

**PRESS RELEASE**

October 31, 2017

**Pedro Pais de Almeida, new UIA President,  
committed to fighting modern slavery**

**The role of lawyers in the abolition of modern slavery will be the focus of Pedro Pais de Almeida's term of office as UIA's new president: Mr Pais de Almeida, a Portuguese lawyer and a partner in the Lisbon law firm, Abreu Advogados, took over as UIA President at the closing of the association's Congress on October 30 in Toronto (Canada).**

"Lawyers can – and need - to play multiple roles on this issue – from awareness campaigns against modern slavery to legal advice to victims and the prosecution of traffickers, as well as lobbying to increase protective legal measures for victims, including compensation from States that turn a blind eye to practices within their territory." said UIA's new President in his inaugural speech:

"There should no longer be any room for such practices in a so-called civilized world. I have been engaged professionally in the fight against them for several years and hope that the UIA will also take up the struggle," he added. Through the UIA-IROL (Institute for the Rule of Law), several actions during the Pedro Pais de Almeida's term in office are likely to focus on the protection of victims of modern slavery and compliance with the rule of law.

**Notes to editors**

1. The latest estimates from the International Labour Organisation (ILO)<sup>1</sup> indicate that in 2016, nearly 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery, distributed as follows: 24.9 million people are subject to forced labour and 15.4 million people live in non-consensual forced unions.
2. Before becoming UIA President, Pedro Pais de Almeida was already deeply committed to the association, of which he has been a member since 1995.
3. He has held various posts in it: Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Investment Commission from 2004 to 2006 and then its Chairman from 2006 to 2011, UIA Representative at the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) since 2009, Director – Commissions from 2010 to 2011 and UIA Vice-President in 2015, when he was designated to take over as President in Toronto.
4. Pedro Pais de Almeida specializes in commercial and corporate law (mergers and acquisitions), as well as tax law.
5. UIA's main goals are to promote the fundamental principles of the legal profession; contribute to the establishment of an international legal order based on the principles of Human Rights and Justice between nations, through the law and for peace; and protect lawyers and their clients.
6. Established in 1927, the International Association of Lawyers (UIA) is the oldest professional association bringing more than two million lawyers together through its collective and individual members spread across over 110 countries.

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<sup>1</sup>Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage, published on 19 September 2017 and available online at [http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_575479/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang-en/index.htm)