

**2ND FORUM OF ECONOMISTS OF PORTUGUESE SPEAKING COUNTRIES  
LISBON, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024**

***INTERVENTION BY PROFESSOR DOCTOR AMÉRICO RAMOS DOS  
SANTOS***

**GOOD AFTERNOON.**

**MY FIRST WORDS ARE, NATURALLY, ONE OF GRATITUDE.**

**TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, FOR THE HONOR IT IS FOR ME  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORUM THAT HAS RECEIVED HIS SUPPORT AND  
PARTICIPATION.**

**TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS FORUM, AN IMPORTANT MEETING POINT  
AND REFLECTION ON THE ROLE OF ECONOMISTS AND THEIR  
ORGANIZATIONS IN BUSINESS POLICIES AND COOPERATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT, BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.**

**ALLOW ME TO HIGHLIGHT, IN THE CURRENT GLOBAL CONTEXT OF  
UNCERTAINTY AND CONFLICT, THE ALREADY MENTIONED STRATEGIC  
IMPORTANCE OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND THE ROLE THAT THE CPLP,  
PRESENT ON FOUR CONTINENTS, CAN PLAY IN COOPERATION AND THE  
BUILDING OF PEACE AND CONSENSUS.**

**WE MUST MAKE IT STRONGER AND MORE COHESIVE.  
THE WORLD NEEDS CONSENSUS AND GOOD SENSE.**

**THE CHALLENGES ARE ENORMOUS. IT IS ENOUGH TO EMPHASIZE THAT  
ONLY 15% OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE 2030  
AGENDA ARE ON A TRAJECTORY OF EFFECTIVE REALIZATION, AND WE  
HAVE ONLY SIX YEARS LEFT!**

**HOWEVER, THE APPROVAL BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THIS PAST  
WEEKEND, OF THE “PACT FOR THE FUTURE,” AND ITS ANNEXES,  
“GLOBAL DIGITAL PACT” AND “DECLARATION ON FUTURE  
GENERATIONS,” ALONG WITH ITS 56 ACTION MEASURES, IS A SIGN.**

**A SIGN THAT GIVES US A LIGHT OF HOPE, COURAGE, AND AMBITION, AS  
NOTED BY THE ESTEEMED UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, ANTÓNIO  
GUTERRES. HOWEVER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO TRANSFORM  
BEAUTIFUL PRINCIPLES AND AMBITIONS INTO REALITIES.**

**MAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACT NOT BE UNDERMINED BY  
WELL-KNOWN BLOCKING FORCES.**

**I THANK THE ORDER OF ECONOMISTS, IN THE PERSON OF ITS  
PRESIDENT, FOR DECIDING TO GRANT ME THE TITLE OF EMERITUS  
ECONOMIST.**

**FOR ME, IT IS A GREAT HONOR, BUT UNEXPECTED, AS OTHERS ARE MORE DESERVING.**

**I THANK THE FIRST LADY OF ANGOLA, A GREAT FRIEND, DR. ANA DIAS LOURENÇO, WITH WHOM I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO COOPERATE FOR OVER THREE DECADES IN THE PREPARATION OF GUIDING DOCUMENTS FOR THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.**

**OF THESE, I HIGHLIGHT, IN 2003: "ANGOLA 2025 - LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY," CREATED UNDER HER LEADERSHIP. IN THIS REGARD, IT WAS CONSIDERED THE MOST COMPLETE AND ADVANCED DOCUMENT EVER MADE IN AFRICA UP TO THAT POINT.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND FOR YOUR KIND AND FRIENDLY WORDS.**

**IN MANY OTHER WORKS, I COOPERATED WITH THE INTERVENTION OF HER DIRECT COLLABORATORS, AMONG WHOM I WOULD LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT, IF I MAY, PEDRO LUÍS DA FONSECA, SEVERIM DE MORAIS, AND CARLOS LOPES.**

**MY COOPERATION WITH ANGOLA SPANS 40 YEARS, STARTING IN 1984 WITH THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR MALANJE, WHEN MY ESTEEMED FRIEND DR. LOPO DO NASCIMENTO WAS MINISTER OF PLANNING.**

**MORE RECENTLY, I ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "NATIONAL TRAINING PLAN FOR LEADERS" AND THE "ANGOLA HUMAN CAPITAL 2023-2037" STRATEGY, AS WELL AS IN THE NEW LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY "ANGOLA 2050."**

**I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO COOPERATE WITH VARIOUS OTHER OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANGOLA'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, INCLUDING CARLOS FEIJÓ, MANUEL NUNES JUNIOR, AND EDSON BARRETO.**

**BUT ALLOW ME, IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS FORUM, TO RECALL THE VERY RELEVANT COLLABORATIONS I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH IN OTHER PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, WITH ILLUSTRIOUS LEADERS SUCH AS VASCO CABRAL AND BARTOLOMEU SIMÕES PEREIRA IN GUINEA-BISSAU; JOSÉ BRITO IN CAPE VERDE; AND MÁRIO MACHUNGO AND LUÍSA DIOGO IN MOZAMBIQUE.**

**IN ALL THESE COUNTRIES, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATING IN DOZENS OF TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES FOR LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS, AS WELL AS IN THE PREPARATION OF VARIOUS NATIONAL, REGIONAL, OR SECTORAL PLANS AND PROGRAMS.**

**TO ALL MY COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS WITH WHOM I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING CHALLENGES AND BUILDING WORK, MY HEARTFELT THANKS.**

**I ALSO THANK MY DEAR FAMILY, WHO HAVE ALWAYS GIVEN ME THE MOTIVATION AND SUPPORT TO CONTINUE ON THE JOURNEY THAT HAS BEEN MY LIFE. TO ALL, MY BEST WISHES, AS THEY SAY IN THE LAND OF MY ANCESTORS FROM VISEU.**

**IN FACT, I CONSIDER THAT I HAVE BEEN ON A JOURNEY SINCE I WAS BORN IN SEIXAL, UNTIL THE DAY GOD CALLS ME HOME.**

**MY JOURNEY HAS A DISTANT PAST WITH MY CELTIC-IRISH ANCESTORS AND, MORE RECENTLY, WITH THEIR TRAVELS THROUGH VISEU, LEZÍRIA RIBATEJANA, AND SEIXAL.**

**IN THE DNA THAT MY ANCESTORS LEFT ME AS A LEGACY, I MUST HIGHLIGHT:**

- 1. A GREAT RESPECT FOR PEOPLE, WHICH JUSTIFIES MY FOCUS ON TRAINING AND VALUING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT;**
- 2. AN EXCEPTIONAL APPRECIATION OF WORK, WHICH HAS MOTIVATED ME TO BUILD, TO UNDERTAKE, AND TO DO;**
- 3. THE INTENTION TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE, FRIENDSHIP, INITIATIVES, OR RESOURCES, WHICH LED ME TO TEACHING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP;**
- 4. THE CONSIDERATION OF FAMILY AS AN ESSENTIAL PILLAR OF LIFE, WHICH HAS BEEN MY FUNDAMENTAL PRIORITY IN EXISTENCE, HIGHLIGHTED BY MY FOUR CHILDREN AND EIGHT GRANDCHILDREN, FRUITS OF MY MARRIAGE TO MY BELOVED LUCÍLIA FOR 56 YEARS.**

**ALLOW ME, HERE AND NOW, TO PARTICULARLY REMEMBER MY DEAR PARENTS, MY ESTEEMED AUNT IRENE, AND MY COUSIN DANIEL TAVARES, WHO WELCOMED ME INTO THEIR HOME, GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE MY STUDIES.**

**I ALSO FONDLY REMEMBER MY DEAR SISTER ALDINA.**

**I NOW ASK FOR PERMISSION FOR A FEW BRIEF WORDS TO HIGHLIGHT SOME MILESTONES FROM MY 61 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL LIFE.**

**EVERYTHING STARTED ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1963, AT THE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT FUND, WHERE I LEARNED A LOT FROM MY FIRST TEACHERS: DRS. JOÃO PEREIRA DE MOURA AND ODETE ESTEVES DE CARVALHO.**

**IN OCTOBER OF THE SAME YEAR, I JOINED THE PRESTIGIOUS ECONOMIC STUDIES AS A WORKING STUDENT, WHERE I GRADUATED IN ECONOMICS IN 1968.**

**THE FOLLOWING YEAR, I WAS RECRUITED AS AN ASSISTANT BY THE UNFORGETTABLE PROFESSOR PEREIRA DE MOURA, AND I STAYED THERE UNTIL 2003, WHEN I RETIRED. I BUILT MY UNIVERSITY CAREER THERE, PROGRESSING FROM ASSISTANT TO FULL PROFESSOR, COMPLETING THE NECESSARY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS FROM MY BACHELOR'S TO DOCTORATE AND AGGREGATION, AND I ALSO HAD THE REWARDING EXPERIENCE OF PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS MANAGEMENT BODIES OF ISCEF/ISEG AND THE UNIVERSITY.**

**HERE, I LEARNED A LOT FROM DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS, INCLUDING FRANCISCO PEREIRA DE MOURA, PINTO BARBOSA, MÁRIO MURTEIRA, TEIXEIRA PINTO, AND JACINTO NUNES.**

**IN 1976, I DECIDED, ALONG WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES, TO START A PATH AS AN AUTHOR AND ENTREPRENEUR, WHICH LED ME, IN 2003, AFTER MY RETIREMENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY, TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY OF CESO: CURRENTLY A REFERENCE FOR PORTUGUESE COMPANIES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING, WITH ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN 117 COUNTRIES AND OVER 510 CONTRACTS EXECUTED.**

**TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS SUCCESS, OUR THANKS. KEEP IT UP!**

**BUT IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY AT ECONOMIC STUDIES (ISCEF/ISEG) THAT I COULD FULFILL MY VOCATION: TO LEARN AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION, AND ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS.**

**IN THIS PART OF MY JOURNEY, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF THE COMPANY OF MANY DOZENS OF FACULTY COLLEAGUES AND SEVERAL THOUSAND STUDENTS. I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM ALL OF THEM. THANK YOU!**

**FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, AND PARTICIPANTS IN THIS FORUM, ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE WITH A FINAL REFLECTION.**

**SOME SAY THAT ECONOMISTS AND MANAGERS ARE POORLY CULTURED AND RELATIVELY LIMITED IN THEIR WORLDVIEW.**

**THIS IS LIKELY THE RESULT OF MANY FACTORS: THE EDUCATION THEY RECEIVE, BUT ALSO THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXT. I WOULD ADD THAT IT IS ALSO DUE TO THE TRAINING THEY RECEIVE IN TEACHING AND IN THE PRACTICE OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS SCIENCES, FOR WHICH WE, AS PROFESSORS AND ECONOMISTS, BEAR THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY.**

**IN THE SCHOOL WHERE I GRADUATED AND SPENT MY LIFE AS A TEACHER, I HAD, IN 1968, DURING MY LAST YEAR OF MY ECONOMICS DEGREE, AN EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DOCTRINES, WHOSE CURRICULUM INCLUDED THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS AND CULTURES: I SPEAK OF PROFESSOR DR. LUÍS TEIXEIRA PINTO.**

**IN ONE CLASS, HE SAID SOMETHING, PERHAPS A BIT HARSHLY, BUT WHICH I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN: “AN ECONOMIST WITHOUT CULTURE IS NO MORE THAN A GROCER.” NO OFFENSE TO TRUE GROCERS, I WOULD ADD.**

**TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ECONOMIC SCIENCE EVOLVES TOWARDS INTERCONNECTION, MOVING AWAY FROM ITS FRAGILE CONFINES, AND MUST CROSS AND ASSOCIATE WITH OTHER AREAS OF KNOWLEDGE, SUCH AS LIFE SCIENCES (AS IN THE CASE OF BIOECONOMICS), ANTHROPOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES, AS WELL AS AUTOMATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SCIENCES, OPENING NEW FRONTIERS FOR ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND FOR THE TEACHING OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS SCIENCES.**

**“THERE IS NO WASTEBASKET IN SCIENCE,” AS I HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE OF HEARING DURING MY AGGREGATION EXAMS IN 1988, FROM THE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR ANTÓNIO GOUVEIA PORTELA, WHO INTRODUCED AUTOMATION TEACHING IN PORTUGAL AND AT IST, AMONG MANY OTHER SUBJECTS.**

**SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, TODAY RENDERED INERT BY REALITY, CAN, TOMORROW, BE FERTILIZED BY OTHER KNOWLEDGE, BECOMING NEW OR RENEWED KNOWLEDGE.**

**I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THIS ESSENTIAL THOUGHT, ESPECIALLY WHEN I ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE LAUNCH OF THE TEACHING OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PORTUGAL.**

**IN CONCLUSION, I MUST SAY THAT I ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THE SO-CALLED ICEBERG MODEL (ONLY 10-15% OF THE ICEBERG IS VISIBLE). IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KNOW WHAT IS BENEATH THE SURFACE. OTHERWISE, WE REMAIN AT THE SURFACE OF REALITY, SOCIETY, AND THE ECONOMY, AS IS THE CURRENT PRACTICE TODAY.**

**ECONOMIC SCIENCE AND ITS TEACHING MUST NOT FORGET THIS, UNDER THE RISK OF BECOMING A POOR AND INEFFECTIVE SCIENCE AT THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LEVELS.**

**WE, RESEARCHERS, EDUCATORS, AND PROFESSIONALS, MUST ALL DILIGENTLY CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING. TO ALL, ONCE AGAIN, MY HEARTFELT THANKS.**

**BEST REGARDS,**

**AMÉRICO RAMOS DOS SANTOS**