

Jorge Sampaio
UN Special Envoy to Stop TB
Former President of Portugal

Jorge Sampaio was born in Lisbon on September 18th 1939. As a child, due to his father's career as a doctor who specialised in public health, he spent long periods in the United States and in England.

In 1961 he graduated in Law at Lisbon University. He was elected Secretary-General of the Federation of Students Associations in 1961-62. In this capacity he became involved in the student crisis in the early 60s, which led to a widespread revolts against the country's dictatorship regime, and lasted until April 24th, 1974. During this time he took up a legal career and became a Law Association board member, playing an important role in the defence of political prisoners.

In 1969 he was elected to the 'National Assembly' as a member of "CDE" [Electoral Democratic Commission], opposing the dictatorship in force and participating in the resistance movements.

In 1974, following the April 25th revolution, he became one of the driving forces behind the creation of the "M.E.S.", a socialist left-wing movement, which he later abandoned due to ideological differences.

During the revolutionary years, he played an important role in promoting dialogue with the moderate wing of the Armed Forces Movement and actively supported the positions of the "Group of Nine", who played a key role in the transition to democracy. In March 1975 he was appointed Deputy Minister for External Co-operation in the IV Provisional Government. The same year, he founded the "Socialist Intervention", an association of politicians and intellectuals who were to play prominent roles in public life. In 1979 he was elected to Parliament and became a member of the National Secretariat of the Socialist Party.

From 1979 to 1984 he was a member of the European Human Rights Commission of the Council of Europe where he played an important role in defending fundamental rights and in contributing to a more dynamic implementation of the principles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights.

In 1989, he was elected Mayor of Lisbon and re-elected in 1993. As mayor, he introduced new concepts and methods for planning, management, integration and urban development.

From 1990 to 1995 he was President of the Union of Portuguese-speaking Cities (UCCLA) and in 1990 was elected Vice-President of the Union of Iberian-American Cities. He was also elected President of the Eurocities Movement (1990) and President of the World Federation of United Cities (1992).

In 1995, Jorge Sampaio stood for President of Portugal and was elected on the first ballot and sworn in as President in March 1996. He was re-elected five years later in 2001.

In 1991 he published a collection of his political essays entitled "A Festa de um Sonho". Four years later, he published "Um Olhar sobre Portugal", setting out his views on social issues. In 2000 in his book "Quero Dizer-vos", he presented his views on the challenges facing Portuguese society. At the end of his second presidential term of office in March 2006, he published "With the Portuguese People" - a series of excerpts from his speeches on a variety of subjects.

During the last decade, President Sampaio has made important contributions to several issues related to the European affairs, and to almost all the challenges currently facing the international community, including HIV-AIDS, drugs, children, human rights and independence for East Timor.

In May of 2006 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Jorge Sampaio as the first Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis. In this role, Mr. Sampaio works with the Stop TB Partnership to place TB higher on international political and development agendas. He also works to build strong commitment for the Global Plan to Stop TB to achieve the TB Millennium Development Goal and save an additional 14 million lives from TB by 2015.