



Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) SIDS
for the 4th International Conference on SIDS
Statement by Her Excellency, Ambassador and Permanent Representative
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“Progress on the Implementation SAMOA Pathway: National and Regional Perspectives”.

Mister Chair, Deputy Chair,

Permanent Representatives and Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to present this statement to provide you with a resumed update on Cabo Verde's progress in implementing the commitments outlined in the Samoa Pathway. As many of you are aware, the Samoa Pathway is a critical framework for sustainable development in Small Island Developing States, and we remain committed to achieving its objectives.

Allow me to highlight that Cabo Verde's second Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development 2022-2026 (PEDS II) operationalizes the Government's Program and the first cycle of Cabo Verde Ambition 2030, both clearly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa 2063s Agenda and the Samoa Pathway.

Over the past five years, Cabo Verde has made substantial progress in several areas envisioned by the Samoa Pathway. In line with the proposed core set of indicators for monitoring the Samoa Pathway, Cabo Verde has defined 5 priority thematic areas:

First thematic area: Promote sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, with decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable transportation which includes sustainable tourism and special programs in the field of education;

Second thematic Area: Act to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts by implementing sustainable energy and disaster risk reduction programs;

Third thematic Area: Protect the biodiversity and environmental health of small island developing States by mitigating the impact of invasive species and by properly managing chemicals and water, including hazardous waste, and protecting the oceans and seas. This is obviously a huge priority having into account that we are both a small island state and a big Atlantic state – 99% of our territory is ocean!

Fourth thematic Area: Improve human health and social development through food security and nutrition and improved water and sanitation and by reducing the incidence of non-communicable diseases and promoting gender equity and women's empowerment. This area also includes social development. Inclusion is crucial when the target is leaving no one behind.

Fifth thematic Area: Fostering partnerships among Small Island developing States, United Nations agencies, development partners and others to achieve the goals. Aside the partnerships this area also tackles vital issues as financing, technology, data and statistics and institutional support for SIDS.

We are very pleased to inform and share some of the progress we registered in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in priority areas indicated by the Samoa Pathway and elected as absolute priorities by our government. Over the past five years, Cabo Verde has made significant advancements in climate change efforts. These include enhancing data production and monitoring of climate phenomena, supporting mitigation measures in various economic activities, and disaster prevention. Cabo Verde ratified the UNFCCC and submitted its Third National Communication on Climate Change in 2017, followed by the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the implementation of the REFLOR project, contributing 11% to its NDC targets.

Despite these achievements, Cabo Verde still faces huge challenges in building resilience against climate change effects. Critical tasks ahead include raising awareness about climate change, implementing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP CV), and governing climate actions effectively.

By 2030, Cabo Verde aims to enhance resilience through climate planning and budgeting at national and local levels, focusing on both mitigation and adaptation strategies. Under the PEDS II framework (our national strategic plan for sustainable development), important initiatives will be realized, such as enhancing climate governance, improving local resilience, and implementing climate actions based on scientific data. Information dissemination, education, and capacity-building on climate change will also be expanded.

The implementation of PEDS II is institutionalizing climate governance across all sectors, integrating climate considerations into policies and strategies. Cabo Verde's ambition is to become a more resilient and inclusive country, reducing CO2 emissions by 10% throughout the economy. The strategic plan also emphasizes gender-sensitive municipal adaptation plans and increased access to climate information for vulnerable communities. With strengthened climate governance and active participation, Cabo Verde aims to enhance both mitigation and adaptation efforts. We are looking for new ways and practices to address the environment-economy nexus and Cabo Verde's government agreed and signed a debt swap for climate change with the Government of Portugal.

We cannot talk about SIDS without talking about biodiversity. Indeed, considered as Large Ocean States, SIDS are home to about 19% of coral reefs and a large portion of all oceans and seas are included in their Exclusive Economic Zones. Cabo Verde is no exception, and our geographic isolation leads to high levels of endemism and fragility. We cannot afford to miss this chance to protect our fragile island ecosystems, sustainably manage our nature-based assets and increase our environmental resilience. It is in this context a group of several SIDS agreed to proactively join forces to seize this unique momentum. Led by Belize, Cabo Verde, Samoa and Seychelles, the SIDS Coalition for Nature was launched during the 15th Conference of Parties of the Convention of Biological Diversity in 2022 with the presence and participation of several Ministers, from SIDS and non-SIDS governments, as well as the UN Deputy Secretary General and the SG's Special Envoy for the Ocean. The Coalition continues to expand and is designed to play a catalytic role to facilitate partnerships between the international community and SIDS to boost implementation at national and regional levels and it is strongly encouraging the development of SIDS-SIDS peer learning and cooperation schemes to pave the way for the uptake and expansion of innovative solutions by SIDS and for SIDS.

Distinguished participants,

Mister Chair,

My country is honored to host our upcoming interregional meeting from the 30th of August to the 1st of September and at that occasion we will present a detailed report on our Samoa pathway implementation progress. We believe you all received the invitation by now and we are looking forward to welcoming you and all delegations in our country.

Thank you very much.