

# CASCAIS



COMITÉ PORTUGUÊS PARA A COI  
PORTUGUESE COMMITTEE FOR THE IOC  
COMITÉ PORTUGAIS POUR LA COI



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## CONCEPT NOTE

### 270<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Event of 1755 Lisbon Earthquake and Tsunami

#### *From Memory to Resilience: Coastal Communities Leading the Wave of Change*

Date: 1 November 2025

Location: [Fundação Dom Luís I \(Centro Cultural de Cascais\)](#), Cascais, Portugal

#### Background

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1755, a powerful earthquake struck Lisbon, followed by a massive tsunami that devastated much of Portugal's coastline and beyond. This event remains one of the most destructive tsunamis in European history, claiming tens of thousands of lives and reshaping disaster risk awareness in the region.

270 years later, as the world faces increasingly complex climate and geological hazards, the Lisbon Tsunami serves as a historic reminder of the importance of preparedness, resilience, and international cooperation. Considering this, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and, in collaboration with the Government of Portugal, are going to organize a commemoration event in Cascais, Portugal.

#### Objectives

- To honor the memory of the lives lost in the 1755 Lisbon Tsunami.
- To raise public awareness about tsunami risk and preparedness.
- To showcase international, national, and local efforts in tsunami early warning and tsunami risk reduction.
- To promote the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Programme and highlight community-led resilience initiatives.
- To foster dialogue between policymakers, scientists, emergency responders and communities.

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**Target Audience:** 150 participants including ministers, heads of state and government representatives, UN agencies and relevant international organizations, national and local Civil protection agencies and other authorities, scientists, and experts, youth and educational institutions, media and the general public. Exact numbers will be confirmed following the registration process.

## Key Elements of the Event

- Opening Ceremony and High-Level Addresses –will reflect on historical lessons and current global challenges.
- High-Level Panel and Technical Session – Experts and policymakers will discuss cooperation, science, and governance.
- Community Dialogue and Youth Engagement – A platform for voices to share and advocate.
- Tsunami Ready Recognition Ceremony – Formal recognition of Tsunami Ready communities.
- Public Exhibition and Interactive Learning –Tsunami Ready educational tools ( games ).
- Walking Tribute/ tsunami walk – A symbolic act of remembrance and commitment.

## Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced public awareness of tsunami risk and early warning systems.
- Strengthened collaboration between stakeholders at all levels.
- Recognition and promotion of best practices in community preparedness.
- Media coverage amplifying messages of tsunami resilience and policies formed with information of science

**Communication:** Initial information about the event will be shared through the Municipality of Cascais Website. A package of information will be sent out along with a registration link and further information for confirmed participants and speakers/panelists.