

Dear Chairman,

Dear Delegates and Colleagues,

As has already been mentioned by Minister Mário Lino in his opening speech to the Assembly, Portugal was one of the founding fathers of the Organization and, as such, for the last forty years we have continuously expressed our support for its success.

It is in this spirit that we have now presented a candidate for the post of Director General. I am therefore pleased and honored, to present, on behalf of the Party of Portugal, our candidate, José Manuel Toscano.

Although Minister Mário Lino, on Monday, has already extensively highlighted the reasons that make him the perfect candidate, it is with great pleasure that I repeat them here at the Assembly and before you.

In fact, my administration believes that Mr. Toscano meets, without exception, all the required selection criteria to assess candidates to the position of Director General of ITSO, and we are proud to present such a capable candidate on behalf of our administration.

Most of you know him from his excellent work over the last five years as Director External Relations of ITSO as well as from his outstanding international achievements over the last 25 years.

José Toscano has dedicated his entire career to the development of competition and to the promotion of affordable access to high-quality communications services to as many users as possible in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

For those who are not familiar with his experience let me just briefly recap the most relevant aspects of his career: A telecommunications engineer by training, José Toscano has held various chairmanships as well as high level and management positions in both the public and private sectors as well as in regional and international organizations such as ITSO, ITU, European Commission, and others.

As such, he is an internationally well-recognized and highly respected expert in this field. In addition, through his many years of experience in the international arena, he is especially knowledgeable and comfortable working in a multicultural environment.

José Toscano is a leader with vision. Articulate and results oriented, he excels in creative problem solving and has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to build consensus and achieve results in highly complex commercial and political environments and situations, including in his most recent position with ITSO. In fact, he has a proven track record in providing leadership, vision and creative direction.

We in Portugal benefited from his expertise during his time at ANACOM where he excelled as Director of External Relations and of Spectrum Management before that. I am sure you have all also seen the outcome of his outstanding work as Director External Relations of ITSO, and have experienced the positive results of his managerial, negotiating and political skills in the organization.

We fully support his objective of ensuring that ITSO continues to be the place where developing and developed countries can feel confident in expressing their views and in considering actions which may be essential to the development of satellite communications in their countries and regions.

We do believe we will not be choosing between an European and an African candidate, but we will be choosing who is the best candidate for the job.

And we also believe that Mr. Toscano can:

- *Ensure that Intelsat continues to provide high-quality and affordable international telecommunications services on a global basis;*
- *Maintain the balance between this fundamental obligation and the need for Intelsat to meet its commercial goals;*
- *Ensure that the orbital locations used by Intelsat in 2001 continue to be used in accordance with the Agreement;*
- *Enhance channels of communication between the Organization, its Member States and Intelsat, with emphasis on collaboration and dialogue.*

For these reasons we call upon all of you to support and vote for our candidate, José Toscano.