

**DECLARAÇÃO DE PORTUGAL NO MOMENTO
DA CONCLUSÃO DOS TRABALHOS DE ADOÇÃO
DO TEXTO DA CONVENÇÃO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS
SOBRE O DIREITO DOS USOS DISTINTOS DA NAVEGAÇÃO
DOS CURSOS DE ÁGUA INTERNACIONAIS**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to clarify the pleasure it has been to my delegation to participate with the best of our efforts, along with other delegations and under your illuminated guidance, in the effort to adopt this Convention.

We believe this Convention should be, and we hope it will be, a milestone in the process of codification and progressive development of the international law on the uses of watercourses, on water itself, and on the cooperation they must give rise to.

We cannot but underline how important this matter is in view of the constraints; both quantitative and qualitative, over water and its ecosystems.

At this moment we would like to declare that we believe that the regime we've just adopted is without prejudice to general principles, rules and concepts of international environmental law where applicable and to further evolution of the law, of international responsibility.

Last but not least, we'd like to pay homage, to you, Mr. Chairman of the Drafting Committee, to the coordinators of the consultations, to the rapporteurs of the ILC and to the Secretariat for the excellent work done.