

## **DECLARATION OF SETÚBAL**

*International Conference Risks, Security and Citizenship*

**March 30 and 31, 2017**

The International Conference Risks, Security and Citizenship met in the city of Setúbal on March 30 and 31, 2017, in a joint organization of the Municipal Council of Setúbal, the Centre for Studies and Intervention in Civil Protection, the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal and the European Forum for Urban Security, under the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic.

The work of the Conference was divided into four plenary sessions, twelve thematic sessions and six free communications sessions.

The Conference adopts the following **Declaration**.

The Risks-Security-Citizenship trilogy plays a hierarchy of values' key role in the functional dynamics of contemporary societies. It is therefore important to find effective and efficient responses that reinforce the resilience of communities, countries and populations to the multiplicity of threats to which they are exposed.

Emergency situations have been increasing in quantity and complexity, with increasing numbers of people suffering from the new framework of insecurity faced by societies, boosted by the international geostrategic environment, technological revolution, climate change, social asymmetries, pandemics, massive and disorderly population flows and organized international crime, among other phenomena of social disruption, connected with them.

It is in this context that the concept of human security emerges. This concept focuses on the human being as an axial reference of international relations and

seeks to act on the structural causes of security, in the name of dignity and emancipation of people.

Correlated with the idea of human security is the notion of human vulnerability, allowing us to read the threats and dangers that affect each individual in a broad and integrated way, in particular with regard to economic, cultural, political and public health problems, among others.

The new global reality is characterized by the need for networked and interconnected societies where security issues can no longer be dealt with internally by each State.

Political communities organize themselves in order to ensure their citizens well-being and security, in a virtuous relationship.

Local authorities are structuring elements of the organization of political power, being a determining factor in the functioning of democratic institutions. Local Government institutions do not alienate their capacity to intervene in the resolution of local problems, as only through its action can the needs of the populations be fully assured.

Due to their proximity, the municipalities are institutions with the capacity to gather efforts, generate synergies and complicity and are the ideal actors in the creation of conditions for the inspiring trilogy of this Conference to be effective, based on the creation of networks and channels of cooperation between the different institutions and citizens, building a sustainable community resilience project.

Private entities, in particular those with a means of production where there are risks to the safety of persons and also risks which jeopardize the very continuity of the business, must also take on greater responsibility in the prevention and reduction of catastrophes' risks.

The participation of citizens is also an essential factor in this process, moderating willpower, articulating knowledge, boosting resources, minimizing risks and building security.

Invoking the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, March 14-18, 2015;

Emphasizing the relevance of the principles, priorities and targets defined up to 2030, particularly focused on disaster risk reduction and loss of life, livelihoods, economic, social, cultural and environmental assets of communities and countries;

Acknowledging the critical importance of articulating global, national, regional and local actions to address the challenges and threats that require more versatile and effective responses to strategic issues of common concern;

Emphasizing the role of citizens, civil society organizations, universities and economic agents in building more resilient societies;

The Conference has repeatedly stressed:

1. The centrality of the human person;
2. The universality, transnationality and diversity of risks;
3. The interdependence of safety components;
4. The mobilizing importance of citizen participation;
5. The need to mobilize the scientific community and the production of knowledge;
6. The urgency of assuming a new culture of power, on a global scale, based on the ethics of humanistic values; in the subordination of economic power to political power; in the supremacy of collective interests; in respect for the environment; in the fight against all manifestations of barbarism, violating Human Rights and the Rule of Law, due to political, ideological, religious, ethnic or other causes.

Taking into account the success of this Conference and the opportunity it represented in the free, multidisciplinary and informed debate on the themes of Risks, Security and Citizenship, the Organizing Committee proposes that this conference be held again in Setúbal and that, until then, continues in a process of permanent monitoring of the issues debated and others, stating Setúbal as a leading city in the construction of resilience, through the instrumental partnership of Local Government, Civil Society, Universities and Polytechnics and with the support of economic agents.

**Setúbal, March 31**