

Maria Ejarque Albuquerque

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10+ years of professional experience, of which 6 with the UN system and over 3 at Government level.

Academic background: International Relations and Communications. Trained in international law and dispute settlement, mediation, negotiations and public diplomacy.

Experience working with: Government, United Nations System, European Commission, ASEAN, ASEAN Regional Forum, CPLP, ECOWAS, NGOs and CSOs, Intelligence, Armed Forces, Police, Think Thanks, Media, Private Sector, Traditional and Local Authorities, etc.

Languages: Portuguese (native), English, French (fluent), Spanish (conversational), Arabic, German, Italian, Tetum (basic)

Education

International Relations

PhD candidate in International Relations, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (ongoing)
Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Relations, Universidade Nova de Lisboa - 2016

Law

LLB in Law, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (ongoing)
Course in International Law and Dispute Settlement, International Law in the International Political System, New York University, School of Global Affairs (online) - 2015

Communications

Masters in Communication Sciences, Universidade Nova de Lisboa - 2008
Bachelors in Communication, Universidade Católica Portuguesa - 2003

Experience

Chief of Staff a.i. & Adviser to the Minister of Defense (Timor-Leste) February 2015 to October 2017

Advise the Minister of Defense on a broad range of issues, including policy and program management and implementation, as well as diplomatic and external relations. Monitor political trends and developments, and provide recommendations for action. Prepare reports and briefs on policy and thematic issues. Coordinate and supervise workflow at the Office of the Minister Supervise workflow and information flow between the Ministry of Defense and relevant Government offices (including PM, Foreign Affairs, Security, etc), Defense Forces and Security Forces. Liaise with Diplomatic corps, UN, Private Sector and other Development Partners.

Chief of Staff a.i. & Adviser to the Secretary of State of Defense (Timor-Leste) March 2014 to February 2015

Coordinate and supervise workflow at the Office of the Minister Supervise workflow and information flow between the Ministry of Defense and relevant Government offices (including PM, Foreign Affairs, Security, etc), Defense Forces and Security Forces. Liaise with Diplomatic corps, UN, Private Sector and other Development Partners. Advise the Minister of Defense on a broad range of issues, including policy and program management and implementation, as well as diplomatic and external relations. Monitor political

trends and developments, and provide recommendations for action. Prepare reports and briefs on policy issues.

Electoral Adviser (UNV), UNDP (Mali)

July 2013 to January 2014

Review and monitor political and electoral events in Koulikoro Region, particularly as they relate to electoral issues. Provide technical and substantive advice to the Governorate of Koulikoro on re-establishment of constitutional order and on electoral process management. Implement the National Strategy for Gender and Elections at Regional Level. Provide technical and substantive advice to civil society organizations (CSOs) on activities implementation and project management. Liaise regularly with counterparts in the UN System and other relevant stakeholders. Monitor, follow-up and advise on electoral trends and political and security issues. Provide advice and support on the overall peace process as well as on MINUSMA's mandate in Mali.

Electoral Adviser (UNV), UNMIT (Timor-Leste)

January 2012 to August 2012

Provide advice to and contribute to the capacity building of counterparts in national electoral authorities (NEC). Interpret electoral policies and regulations in order to clarify and provide input in the implementation of electoral procedures and monitoring guidelines. Review and monitor political and electoral events in Baucau District, particularly as they relate to electoral issues. Assess trends that might affect the political situation and the organization of electoral processes. Ensure up-to-date information regarding substantive electoral and political matters and make recommendations on actions to take, including providing early warning advice to the UNMIT. Liaise regularly with counterparts in the UN System and other relevant stakeholders. Contribute to the holding of peaceful elections by jointly facilitating and organizing district and sub-district level peace pact. Contribute to capacity building and civic and political education of political actors, including political parties.

Researcher for Documentary Series, Pop Films (Portugal)

September 2010 to December 2011

Research for 12-episode documentary TV Series on world affairs. Research, select, organize and summarize information required for the preparation of episodes and series documents.
<http://www.rtp.pt/programa/tv/p28865>

Representation of the European Commission Intern (Portugal)

November 2009 to March 2010

Contribute to the development, planning and implementation of strategic communication. Work with EC Representation services to develop ways to implement communication strategies. Provide advice and expertise to senior officials on a range of communication and public affairs issues.

Consultant, UNESCO (France)

November 2004 to June 2009

Provided expert support in a broad range of fields, including policy and legislative support, programme and project management, and external relations, working with different Sectors and Divisions, including the External Relations and Cooperation Sector (ERC); the World Reports Unit (WRU); the Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace Division (CI/FED); and the Culture Sector (CLT).

ERC

Support negotiating contributions and funding arrangements with governments and other donors. Support the negotiation of agreements and MoUs between UNESCO and partners. Monitor the use of contributions in order to provide accurate and relevant information to donors about implementation of ongoing projects and future planned needs. Contribute to the implementation of fundraising strategies established by the Office. Backstop the post-conflict and post-disaster (PCPD) task force. Advise the Chief of Section on external and donor relations as appropriate.

WRU

In the framework of the preparation of the UNESCO World Report on Cultural Diversity, prepare and attend consultation meetings and working groups meetings for the preparation of the Report. Identify best

practices and lessons learned, prepare guidelines and recommendations, to be submitted to working groups and Member States. Research on and write concept notes, working documents, preparatory reports, and focus papers. Edit text of a specialized and technical nature in order to ensure conformity with UNESCO standards, policy and practice.

CI/FED

Supervise policy guidelines and recommendations prepared to governments in policy reform and support the preparation of legislation. Provide inputs to UN joint country documents and UNESCO strategic documents. Support and coordinate on-going projects and activities in conflict and post-conflict countries. Participate in assessment planning and oversight of start-up of new activities and projects. Support the Director in the implementation of the Division's strategic and operational objectives and work plan. Prepare briefing papers and reports upon request from Member States and UNESCO Senior Officials. Under the guidance of the Director, Provide advice to other Sectors and Divisions on aspects related to the area of expertise. Draft briefing notes, talking points, presentations, speeches and substantive correspondence.

CLT

Support ongoing projects and activities of the Culture Sector in countries affected by conflict. Participated in planning assessment and oversight of start-up of activities and projects. Prepare, organize and participate in conferences at Headquarters and in the field. Prepare talking points, presentations, policy papers, briefings, reports and speeches and other relevant documents. Monitor, evaluate and track on-going activities, projects and partnerships.

Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism Consultant (France)

October 2008 to February 2009

Conduct research, and collect, analyze, select and summarize information required for preparing documents. Provide expert advice, carry out extensive research and analysis, and develop position papers related to human rights and counter-terrorism, due process, right to privacy and immigration. Organize consultations at the national level with stakeholders on human rights and counter-terrorism. Serve as secretary for consultations. Map and interview civil society, NGOs and lawyers working on the topic as well as affected communities and individuals. - Liaise with relevant institutions, public authorities, NGOs and Lawyers.

Social and Human Sciences Intern, UNESCO (France)

June 2004 to October 2004

Assist in Programme and Project Management. Help organize meetings and international conferences. Prepare documents, briefings, meetings minutes and reports. Review and edit publications.

Field Information Support Intern, UN (USA)

June 2001 to August 2001

Support early warning and rapid response mechanisms for humanitarian assistance. Manage information, keep information up-to-date and disseminate information to Field Missions and other stakeholders (Sierra Leone and Kosovo). Update several humanitarian assistance tools provided by UNOCHA. Attend UNOCHA coordination meetings and prepare meetings notes and reports.

Professional Development

Maritime Authority Seminar, USPACOM / TLGOV, 2017 (observer)
Course in Mediation Skills, UNITAR, 2016
Course in Conflict Analysis, USIP, 2016
Summer Academy in Peace Mediation and National Dialogue, ICP, 2015
Course in Public Diplomacy, UNITAR, 2014
Course in Negotiations and Conflict Resolution, USIP, 2014

Conferences and Publications

Publications

- “Mali Peace Process : Constitutional Implications of the Algiers Peace Process Agreement”, Observatório Político, e-Working Paper #70, April 2017

Conferences and Presentations

- “Conditions for holding free, fair and democratic elections”, Government of Mali, Koulikoro Region, 2013.
- “Conflicts between women rights and cultural accommodation”, Gender, Media and the Public Sphere, University of Coimbra, 2009.
- “Media pluralism and cultural diversity”, 3rd Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Diversity, UNESCO Headquarters, 2008

Editorial Work

- “Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue”, Chapter 5, UNESCO World Report on Cultural Diversity, UNESCO World Reports Series, 2009
- “Media Development and Poverty Eradication”, World Press Freedom Day Series, UNESCO, 2006
- “Media and Good Governance”, World Press Freedom Day Series, UNESCO, 2005
- “Penser la nature”, Diogenes, 2004/3 (n° 207)

Rosters and Professional Memberships

UN DPA Mediation Roster

UN Political Affairs Roster (P3)

IPRI Instituto Português de Relações Internacionais (PhD candidate)