

## **CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE**

**Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University**

**By Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo, Rector, University of Porto, Portugal**

**On February 8, 2018**

Dear Rector, Professor and Colleague George Sharvashidze,

I greet you and in your person I greet all the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University community, as well as all authorities and academics attending this wonderful event.

The 100th Anniversary of any Institution is an extraordinary milestone by any reference. In this memorable occasion, my first words are undoubtedly addressed to congratulate both the Academics and the Students of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University that along these 100 years served and were served in this noble mission of producing and transferring knowledge, of transmitting Values, for the sake of Human development, and also to congratulate the Authorities of the Republic of Georgia for the decisive contribution that beyond any doubt they gave to the birth and growth of this notable institution.

But, I also want to say that I am very honored and not less pleased by having been invited and by this privilege of attending this ceremony, as Rector of the University of Porto, itself a Centennial University. And these are not words of occasion. The University of Porto and its Rector are fully committed to international cooperation. We live an extraordinary dynamic period of Human History. Due to the progress in Communications and in the Transport Systems, that we all see and feel, the World is indeed 'shrinking', bringing Civilizations closer than ever, making the Dialogue of Civilizations both more urgent and demanding than ever. We, Europeans, must cooperate, certainly that preserving our diversity and cultures, even of course if simultaneously healthfully competing, in order to create the required critical mass to build a stronger Europe, able to intervene worldwide, aiming at contributing to bring Hope and Peace to Mankind.

Portugal and Georgia symbolize, maybe better than any other two countries, the dimension of European cooperation. We are linked by the largest arch in Europe, like a rainbow, more than 5700 km wide, starting and ending in our Countries, from the Western Atlantic to Eastern Caucasus, an arch that symbolically binds Europe together. And from our side, from the side of universities, I am positive that the Tbilisi State University and the University of Porto will keep playing a major role, working together in shaping this future of cooperation, all over the World, under the universal inspiring and binding principles of the Magna Charta of Universities.

My best wishes are: Long live the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University!