## **FOREWORD**

The Conexão Política review is the Political Science Master Degree Program's publication (electronic and printed) of the Universidade Federal do Piauí (UFPI). Its main goal is to collect themes and problems regarding the research areas developed by this program's professors, as well as other Brazilian and international institutions'.

Such publication is of great importance for seeking to achieve demand criteria from the Brazilian research fostering bodies. As one of the most observed components in the postgraduate programs' evaluations, the publications require, more and more, high-quality papers and a methodological rigor.

Because of that, this first issue of the Conexão Política review approached the great theme relating Democracy and Political Institutions. The goal, thus, was to collect recent discussions on democratization processes in some countries of the world, in addition to evaluating the impact of the world economic crisis on the political governance aspects.

Furthermore, understanding the dynamics of the electoral and political processes functioning was intended, in order to correlate some trends with the citizens' political behavior. Hence, it is clear that the heterogeneity of subjects and perspectives of Political Science was dealt with in this first publication of the Review. With such publication, UFPI's Political Science Master Degree Program effects its contribution to the Brazilian Political Science.

Coordinator of UFPI's Political Science Master Degree Program