita a realidade do século XXI e não de meados do século XX.

A moldura das alianças e organizações internacionais construída no século passado, influenciada pela Guerra Fria, pela tensão entre os Estados Unidos e a antiga União Soviética, tornou-se manifestamente incapaz de dar conta das tensões do século XXI, num mundo multipolar, onde se afirmam novos protagonistas.

É preciso mudar, é preciso levar em conta a existência da África, do Oriente Médio, da América Latina, da Índia, bem como de outros países e regiões.

Estou seguro de que a Europa não economizará esforços para democratizar a governança global, contribuindo para romper a inércia e a resistência à mudança.

Uma ONU renovada, um Conselho de Segurança mais representativo da atual geopolítica mundial certamente permitirão que a instituição ajude de modo mais efetivo na resolução dos conflitos que se espalham pelo Norte da África e pelo Oriente Médio, onde milhões de pessoas, especialmente entre os jovens, lutam pela plenitude democrática, não aceitam regimes autoritários ou autocráticos, querem democracia sem adjetivos.

A superação dos atuais impasses – tanto políticos quanto económico e sociais – reclama de todos nós maior ousadia e criatividade. Se o mundo cresce, crescem também as oportunidades para consolidar os direitos humanos. Se o mundo distribue, menor será o espaço para o ressentimento e o

fundamentalismo reativo. Se todos os povos têm horizontes concretos de emancipação, a vitória da nossa causa comum estará assegurada.





Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Winner of the North-South
Prize 2010 (South)

“In an interdependent world, we need more democratic institutions and more equitable solutions. We must speak with one voice in building a global order reflecting our aspirations to freedom and social justice”



I am greatly honoured to be sharing this major Prize with Dr Louise Harbour, who has had a highly successful career in the legal field, but who has above all distinguished herself on the international scene in combating violations of human rights, first of all at the International Criminal Tribunal and now in the International Crisis Group, a frontline non-governmental organisation engaged in actively promoting peace and denouncing infringements of human rights worldwide.

I am extremely pleased to be receiving this Prize from the Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, better known as the North-South Centre, which acts as the Council of Europe’s “window on to the world”.

It is particularly thrilling to receive this award in the chamber of the Assembly of our dear Portuguese Republic, in the presence of such illustrious political and civil leaders.

The world cannot tolerate violence against human beings, the violation of their fundamental rights as enshrined in the Universal declaration of Human

Rights, which was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1948. The text begins with a very apt definition which we can never repeat too often: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”.

This Declaration, which is a fundamental component of our civilisation and of our democratic societies, emerged from the horrors of World War II, yet even now, 62 years later, it is still flouted in vast tracts of the world. The principles set out in this text can never become reality without sustained courageous action from the multilateral organisations, civil society, and especially from the actual victims of human rights violations.

We cannot tolerate violations of the human rights enshrined in the 1948 UN Declaration. We cannot compromise with violation of the fundamental rights of human beings for which women and men have been fighting for centuries all over the world.

In many countries, civil society has a major role to play in the struggle for human rights in the face of intolerable genocides or political and religious persecutions of millions of human beings across the globe. Much still remains to be done, but significant progress has been made. Individuals responsible for genocides have been tried and convicted by the International Court.

The global conviction is growing that the human rights concept far transcends protection of individual liberties, freedom of speech and free choice of political leaders. The democratic process takes on a new dimension when it is accompanied by the guarantee on basic economic and social rights, a

reduction of inequalities and the creation of a society which is fairer in social and economic terms.

Economic development must primarily serve to reduce social inequalities, without paternalism, promoting the inclusion of the poorest individuals in full citizenship, so that they can be true protagonists, express their wishes, struggle and accomplish great things within the democratic process.

The emerging countries are demonstrating in practice that it is perfectly possible to combine strong, sustained economic growth with a proper distribution of revenue and development of social rights. The optimum response to the crisis is the resumption of global growth. A general atmosphere of stagnation or recession is the worst scenario for the human rights cause. Societies oppressed by an unjust, speculative international order tend to be hostile, if not xenophobic.

On the other hand, the peace to which we aspire will only be complete and lasting if we forge an international economic system which is fairer and more inclusive. We must move forward the Doha Round negotiations in order to lower, and if possible remove, the protectionist barriers in the developed countries which are preventing poor or emerging nations from increasing their exports to wealthy countries.

A reinforced multilateral trade system is an integral part of the response to the international crisis, in order, inter alia, to prevent the poorest nations from having to foot the bill. We will only succeed in our efforts to restore the global economy if we adhere to our commitment to structural reform of the international financial system.

We must definitively ban the irresponsible practices and laxity in the supervision of financial institutions which led to the 2008 crisis. We must prohibit financial speculation on the international commodities market.

In my view, it is very important for the North-South Centre, in endeavouring to promote international solidarity and combat human rights violations, to set the goal of intensifying dialogue and co-operation among non-governmental organisations in both hemispheres.

Over the last thirty years non-governmental organisations have been increasingly active in the major transformational struggles. The first campaigns involved fighting for peace and against the threat of a nuclear holocaust. The quest for sustainable development was a logical corollary of this, involving millions of activists worldwide and eliciting a new awareness among individuals, corporations, governments and multilateral organisations.

We are living in an interdependent world which is facing an increasing number of new threats such as global warming and energy and food insecurity. At the same time, the old scourges of extreme poverty and violence are continuing to fuel each other.

The challenges are enormous. Many more campaigns, actions and battles will be needed before we can secure the full enjoyment of social, political and economic rights. This will require a new kind of global governance in which the multilateral organisations will be able to respond to civil society's indignation and mobilisation against political, social and economic injustices and human rights violations.

Let there be no doubt: substantive, lasting solutions to these evils necessitate reforming the manner in which the world is governed. In an interdependent world, we need more democratic institutions and more equitable solutions. We must speak with one voice in building a global order reflecting our aspirations to freedom and social justice. We must begin by reforming the United Nations and the Security Council to bring them into line with the realities of the 21st century, rather than those of the mid-20th century.

The structure of the international alliances and organisations created last century, which was influenced by the Cold War, the tension between the United States and the old Soviet Union, are now obviously unable to take account of the 21st century tensions, in a multipolar world dominated by new protagonists.

We must change and take into account the existence of Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and India, as well as many other countries and regions.

I am sure that Europe will spare no effort in democratising global governance, thus helping break the inertia and resistance to change.

A renewed UN and a Security Council which are more representative of current world geopolitics will certainly help the organisation more effectively to settle the conflicts raging through North Africa and the Middle East, where millions of individuals, particularly young people, are fighting for full democratic rights, rejecting authoritarian or autocratic regimes and demanding unsullied democracy.

Overcoming the current political, economic and social deadlock will demand more audacity and creativity from us all. If the world is growing, so are the opportunities for consolidating human rights. If the world distributes, there will be less room for resentment and reactive fundamentalism. If all the peoples have concrete prospects for emancipation, the victory of our common cause will be assured.





Aníbal Cavaco Silva

President of the Republic of Portugal

“Sabemos por experiência própria, que a construção de uma democracia plural, onde a paz, a liberdade e a prosperidade possam florescer, é um caminho que exige perseverança, trabalho, dedicação e, frequentemente, sacrifícios. Será, por isso, indispensável aos nossos vizinhos do Sul do Mediterrâneo uma grande determinação na introdução de reformas políticas e económicas, que permitam uma mudança pacífica rumo à Democracia e ao desenvolvimento”



É sempre com um renovado prazer que me associo à cerimónia de entrega do Prémio Norte-Sul do Conselho da Europa.

Uma satisfação que muito deve ao facto de ver assim reconhecidas personalidades cujo percurso de vida constitui um exemplo e uma inspiração para todos os que pugnam por um Mundo mais justo, onde o respeito pelos Direitos Humanos, a Democracia e a solidariedade entre os povos sejam não apenas um ideal, mas uma realidade de todos os dias.

A cerimónia deste ano tem lugar num contexto internacional profundamente marcado pelos acontecimentos na margem sul do Mediterrâneo, que tão vivamente nos alertam para os riscos que advêm de sistemas políticos baseados na intolerância, no autoritarismo e na ausência de garantias fundamentais ao exercício dos direitos civis e políticos.

Os desenvolvimentos a que vimos assistindo sublinham, entre outras, a necessidade urgente de novos modelos de cooperação entre o Norte e o Sul.

Sabemos por experiência própria, que a construção de uma democracia plural, onde a paz, a liberdade e a prosperidade possam florescer, é um caminho que exige perseverança, trabalho, dedicação e, frequentemente, sacrifícios. Será, por isso, indispensável aos nossos vizinhos do Sul do Mediterrâneo uma grande determinação na introdução de reformas políticas e económicas, que permitam uma mudança pacífica rumo à Democracia e ao desenvolvimento. Mas é, também, fundamental que, nessa tarefa, possam contar com o apoio solidário da comunidade internacional e, muito em particular, dos seus vizinhos do Norte, dos países europeus.

É neste contexto que o Centro Norte-Sul, pela sua experiência de trabalho com os países da região, é chamado a desempenhar um papel ainda mais activo na promoção de pontes de diálogo e de cooperação entre as duas margens do Mediterrâneo, envolvendo as sociedades civis, as organizações não-governamentais e todos os parceiros que estejam aptos a apoiar as transformações em curso.

Minhas Senhoras e meus Senhores,

Servem estas considerações introdutórias para realçar a actualidade dos valores e da missão que norteiam, desde a sua criação, o Conselho da Europa e o Centro Norte-Sul, e que os laureados deste ano ilustram de forma tão eloquente.

Louise Arbour é distinguida pelo seu contributo para a defesa e expansão da área de aplicação dos Direitos Humanos e para o reforço dos mecanismos de investigação e condenação de todas as violações desses Direitos.

Louise Arbour possui um percurso de vida extremamente rico e diversificado e um curriculum recheado de exemplos do seu envolvimento em situações e responsabilidades no domínio da justiça e dos Direitos Humanos. Foi particularmente visível, aos olhos da comunidade internacional, a dedicação de que deu provas e a qualidade com que exerceu as importantes funções de Procuradora dos Tribunais Penais Internacionais para a ex-Jugoslávia e para o Ruanda, e de Alta Comissária das Nações Unidas para os Direitos Humanos, entre 2004 e 2008. Coube-lhe, neste último caso, a difícil tarefa de suceder a um cidadão brasileiro de enorme prestígio, dotado de uma notável envergadura política e ética, Sérgio Vieira de Melo, a cuja memória presto, mais uma vez, uma sentida homenagem.

Ao longo da sua brilhante carreira jurídica e nos diferentes mandatos internacionais que exerceu, Louise Arbour ergueu sempre a sua voz em nome dos direitos inalienáveis dos mais pobres e desprotegidos, das vítimas dos conflitos e dos oprimidos nas suas liberdades fundamentais.

O outro agraciado deste ano é uma das grandes figuras do nosso tempo, e um grande amigo de Portugal.

Lula da Silva é homenageado pelo dinamismo que imprimiu às relações “Sul-Sul” e por ter conduzido uma política externa apostada em promover, à escala global, a luta contra a pobreza e a promoção do desenvolvimento económico e da justiça social.

O seu percurso de vida é, desde muito cedo, o da coragem perante a adversidade, da tenacidade perante os obstáculos, da generosidade perante as dificuldades dos mais fracos. No decurso dos oito anos em que exerceu a

Presidência da República do Brasil, Lula da Silva demonstrou que é possível promover eficazmente o crescimento económico e o desenvolvimento sem esquecer os mais desfavorecidos, comprometendo-se de forma determinada com políticas, que são hoje um modelo para muitos outros países, orientadas para a erradicação da fome, da pobreza, das doenças e da iliteracia, e de apoio ao desenvolvimento económico e social.

Estas suas preocupações reflectiram-se, igualmente, no domínio da política externa do Brasil. Pela palavra e pela acção, Lula da Silva foi sempre um combatente contra a injustiça, a miséria e a privação que afectam ainda uma parte substancial da humanidade, deixando-nos um legado inspirador, que a sua acção presente – e, não tenho dúvidas, futura –, continuará a enriquecer.

Os grandes líderes distinguem-se pela sua capacidade de traduzir ideais em realizações concretas e mobilizadoras da esperança. Esse é, indiscutivelmente, o caso de Lula da Silva.

Embora com percursos distintos e em contextos diversos, os dois laureados nesta edição do Prémio Norte-Sul do Conselho da Europa estão unidos na sua batalha em favor da justiça, da liberdade e do respeito pela dignidade da pessoa humana. Ao desafiarem a resignação perante as injustiças, inspiraram milhões de cidadãos, reforçando a nossa confiança no melhor que existe nos homens e nas mulheres do nosso tempo e a nossa esperança num Mundo melhor.

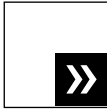
É esse contributo de Louise Arbour e de Lula da Silva que o júri do Prémio Norte-Sul decidiu homenagear. E é uma honra, para mim, associar-me a esse justo reconhecimento.



Aníbal Cavaco Silva

President of the Republic of Portugal

“We know, from our own experience, that the building of a plural democracy, where peace, freedom and prosperity may flourish, is a course that demands perseverance, work, dedication and, very frequently, sacrifice. Our neighbours in the Southern Mediterranean will thus require great determination in the introduction and pursuit of political and economical reform that will allow a peaceful change towards Democracy and development”



It is always with renewed pleasure that I associate myself with the award ceremony of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe.

A satisfaction that owes a lot seeing recognition being shown to personalities whose paths in life are an example and an inspiration to all who fight for a fairer World, where respect for Human Rights, Democracy and solidarity amongst peoples are not just an ideal but a daily reality.

This year’s ceremony is being held within an international context deeply etched by the events in the southern reaches of the Mediterranean, which so vividly alert us to the risks that can arise from political systems based on intolerance, on authoritarianism and on the absence of the fundamental guarantees for the exercise of civil and political rights.

The developments we have been witnessing stress the urgent need for new models of co-operation between the North and the South.

We know, from our own experience, that the building of a plural democracy, where peace, freedom and prosperity may flourish, is a course that demands perseverance, work, dedication and, very frequently, sacrifice. Our neighbours in the Southern Mediterranean will thus require great determination in the introduction and pursuit of political and economical reform that will allow a peaceful change towards Democracy and development. But it is also fundamental that, in this task, they may count upon the solidarity and support of the international community and, very specially, that of their Northern neighbours, the European countries.

It is in this context that the North-South Centre, through its working experience with the countries in the region, is called upon to perform an even more active role in the promotion of convergence for dialogue and co-operation between the two Mediterranean shores, involving civil societies, non governmental organisations and all the partners prepared to support the ongoing changes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

These introductory show the topicality of the values and the mission that guide, since their inception, the Council of Europe and the North-South Centre, and that this year's laureates so eloquently demonstrate.

The distinction of Louise Arbour is due to her contribution towards the defence and expansion of the area of application of Human Rights and for the strengthening of the devices for the investigation and condemnation of all the breaches of such Rights.

Louise Arbour has a very rich and diversified life path and a curriculum filled with examples of her involvement in assignments and incumbencies in the areas of justice and Human Rights. Particularly visible, in the sights of the international community, was the dedication she evidenced and the quality with which she exercised the important duties of Prosecutor of the International Penal Courts for former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, and as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, between 2004 and 2008. In this latter office she was empowered with the difficult task to succeed an extremely prestigious Brazilian national, endowed with a notable political and ethical capacity, Sérgio Vieira de Melo, to whose memory I once again render my deepest tribute.

Throughout her brilliant juridical career and in the different international offices she occupied, Louise Arbour always raised her voice on behalf of the inalienable rights of the poorest and least protected, of the victims of conflict and of the oppressed in their fundamental rights.

The other laureate of this year is one of the most remarkable figures of our times, and a great friend of Portugal.

Lula da Silva is paid tribute for the dynamics he introduced in the “South-South” relations and for having led a foreign policy invested in promoting, on a global level, the fight against poverty and the promotion of economic development and social justice.

His life’s path has been, since early years, that of courage, tenacity and generosity in the face of adversity, obstructions and the difficulties of the weaker. In the course of the eight years during which he exercised his office as

President of the Republic of Brazil, Lula da Silva demonstrated that it is possible to effectively promote economic growth without forgetting the neediest, committing himself determinedly with policies that are in these days a model for many other countries, guided towards the eradication of hunger, poverty, sickness and illiteracy, and the support for economic and social development.

These concerns were equally reflected in the area of Brazil's foreign policy. Through his words and acts, Lula da Silva was always a fighter against the injustice, misery and privation that still affect a substantial part of humanity, leaving us an inspiring heritage, which his current action – and, I have no doubts, also future – will continue to enrich.

Great leaders distinguish themselves by their capability to translate ideas into material undertakings that muster hope. This is, indisputably, the case with Lula da Silva.

Although with distinct paths and in diversified contexts, the two laureates in this edition of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe are joined together in their fight on behalf of justice, freedom and respect for human personal dignity. By challenging resignation in the face of injustice, they inspired millions of people, strengthening our trust in the best that exists in the men and women of our time, and our hope for a better World.

It is to this contribution from Louise Arbour and Lula da Silva that the jury of the North-South Prize decided to pay tribute. For me, it is an honour to be able to join this fairest of recognitions.



List of the Prize Winners

Every year since 1995, the North South Prize of the Council of Europe has been awarded to two personalities who have excelled in their commitment to the defense and promotion of Human Rights and pluralistic democracy, the development of intercultural dialogue and the reinforcement of the north-south partnership and solidarity.



2010

Louise Arbour (Canada),
Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Brazil),



2009

Rola Dashti (Kuwait)
Mikhail Gorbachev (Russia)



2008

Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan
(Jordan)
Jorge Sampaio (Portugal)



2007

Simone Veil (France),
Kofi Annan (Ghana),



2006

Mukhtaran Bibi (Pakistan)
Father Van der Hoff (The Netherlands)



2005

Bogaletch Gebre (Ethiopia)
Bob Geldof (Ireland)



2004

Nawal El Saadawi (Egypt)
Stéphane Hessel (France)



2003

Frene Ginwala (South Africa)
António de Almeida Santos (Portugal)



2002

Albina du Boisrouvray (Switzerland)
Xavier Bagnoud (East Timor)



2001

**Maria de Nazaré Gadelha Ferreira
Fernandes** (Brazil)
Cornelio Sommaruga (Switzerland)



2000

Marguerite Barankitse (Burundi)
Mário Soares (Portugal)



1999

Emma Bonino (Italy)
Abderrahman Youssoufi (Morocco)



1998

Graça Machel (Mozambique)
Lloyd Axworthy (Canada)



1997

Mary Robinson (Ireland)
Patricio Aylwin (Chile)



1996

Danielle Mitterrand (France)
Algerian women (Algeria)



1995

Peter Gabriel (United Kingdom)
Vera Duarte (Cape Verde)



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Agosto 2011