

Title of the Motion:

**Proposed Amendment to Statute 1 – OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (Article 1)  
– to include Portuguese as an official language of the Federation**

**Proposers:**

Federal Council of Social Work (CFESS) – **Brazil**

Association of Social Work Professionals (APSS)<sup>1</sup> – **Portugal** Association of

Social Workers of Angola (AASA) – **Angola** Guinean Association of Social

Workers – **Guinea-Bissau**

Association of Social Workers of Mozambique – **Mozambique**

**Current Text:**

Statute 1 – OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (Article 1)

The official languages of the Federation are **English, French and Spanish.**

**Proposed text:**

Statute 1 – OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (Article 1)

The official languages of the Federation are **English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.**

**Justification:**

The Portuguese language has a multicultural character and is present as an official language in nine countries across four continents: Africa (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe), South America (Brazil), Asia (East Timor) and Europe (Portugal). It currently has around 300 million native speakers. In addition to these countries, the territory of Macau, in China, also recognises Portuguese as a co-official language, making it one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and one that is expanding.

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<sup>(1)</sup> In the process of transferring to the **Portuguese Association of Social Workers (OAS)** via FITS.

Whereas:

- the institutionalisation of the profession 90 years ago in Brazil and Portugal;
- the theoretical, ethical-political and organisational leading role of Social Work in the countries of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) in establishment of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW);
- considering that, taken together, the number of professionals practising the profession in their respective countries represents the second largest professional contingent in the world;
- the aim of strengthening a professional ethos committed to democracy and the uncompromising defence of human rights, linked to a societal project of human emancipation;

The Federal Council of Social Work (CFESS) in Brazil, the Order of Social Workers (OAS) in Portugal, the Association of Social Workers of Angola (AASA), the Guinean Association of Social Workers of Guinea-Bissau and the Association of Social Workers of Mozambique request the inclusion of the Portuguese language as an official language of FITS.

It is also worth noting that, although not affiliated with FITS, other countries such as Cape Verde and São Tomé and Príncipe actively participate in the dialogues, initiatives and political and organisational coordination within the CPLP and endorse the need for this motion.

We recognise that this decision will mark a historic step forward, enabling us to deepen our dialogue and exchange of experiences with other countries, and promoting international integration and cooperation across a wide range of political organisations and professional contexts around the world.