E4J AND MULTILINGUALISM: EFFORTS TO PROMOTE EDUCATION FOR JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW AMONG PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

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The rule of law is fundamental to all aspects of society in forging relationships of mutual accountability, reliability and building public trust. To promote and protect the safety, dignity and human rights of all peoples, Governments have a key role in upholding the rule of law in the daily lives of their citizens, especially through the public institutions that seek to serve them.

Education is the catalytic factor that can strengthen public trust, with an important role in promoting the rule of law and a culture of lawfulness – that is, an environment in which the rule of law is understood, respected, and upheld. The Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative, recipient of the 2020 UN Secretary-General’s Award for Innovation, is an innovative and comprehensive educational initiative designed to support educators teaching the next generation to better understand and address problems that can undermine the rule of law, while recognizing the importance of people-centered approaches in promoting peaceful, corruption-free and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

Through its multilingual approach, E4J has been engaging with partners from all over the world in order to make their tools accessible to as many people as possible in as many languages as possible, including Portuguese, thus supporting the resolution on cooperation with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries- CPLP (A/73/L.111), approved by acclamation by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019. This resolution considers the relevance of the Portuguese language in international affairs, unifying over 278 million people in nine countries across four continents: Africa, Asia, Europe and South America.

The High-Level side event, “Promoting Education for Justice and Rule of law among the Portuguese Speaking Countries”, with the Participation of the Ministers of Justice of Angola, Brazil, Portugal, Mozambique (TBC), Cabo Verde (TBC) and the Executive Secretary of CPLP, will address the relevance of and importance of the E4J tools and materials among Portuguese-speaking countries and its impact among children and youth, thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality Education), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - the overarching mission of UNODC) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).