

Round Table

“Prospects and interregional cooperation for the abolition of death penalty”

Lisbon, Portugal, 20 May 2024

OPENING SESSION

Speakers



H. E. Ambassador Francesca Camilleri Vettiger was appointed as Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe as of 19 June 2023. In this role, she currently serves as the Chairwoman of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. She served as the Deputy Permanent Representative and legal advisor at the Permanent Representation of Malta to the Council of Europe since April 2019. She worked as coordinator on International Human Rights Law matters within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion in Valletta. In 2016, she was posted to Geneva as Senior Policy Officer at the Permanent Representation of Malta to the United Nations and other International Organisations where she represented Malta at the World Trade Organisation in preparation for and during Malta’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Mónica Dias is Director of the Institute for Political Studies of the *Universidade Católica Portuguesa* (UCP), where she has been teaching since 1992. At the IEP, she also organizes the annual Summit of Democracies, a simulation of a meeting of Democratic States for university and school students.

She holds a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from the IEP-UCP and works currently in the field of International Politics focussing on Democracy Studies, Peace Studies and International Conflict as Professor and Senior Researcher.

She graduated and holds a MA in Cultural Studies and besides her academic experience, which includes lecturing at the University of Cologne, Germany, and participating in a Summer Institute in the USA on Federalism (Fulbright), she translated several books and was a lecturer at international youth seminars on multi-cultural Education, Leadership and Conflict Management organised by the European Commission. From 1996 to 2000, she worked at the Portuguese Parliament as consultant for the Committee on Education, Science and Culture.



Nuno Sampaio is the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Portugal. He holds a PhD and Master's in Political Science and International Relations, as well as an undergraduate degree in International Relations. He is also a university professor and researcher. He previously served as advisor of the President of the Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa's Civil Household and advisor for Political Affairs, and as advisor of the President of the Republic Aníbal Cavaco Silva's Civil Household for Parliamentary Affairs and Local Government.¹

¹ Paraphrased and reworked text taken from the information available on «www.portugal.gov.pt/en/gc24/ministries/foreign-affairs/secretaries-of-state?i=foreignaffairsandcooperation» accessed 16 May 2024.

ROUND TABLE

Moderator



H.E. Ambassador Gilberto Jerónimo was appointed Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Council of Europe as of January 2021. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. He graduated in International Relations from the Technical University of Lisbon in 1993 and was admitted to the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1996.

In his diplomatic career, he has served as the Deputy Secretary-General of the MFA and previously as the Director-General for Administration of the MFA. From 2017 to 2018, he held the position of Permanent Representative to the EU's Political and Security Committee. He has also been appointed as Chief of Cabinet to the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Chief of Cabinet to the Prime Minister, and Minister-Counselor. Previously, he was appointed to the Portuguese Delegation to NATO, served as an advisor to the Portuguese Secretary of State of Defense and the Sea, and he was commissioned to the office of the UN High Representative for the Elections at Côte d'Ivoire in Abidjan from August to November 2005.

Speakers



Amina Bouayach has been the President of the National Council for Human Rights in Morocco since her appointment by King Mohammed VI on December 6, 2018. She is the first woman to occupy this role and was previously Morocco's Ambassador to Sweden and Latvia. Her career in human rights includes serving as Vice-President and Secretary General of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and as the first female head of the Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme. Educated in economics and fluent in five languages, Ms. Bouayach has also participated in significant constitutional and legislative reforms in Morocco and internationally. She has been involved in various national and international committees, advocating against the death penalty and for torture prevention. Her contributions have been recognized globally, including receiving high honours from Morocco and France, or the 'Women of the Future Prize 2024'. Ms. Bouayach continues to be a pivotal figure in promoting human rights and gender equality worldwide.



Ntandokayise Ndlovu is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law, University of FortHare, South Africa. Currently, he serves as an African Union Commission Expert Member of the Working Group on Death Penalty, Extra-judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings and Enforced Disappearances in Africa 2022-2024.

Dr. Ndlovu has previously worked as a legal researcher under the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section of United Nations Habitat, served as an External Editor for the Pretoria Student Law Review and is currently an associate editor for the South African Journal on Human Rights. He is a published author and has participated in various research reports and projects both at the national and international level. Ntando is also an active member of the Law and Society Association (LSA-International Research Collaboration Africa) an international collaboration of scholars that aims to identify, explore map the pasts and futures of Law and Society scholarship in Africa. He holds a Doctorate of Law (LL. D) from the University of FortHare, with his primary research interests lying in Public International Law, International Human Rights Law, Law and Society, Peremptory norms, torture and the Right to life, Constitutional Law and Education and child participation in policy and legislative development.



Sebastien Potaufeu has joined the Council of Europe since September 2023 as Senior adviser for Human rights and Coordinator for the Abolition of the death penalty. Besides the implementation of the Reykjavik summit declaration regarding the abolition of the death penalty, he is also dealing inter alia with national human rights institutions, ombudspersons, national preventive mechanisms, and civil society. He is a career diplomat seconded to the Council of Europe, and previously worked as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe where he, inter alia, coordinated the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. In the French diplomatic service, he garnered expertise in multilateral negotiations, human rights, European issues, law, security and defense. He holds degrees in public administration and in audiovisual studies.



Verónica Gómez is an Argentine jurist, specialised in international law and international human rights law. She has served as an official at the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and as a senior advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina. Currently, she is serving a term as judge of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (2022-2027).

Regarding academia, she is Director for Education of the International Centre for Political Studies (CIEP) at the National University of San Martín (UNSAM) which offers programs for the international exchange of good practices in human rights between States as well as international training programmes for state officials, national human rights institutions, and the public. At postgraduate level, she is the Director of the Master's in Human Rights and Public Policies; and the co-Director of the Master's in Human Rights and Democracy for Latin America and the Caribbean, the latter being associated to the Global Campus of Human Rights. She is currently serving her second term (2024-2027) as President of the Global Campus of Human Rights, an association that brings together a hundred universities worldwide – with regional hubs in Europe, the Balkans, Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caucasus, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab world and central Asia— considered a flagship in human rights education.