



UNIÃO INTERNACIONAL
DE JUÍZES DE LÍNGUA
PORTUGUESA



ETHICAL COMMITMENT

OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE
JUDGES (UIJLP)



Introduction

The **International Union of Portuguese Language Judges (UIJLP)** was founded on 12 November 2010 in the city of Praia, Cabo Verde, on the initiative of the national associations of judges of the countries that make up the Portuguese-speaking world.

Since its creation, the UIJLP's mission has been to promote legal and institutional exchange among judges from Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste, fostering the strengthening of democratic values, the improvement of judicial institutions and the permanent defence of judicial independence.

Throughout its history, the UIJLP has established itself as an important vector of cohesion. In 2026, as it celebrates 16 years of existence, it reaffirms its vocation through initiatives and events that demonstrate a shared commitment to ethical, technically sound and socially responsible justice. Closer ties between judges from different jurisdictions make it possible to address shared challenges jointly, contributing to the continuous raising of the ethical and professional standards of the judiciary.

In this context, the Ethical Commitment of the UIJLP expresses a common ideal of how judicial office is to be felt and exercised. It is an affirmation of founding principles, such as integrity, impartiality, independence and judicial associationism, which guide the conduct of judges and reinforce the role of the judiciary as essential to democracy and the rule of law in the Portuguese-speaking nations.

Judge Geraldo Dutra de Andrade Neto

President of the Executive Council of the International Union of Portuguese Language Judges

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ETHICAL COMMITMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE JUDGES (UIJLP)

The careful drafting of an Ethical Commitment for judges of the Portuguese-speaking world by the International Union of Portuguese Language Judges (UIJLP) represents a significant milestone in the promotion of integrity, transparency and cooperation within the Judiciary. This document not only reinforces the fundamental principles of the UIJLP, such as judicial independence, the defence of human rights and ethics, but is also aligned with the objectives of institutional strengthening, of the education and training of judges and of the promotion of justice.

The importance of this **Ethical Commitment** lies in its capacity to establish and update clear and uniform principles that guide the conduct of judges and foster an environment of mutual trust and respect between judges and society. By adopting it, voluntarily and responsibly, judges reaffirm their commitment to justice, to impartiality, to the quality of the delivery of justice and to the protection of fundamental rights, contributing to the building of a fairer, more efficient and more transparent judicial system.

Furthermore, the **UIJLP Ethical Commitment** serves as an instrument of support and solidarity, offering common ground for facing the challenges and risks inherent in the judicial function in a rapidly changing world, while facilitating international cooperation and the exchange of good practices among the Judiciaries of the Portuguese-speaking countries, thereby strengthening judicial institutions and continuously improving the administration of justice.

The **UIJLP Ethical Commitment** is indebted to, and was inspired by, the first document produced by a national association in the Portuguese-speaking world to address ethical principles for the judiciary: the Ethical Commitment of Portuguese Judges, approved in 2008 by the governing bodies of the Union of Portuguese Judges (ASJP).

It has also drawn on various other regulations, texts and commitments produced in the Portuguese-speaking world, namely: the Code of Ethics of the National Judiciary, issued in 2008 by Brazil's National Council of Justice (CNJ); the Ethical Commitment of Judges of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries — Porto Alegre Charter, adopted at a Forum of Judges on Judicial Integrity in 2018 and endorsed by the Ordinary General Assembly of the UIJLP held in São Paulo in November of that year; the Ethical Commitment of Cabo Verdean Judges, approved in 2022 by the governing bodies of the Union of Cabo Verdean Judges (ASJCV); the Code of Ethics for Judicial Magistrates, approved in 2022 by Mozambique's Higher Council of the Judicial Magistracy (CSMJ); and the Code of Conduct, approved in 2024 by Portugal's High Council for the Judiciary (CSM).

The **UIJLP Ethical Commitment** also drew on the Universal Charter of the Judge, approved by the International Association of Judges (IAJ/UIJM) in 1999, and made use of international regulations and texts produced on the initiative of the United Nations (UN): the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in resolutions 40/32 and 40/146, both of 1985; the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, approved in 2002 by the Judicial Integrity Group, established under the auspices of the UN, and endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council in resolution 2006/23; as well as the Commentary on the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, of 2008, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The following related international documents were also taken into account, with the aim of aligning the **UIJLP Ethical Commitment** with globally recognised standards: Recommendation No. R (94) 12 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Independence, Efficiency and Role of Judges, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 1994; the Ethical Principles for Judges, approved by the Canadian Judicial Council (CJC) in 1998; the European Charter on the Statute for Judges, adopted at the multilateral meeting on the statute for judges in Europe organised by the Council of Europe in 1998; the Latimer House Guidelines for the Commonwealth on Parliamentary Supremacy and Judicial Independence, adopted in 1998 at a meeting of representatives of the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association and the Commonwealth Legal Education Association; the Statute of the Ibero-American Judge, approved in 2001 by the VI Ibero-American Summit of Presidents of Supreme Courts and Superior Courts of Justice; the Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Fair Trial and Legal Assistance in Africa, adopted as part of the Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights at the 2nd Summit and Meeting of Heads of State of the African Union in 2003; the Ibero-American Code of Judicial Ethics, approved in 2006 by the XIII Ibero-American Judicial Summit of Presidents of Supreme Courts and Superior Courts of Justice; the Guide to Judicial Conduct for England and Wales, approved by the Judges' Council in 2013; the European Ethical Charter on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Judicial Systems and their Environment, adopted by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) in 2018; the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, revised by the Judicial Conference of the United States in 2019; and the Guide to Judicial Conduct, the revised third edition of which was approved by the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand in 2022.

Although inspired by other instruments, the **UIJLP Ethical Commitment** introduces innovations relating mainly to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the justice system, in accordance with the content of the “Foz do Iguaçu Charter on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Justice”, a document setting out ethical principles, approved at the Ordinary General Assembly of the UIJLP held in Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná, Brazil, on 1 November 2024.

The **Ethical Commitment of the International Union of Portuguese Language Judges (UIJLP)** is an important step towards ensuring that Portuguese-speaking judges have current and clear parameters on integrity, transparency and accountability, aligned with the principles and objectives of the UIJLP and committed to promoting a Judiciary that is more accessible and effective for all, capable of increasing public confidence in the justice system.

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE JUDGES – UIJLP, the body that brings together the national judges' associations of **ANGOLA, BRAZIL, CABO VERDE, GUINEA-BISSAU,**

MOZAMBIQUE, PORTUGAL, SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE and TIMOR-LESTE, namely: the ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES OF ANGOLA (**AJA**), the ASSOCIATION OF BRAZILIAN MAGISTRATES (**AMB**), the UNION OF CABO VERDEAN JUDGES (**ASJCV**), the UNION OF MAGISTRATES OF GUINEA-BISSAU (**ASMAGUI**), the MOZAMBIKAN ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES (**AMJ**), the UNION OF PORTUGUESE JUDGES (**ASJP**), the UNION OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE (**ASSIMAJUS**) and the ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES OF TIMOR-LESTE (**AMJTL**), **APPROVES**, at the Ordinary General Assembly of the UIJLP held in Luanda, Angola, on 11 September 2025, the following:

ETHICAL COMMITMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE JUDGES (UIJLP)

PRINCIPLE 1 INDEPENDENCE

Statement: The judge maintains and defends their independence in the exercise of the judicial function, in both its institutional and its individual aspects.

Commentary: Judicial independence is a pillar of the justice system and of the democratic rule of law, ensuring that decisions are free from external influence. Judges resist political, economic or social pressure and decide on the basis of the facts, the Constitution and the law, without fear of reprisal. It is crucial to report any attempt to interfere with judicial activity, so as to preserve the integrity of the judicial system.

Such independence is not a privilege but a responsibility of every judge to adjudicate honestly and impartially, on the basis of the law and the Constitution. Judicial independence encompasses both internal independence, which ensures the autonomy of each judge and the absence of hierarchical subordination in the act of judging, save for the duty to abide by the decisions of the appellate courts, and external independence, which allows the justice

system to function free from undue influence by any bodies outside the Judiciary.

The separation of powers is fundamental to maintaining public confidence in justice and to ensuring that the Judiciary operates free from interference by the Executive and Legislative branches. Furthermore, the judge refrains from party-political activities, preserving their impartiality and the public perception of independence.

Reporting attempts at interference is vital to promoting fair adjudication, protecting the rights of the parties and strengthening the rule of law and democracy.

It is the responsibility of States and of the bodies charged with the governance and representation of the Judiciary to ensure the legal and financial conditions for the effective independence of courts and judges, both in the organisation of the system and in the exercise of the judicial function. Judges, through official channels and through their representative bodies, demand recognition of their rights and prerogatives, as well as the means necessary to guarantee their independence.

PRINCIPLE 2 IMPARTIALITY

Statement: The judge is, and must appear to be, impartial in their decisions and in their conduct.

Commentary: Impartiality is essential to public confidence in the judicial system. The judge treats all parties and other participants in the proceedings equally, without favouritism or prejudice, and avoids any behaviour suggesting partiality, such as personal or financial relationships with the parties involved. Impartiality also requires the judge to recuse themselves from adjudicating where they have any personal interest, ensuring that decisions are based solely on the merits of the case.

Judicial impartiality comprises a subjective and an objective dimension. The subjective dimension concerns the personal conviction of the judge in a given case, free from personal prejudice or bias. To preserve their impartiality, the judge does not allow their ideological, political or religious convictions to be reflected in their decisions. The objective dimension of impartiality involves assessing whether the judge has offered sufficient guarantees to exclude any legitimate doubt as to their impartiality, so as to appear impartial in the eyes of a reasonable observer.

Impartiality is the fundamental quality required of a judge and one of the principal attributes of the Judiciary. If impartiality is not perceived, confidence in the judicial system is diminished, even if the judge is in fact impartial, which highlights the need to avoid attitudes and behaviour that may jeopardise the perception of impartiality.

Impartiality prevents the judge from using a judicial decision or a public hearing to express personal opinions or views of a political, ideological or religious nature that are not strictly necessary for the reasoning of the decision.

The judge refrains from any party-political activity, such as attending meetings that may be regarded as party-political in nature and events held to raise funds or contributions for a political party. The duty of abstention also entails not taking part in public demonstrations which, by associating the judge with a political viewpoint or cause, may diminish their authority as a judge and create, in future cases, a perception of partiality.

PRINCIPLE 3

INTEGRITY

Statement: The judge acts with integrity, in both public and private life, and maintains high ethical standards.

Commentary: The judge strives to conduct themselves with integrity, so as to encourage and enhance public confidence in the Judiciary. This entails being honest and transparent and avoiding conduct that compromises their reputation or the image of the Judiciary. Integrity requires high ethical

standards, both in the exercise of judicial duties and in personal life, avoiding conflicts of interest or any perception of misconduct.

Judicial integrity encompasses honesty and morality. The judge acts in a dignified and appropriate manner, both in their official duties and in their personal life. The professional, social and personal integrity of the judge ensures fair and impartial decisions and public confidence in the quality of the justice system. The judge adopts conduct that, in the eyes of a reasonable person, is upright, loyal, measured and proper. A judge of integrity is aware of the demands of the judicial function, keeps away from dubious activities and is a model of good conduct.

By reason of the nature of their office, the judge accepts certain restrictions on their activities, even on those which, if carried out by other members of the community, would have no negative repercussions. This is because the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary must be kept above any suspicion. The judge therefore strikes a balance between the demands of judicial office and the legitimate demands of their personal life, development and family. This balance is essential so that they can perform their duties with the utmost efficiency and fairness without compromising their personal life. The ability to manage these two spheres harmoniously is fundamental to maintaining public confidence in the justice system and to the judge's own well-being.

Integrity requires the judge to recognise the dignity and importance of the functions of the other actors in the judicial system, behaving with civility and courtesy.

Integrity also involves transparency in the judge's actions, by providing useful, relevant and clear information without infringing the law in force.

PRINCIPLE 4

RESERVE

Statement: The judge exercises reserve concerning judicial proceedings and decisions, in order to preserve their impartiality and the integrity of the judicial system.

Commentary: Reserve is a direct consequence of impartiality and of the preservation of public confidence in the justice system. The judge accepts the limitations imposed by the principle of reserve and maintains discretion concerning judicial proceedings and decisions, both in the exercise of their duties and outside them.

The judge exercises reserve concerning any proceedings or decisions, whether their own or those of other judicial authorities, refraining from commenting on them in public and from taking part in events at which such matters may be discussed or which may interfere with the decision-making process in pending cases. The judge also refrains from taking part in events at which others may express views on matters subject to reserve, especially where such participation may lend the opinions expressed an appearance of institutional standing or judicial endorsement.

In cases of manifest public interest, the judge provides the necessary clarification in an appropriate manner and ensures that the public understands judicial decisions. This is done under the judge's direct responsibility, as provided for by law, or through the bodies responsible for the governance and representation of judges.

Especially where proceedings or decisions must be communicated directly to the participants in the proceedings or to the public, the judge ensures that this is done clearly and comprehensibly, taking into account the ordinary difficulties that the average citizen has in understanding legal language and judicial formalities. However, when providing public clarification of their own decision, the judge does not put forward reasons that are absent from the statement of reasons for that decision.

PRINCIPLE 5

RESTRAINT AND CAUTION IN THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT

Statement: The judge adopts an attitude of restraint and caution in the online environment, in order to preserve their impartiality, their safety and the credibility of the Judiciary.

Commentary: The use of social media by judges requires special attention owing to the sensitive and public nature of their functions. Online environments and social media of every kind make new forms of interaction and communication possible, but they also present significant risks that may affect the safety of the judge and their family, as well as the image and credibility of the Judiciary. The judge follows practical rules of common sense, caution and restraint when using these platforms.

The judge exercises care and good judgement when interacting on social media, bearing in mind that content may be disseminated without their knowledge, which may compromise the public's perception of the impartiality and integrity of the justice system. It is essential that the judge assess the impact of their online activities and maintain a high level of discretion.

Common sense is the basis of all interactions on social media. The judge avoids sharing, in online environments, personal opinions on pending cases, judicial decisions or controversial topics that might compromise their impartiality.

It is important to maintain a respectful and professional tone in all posts and comments and to avoid heated discussions or inappropriate behaviour.

Caution is essential to protect the judge's safety. Personal and sensitive information is not disclosed on social media or on the internet in general, as it may be used maliciously. The judge is aware of the privacy settings of their online profiles, limits access to personal information to trusted contacts only, and seeks institutional support if subjected to insults or abuse by reason of the exercise of their office.

Caution also involves carefully verifying the sources and accuracy of the information shared, which prevents the spread of false or misleading news.

Restraint consists of limiting the quantity and type of content shared on social media and avoiding overexposure and self-promotion, giving preference to sharing relevant information that contributes to the standing of justice and to confidence in the integrity of the judge. As judges are public figures, their actions on social media are constantly observed and may be interpreted in ways other than those intended. Restraint helps to maintain the dignity and seriousness associated with the judicial function and prevents the judge's image from being compromised by inappropriate or unnecessary posts.

The judge avoids taking part in the online environment anonymously or under a pseudonym and, if they do so, considers themselves bound by the same principles of restraint and caution, not only because their identity may be known or may come to be revealed, but also because being bound by ethical principles is inherent in their status, irrespective of the manner in which they express themselves in public.

PRINCIPLE 6 DILIGENCE

Statement: The judge performs their duties with diligence and efficiency.

Commentary: Diligence requires the judge to be punctual, prepared and dedicated to their work, ensuring that judicial proceedings are conducted expeditiously and fairly. Diligence also involves managing time effectively, prioritising urgent and complex cases, so that all decisions are well reasoned and based on a careful analysis of the facts, the Constitution and the law.

The requirement of diligence is linked to preventing the injustice that results from late decisions and to maintaining the quality of the delivery of justice. The judge seeks to resolve cases within a reasonable time, and prevents and sanctions dilatory conduct or conduct contrary to procedural good faith.

Judicial diligence includes deliberating soberly, deciding impartially and acting efficiently.

Aware that the diligent exercise of the judicial function and the proper functioning of the court depend on the support of staff and other collaborators dedicated to case processing and administrative tasks, the judge takes an interest in the overall management of the court unit under their responsibility. To that end, the judge demands the necessary resources, motivates staff and other collaborators and supervises the performance of tasks in accordance with the established plan. In managing the court's caseload, the judge aims to meet the established workload targets without compromising the quality and careful consideration of decisions, and seeks to simplify formal and bureaucratic procedures, eliminate unnecessary tasks and routines, implement methods for the continuous evaluation of results and adopt corrective measures.

The judge undertakes to place their judicial duties above and before all other occupations and neither commits to nor engages in personal or extrajudicial activities that are detrimental to the effective and expeditious administration of justice.

The judge's responsibility for their own well-being and that of their family is also recognised, in order to balance professional and personal life, thereby maintaining mental health and efficiency at work.

PRINCIPLE 7 TRANSPARENCY

Statement: The judge acts with transparency, documents their acts and ensures that their decisions are well reasoned and accessible to the public.

Commentary: Transparency is important for the legitimacy of, and confidence in, the judicial system. The judge ensures that their decisions are well reasoned and accessible to the public, save where confidentiality is required by law. Transparency fosters public confidence in the quality of the judicial system and enables the parties and the public to understand the reasons

on which judicial decisions are based. This includes the proper recording of procedural acts and the clear communication of decisions.

Transparency in the judge's actions is a guarantee of justice. The judge provides useful, relevant, comprehensible and clear information. Clarity in the drafting and communication of decisions is essential so that everyone understands the legal grounds and the arguments relied upon.

Transparency requires the judge to establish means by which members of the Public Prosecution Service, lawyers, parties and other participants can follow the progress of proceedings. Judges and courts make public the procedures for raising queries about delayed decisions and allow complaints to be made to a competent authority where the delay is excessive.

The need for greater transparency in judicial activity leads the judge to understand and accept the importance of communication and to allow public knowledge of, and the legitimate exercise of the right to criticise, the activity of the courts and the content of the judge's decisions. The judge therefore observes and enforces the rules of equal access to sources and of transparency in procedures, giving reasons for the decisions taken in that regard and recording in the case file all requests received.

PRINCIPLE 8

COURTESY AND CIVILITY

Statement: The judge treats all participants in the proceedings with courtesy and civility and promotes a harmonious judicial environment.

Commentary: Courtesy and civility in dealings with colleagues, members of the Public Prosecution Service, lawyers, parties, witnesses and other participants in the proceedings are important for a harmonious and respectful judicial environment. The judge uses clear, precise and courteous language in all communications and avoids behaviour that may be perceived as disrespectful, condescending or discriminatory. Courtesy contributes to the dignity of the court and to the parties' confidence in the judicial process, by creating an environment of cooperation and mutual respect.

Courtesy is inherent in the exercise of judicial office. The judge treats with civility not only colleagues but also members of the Public Prosecution Service, lawyers, court staff, parties, witnesses and all those involved in the administration of justice. Courtesy is the outward expression of the respect and consideration that the judge owes to all participants in judicial proceedings.

The judge gives the explanations and clarifications requested, provided that they are warranted and timely, without breaching legal rules. In court, the judge deals with staff and court officers without favouritism or arbitrary conduct. Courtesy and civility in dealings with all those involved are essential to maintaining order and decorum in judicial proceedings.

The judge ensures that all persons are protected from any exposure to prejudice based on social class, ethnicity, gender, religion, geographical origin, skin colour or any other inappropriate and unjustified grounds. Everyone has the right to be treated with respect for their human dignity and their fundamental rights.

PRINCIPLE 9

PRUDENCE

Statement: The judge acts with prudence and carefully considers the consequences of their actions.

Commentary: Prudence requires the judge to consider carefully the consequences of their actions and to act in a measured and responsible manner. This includes assessing the arguments and evidence presented, as well as anticipating the impact of their decisions. The judge is open to constructive criticism, willing to revise their positions when necessary, and demonstrates flexibility, good sense and commitment to justice.

Prudence guides the judge's self-restraint in the exercise of decision-making power and in the fulfilment of the judicial function. The prudent and composed judge adopts conduct and decisions resulting from a rationally justified judgement, after reflecting on and weighing the available arguments in the light of the applicable law.

In the proper performance of their duties, the judge is immune to the effects of media publicity, whether favourable or unfavourable, which does not exempt them from acting cautiously, especially when delivering decisions, mindful of their consequences. Prudence requires the judge to consider the impact of their decisions on the judicial system and on society, which includes anticipating possible repercussions and assessing how their decisions may influence future cases and the public perception of justice.

Prudence also involves maintaining an open and patient attitude in receiving arguments or criticism in a courteous, respectful and balanced manner. The judge is willing to confirm or correct previously held positions and to demonstrate flexibility, good sense and commitment to justice. Such openness to constructive criticism is essential to ensuring fair and well-reasoned decisions.

Prudence also requires avoiding the expression of opinions on controversial topics outside the judicial context, especially where such opinions may cause embarrassment to the judge or to the court. The judge is cautious about engaging in outside activities that may interfere with their judicial duties and compromise the integrity and impartiality of their office.

PRINCIPLE 10

PROFESSIONAL SECRECY

Statement: The judge preserves the secrecy of confidential information obtained in the exercise of their duties.

Commentary: Professional secrecy is essential to protect the privacy of the parties and the integrity of the judicial process. The judge ensures that sensitive information is not improperly disclosed, in compliance with the confidentiality rules laid down by law. This includes the protection of personal data and of confidential information obtained in the course of judicial proceedings, ensuring that such information is used only for the intended purposes and is inaccessible to unauthorised third parties.

The judge preserves the secrecy of their deliberations and of confidential information obtained in the exercise of their duties, except in public proceedings.

Confidentiality is important to maintain the parties' confidence in the judicial system, and the judge takes all necessary measures to ensure that such information is used only for the purposes intended in the judicial proceedings and makes court staff aware of the importance of professional secrecy.

PRINCIPLE 11

KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING

Statement: The judge continuously seeks to improve their knowledge and skills.

Commentary: Continuing education is vital for the judge to keep abreast of changes in legislation and case law. The judge takes part in training programmes, encourages the training of other members of the Judiciary and promotes a culture of learning and professional development. This includes taking part in courses, seminars and other educational activities that enhance legal and ethical competences.

The continuing education of judges encompasses both legal subjects and other knowledge conducive to the performance of their duties, enriching their culture and personal qualities. This is indispensable for the judge to be prepared to deal with the complexities of, and changes in, the law, technology and the demands of society.

The continuing education of the judge is particularly important for the protection of human rights and the development of constitutional values. This includes training on relevant social issues, to ensure that the judge applies the Constitution and the law fairly and equitably. Training is organised, systematic and permanent, with programmes of study that include law, judicial skills and social context.

Continuing education promotes the exchange of views among all levels of the Judiciary and fosters a culture of collaborative learning, the foundation for the development of a cohesive and well-informed judiciary capable of meeting contemporary challenges effectively and with integrity.

PRINCIPLE 12

HUMANISM

Statement: The judge acts with empathy and respect for human dignity and ensures that their decisions contribute to the well-being and the protection of the fundamental rights of all persons.

Commentary: The judge always considers the human impact of their decisions and shows empathy and respect for the dignity of all parties involved, which includes listening attentively to people's concerns and needs with courtesy, civility and consideration.

The judge avoids unjustified discrimination, treats everyone equally before the law and ensures that their decisions reflect a commitment to the principles of justice, which includes sensitivity to issues of vulnerability and inequality, guaranteeing equitable access to the justice system.

Justice, as the ultimate aim of judicial activity, is achieved through law and takes into account not only the letter of the law but also the values and principles on which it is founded.

The judge fosters solidarity and respect for human dignity, and encourages cooperation and mutual support among the parties and all participants in the judicial sphere, as well as in society at large. This includes promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and encouraging practices that strengthen social cohesion.

The judge ensures that their decisions protect and promote the fundamental rights of all persons, as established in the Constitution, in international human rights treaties and in the law, guaranteeing access to justice, equality before the law and protection against all forms of discrimination.

The judge takes people's well-being into account in their decisions and seeks solutions that promote the health, safety and quality of life of the population. This includes taking into account the individual and social circumstances that may affect the well-being of the parties involved.

Humanism reinforces the importance of an ethical and compassionate approach in the judiciary, in line with the fundamental values of dignity, justice and solidarity.

PRINCIPLE 13

HONESTY, DIGNITY AND HONOUR

Statement: The judge acts honestly in all their professional and personal activities, in order to preserve dignity and honour.

Commentary: Honesty is fundamental to maintaining the integrity of the judicial system. The judge avoids behaviour that may be interpreted as dishonest and ensures that their actions are always transparent. This includes refusing favours or any other form of impropriety, as well as maintaining irreproachable conduct in both public and private life.

The judge's honesty strengthens citizens' confidence in justice and contributes to the prestige and credibility of the judicial system. The judge adopts an attitude of integrity in all their actions, both professionally and personally, and ensures that their decisions and attitudes are always guided by ethics and morality. This means being honest, having integrity and keeping away from dubious activities, in accordance with social norms.

The judge avoids situations that affect their personal or professional honour and dignity and that may be interpreted as dishonest. This includes the prohibition on receiving undue benefits and on the improper use of the resources entrusted to them for the performance of their duties. The judge takes measures to avoid any reasonable doubt as to the legitimacy of their income and of their financial and asset situation.

Honesty also requires the judge to be an example of ethical behaviour for the other members of the judicial system, which includes practices that increase transparency and accountability in the justice system, as well as participation in judicial reform initiatives aimed at improving the administration of that system.

The judge is committed to ethics and integrity in all their actions and promotes a culture of honesty and accountability within the judicial system.

PRINCIPLE 14

ETHICAL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

Statement: The judge uses artificial intelligence (AI) tools ethically and responsibly, and ensures judicial intermediation, the non-delegability of the judicial function, the quality of the response given to court users, autonomy in development and use, and the preservation of confidence in the justice system.

Commentary: AI technology used in the justice system is regarded as a working tool, developed and administered by the Judiciary without interference from any bodies dependent on other branches of the State, and with the guarantee that texts produced containing suggested decisions or orders are always reviewed and intermediated by the judge, who indicates the direction the decision or order is to take.

The judge does not delegate their judicial function to automated systems and always maintains judicial intermediation and the quality of the response given to court users, preserving public confidence in the work carried out by the Judiciary. Judges are aware of the limitations of AI technologies and ensure that their use does not compromise the parties' right to a decision that is the result of the judge's own adjudication.

The decision always rests with the judge, who reviews the texts suggested by AI systems at the judge's own direction, to ensure that justice is administered in a humane and responsible manner.

The use of AI systems in the Judiciary can bring numerous benefits, such as speed in the analysis of cases, the standardisation of procedures and the reduction of human error. However, this technology is used as an auxiliary tool and not as a substitute for human judgement. AI tools are used to support the judge's work and to provide text suggestions, as directed by the judge, so that they can be reviewed and analysed.

Judges are fully aware of the limitations of AI technologies, including the lack of the contextual understanding that only a human being can offer. AI tools can be programmed to analyse large volumes of data and identify patterns, but they do not replace the human capacity to interpret the nuances and specific context of each case, since the discernment required to judge is acquired only through a lifetime of tangible experience. Therefore, the review and analysis of the texts suggested by AI tools are indispensable to ensure that judicial decisions are fair and equitable.

The judge retains control over the decision-making process and uses AI tools to improve efficiency and accuracy, but without delegating their judicial function to automated systems, since the final decision must always reflect the judge's own judgement.

The artificial intelligence tools used in the justice system are developed and administered by the Judiciary itself, autonomously and without interference, at any stage of development and operation, from bodies subject to the control of other branches of the State, as a means of guaranteeing the independence of the Judiciary and the preservation of its autonomy.

The continuing education of the judge in the use of AI tools is fundamental. The judge understands how AI technologies work, what their limitations are and how to use them effectively and ethically. This includes taking part in courses, seminars and other educational activities addressing the use of AI tools in the judicial system, in order to promote a culture of learning and professional development.

The use of artificial intelligence tools in the judicial system supports, but never replaces, human judgement. The judge reviews all texts suggested by AI

tools and ensures that decisions are the product of the judge's own careful judgement, grounded in a thorough analysis of the facts, the Constitution and the law.

PRINCIPLE 15

PROMOTION OF JUDICIAL ASSOCIATIONISM

Statement: The judge's participation in judicial associations strengthens the independence, integrity, transparency and impartiality of the Judiciary.

Commentary: Judicial associationism ensures the collective representation of judges before citizens, the State and the governing bodies of the Judiciary, and is bound up with preserving the conditions for the independence, integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary.

Judges' associations play an essential role in ensuring respect for the independence of the Judiciary and for the democratic rule of law. They bring judges together, enabling them to organise themselves to defend their independence and to make the judicial function more effective. Judicial associationism is linked to preserving the conditions for the independence of the Judiciary and the impartiality of judges, to the protection of fundamental rights, to improving the quality of the justice system and to promoting the values of judicial ethics.

The independence of judges' associations from political, social, religious or trade-union organisations is essential to guarantee internal democratic pluralism. This allows judges to express their diversity freely, without outside influences that might compromise their impartiality. The associations are autonomous, refrain from party-political activities, and have the capacity to represent the interests of judges and to protect the independence of the Judiciary.

In their internal functioning, the associations guarantee pluralism of ideas and freedom of expression, with electoral systems that ensure broad participation by all and the principle of rotation in office.

Judicial associationism plays an important role in the continuing education of judges. Professional associations of judges organise and promote training programmes, seminars, courses and other educational activities that enhance the legal and ethical competences of judges.

Judges' associations also play an active role in the formulation of public policies and in the promotion of judicial reforms aimed at improving the administration of justice and strengthening the rule of law.

The active participation of judges in professional associations contributes to the defence of their legitimate interests, to the promotion of their continuing education and to the protection of the independence of the Judiciary, which includes action to secure better working conditions and adequate remuneration, and to ensure that judges are free from internal and external interference in the performance of their duties. Judges' associations are also responsible for encouraging transparency and accountability in the justice system.

Judicial associationism is indispensable for the sharing of good practices, ideas and experiences, and contributes to fellowship among judges and their families, preserving the balance between professional and personal life and fostering mental health and the capacity for work.

LUANDA, ANGOLA, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025.

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Union of Cabo Verdean Judges

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Union of Magistrates of Guinea-Bissau

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