

Observatory on FoRB in the CPLP

COMUNIDADE DOS
PAÍSES DE LÍNGUA PORTUGUESA
COMMUNITY OF
PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE
COUNTRIES



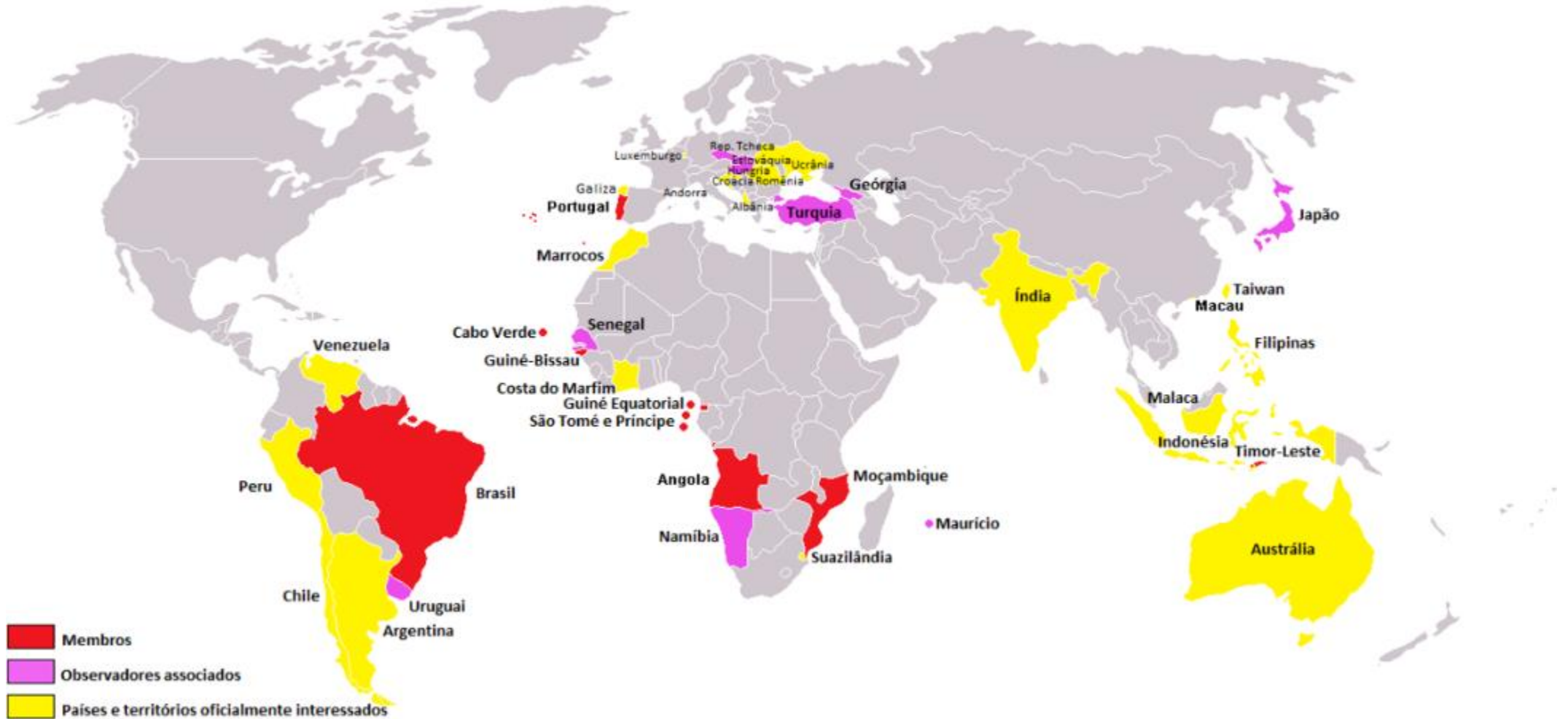
What is the CPLP ?



The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) is the privileged multilateral forum for deepening mutual friendship and cooperation among its members. Created on July 17, 1996, the CPLP enjoys legal personality and is endowed with financial autonomy.




A map of member states of the CPLP (red)
Associate members (magenta)
Officially interested parties (yellow)



Need for an Observatory



- In the CPLP freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) is underdeveloped; it is still in the process of being implemented even in Portugal and Brazil.
 - In other CPLP states such as Angola, Equatorial-Guinea, East-Timor, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique FoRB is seriously threatened and must be closely observed and researched.
 - Despite the country having legislation on FoRB, human rights abuses in the area of religion are frequent.
 - The scarcity of academic information on the issue of FoRB in most CPLP countries contributes towards the need to establish a FoRB Observatory.
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The Observatory (Project)

The Observatory aims at monitoring and combating violations of freedom of religion or belief in the CPLP countries and territories and protecting religious minorities against harassment, discrimination and persecution.

Efforts are being made to establish the Observatory to safeguard respect for FoRB within the CPLP countries and the other Portuguese speaking territories in the world as seen in the map.

Objectives of the Observatory



- To establish what legislation is in place pertaining to FoRB in the individual CPLP countries and territories.
- To ascertain to what extent each of these countries adhere to and apply national and international legislation on FoRB.
- To identify whether FoRB is experienced by the individual citizens of the CPLP countries as well as in their religious associations.
- To determine how the European Union's directives, legislation and ethos impact the CPLP member states in general, as the CPLP's headquarters are in Lisbon, Portugal.

Areas of intervention of the Observatory



- The Observatory wants to address the topic of FoRB among religious and Christian leaders through seminars and conferences.
- The Observatory wants to engage in advocacy addressing CPLP politicians concerning specific cases of violations of FoRB.
- The Observatory wants to implement the topic of FoRB in higher education by using college and university programs and curricula in the areas such as law, sociology, religious studies and theology.

Affiliation of the Observatory

- The Observatory is an extension of the **International Institute for Religious Freedom**, which is a network of professors, researchers, academics, specialists and university institutions from around the world to collect and critically analyze reliable data on violations of religious freedom worldwide.

Mission Statement of the Observatory



- The Observatory on FoRB in the CPLP aims to:
- Establish reliable facts on the restrictions of religious freedom in the CPLP countries and regions;
- Make available results of such research to politicians, advocates, as well as the media and other researchers;
- Introduce the subject of FoRB into academic research and curricula in each region;
- Back up advocacy for victims of religious freedom in the religious, legal and political world;
- Cover religious freedom concerns wherever they occur in the CPLP;
- Serve discriminated and persecuted believers in the CPLP;
- Make publications and other research available as economically and as readily as possible to the CPLP countries and territories.

Contact details

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Thank you

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