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Interactive dialogue 1: Addressing Marine Pollution

Dr. Jorge Santos, CEO/ Co-Founder of AquaInSilco
On behalf of Phos-Value consortium

https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/phos-value-sustainable-solutions-nutrient-recycling

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I'm Jorge Santos, co-founder of AquaInSilico. We're developing innovative digital tools to improve wastewater treatment and water resource recovery, with potential applications covering a wide range of sectors.

I stand on behalf of Phos-Value, a project backed by the UNDP's Ocean Innovation Challenge, which brings AquaInSilico together with water utilities and local authorities to help conserve one of the world's most diverse marine environments found in Cape Verde.

Phos-Value innovation aims to improve wastewater treatment to cut pollution, recycle scarce resources, and at the same time provide local communities with much higher quality water.

The seas around Cape Verde are particularly vulnerable to pollution and climate change. Severe and recurring droughts mean water scarcity is rising, while poor wastewater treatment means loss of resources and risk of marine eutrophication through too many nutrients entering the sea.

Better wastewater management is critical to stop this from happening. The joint action of the digital tools and our partners is helping local authorities to identify problems with existing wastewater treatment facilities and solve them. We aim to:

-reduce the amount of nutrients entering the sea by 358 ton TN and 11 ton TP,

-recycle these nutrients into biofertilizers, and

-address water scarcity by improving treated water quality.

Phos-Value completed its first year with positive impacts on the reduction of water pollution indicators. During this second year, we are confident in setting a path for Cape Verdean stakeholders to create a circular economy model for wastewater treatment with the potential for other commercial opportunities.

Our work can be applied globally with high impact on small islands and lower to middle income countries. In helping them make the right decisions in wastewater treatment, we can make an important contribution to achieving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goal.

Thank you very much for your time.