

United Nations Conference on the Oceans - 06/26/2022

Your Excellencies

Mr. President of the Republic of Portugal

Mr. President of Kenya

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the United Nations

Mr. President of the United Nations General Assembly

All the protocol observed.

It is with a sense of commitment that Cabo Verde participates in this critical Summit for the Oceans, for life, and for the future of our planet.

I would like to acknowledge the morabeza with which Portugal hosts and welcomes, morabeza that is reflected in the organization of this Summit.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

All oceans are connected. This is evidence that should apply to many other facets of humanity's environmental, climate, economic, and social life.

The oceans teach us that there is a collective and global responsibility for prevention, regulation, preservation, and mitigation responses, adaptation, and transformational changes that challenge mankind towards the planet Earth.

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My country, Cabo Verde, is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS). SIDS are much more sea than land. Cabo Verde is 99% sea.

SIDS are heavily vulnerable to climate change and external impacts.

SIDS rightfully claim recognition of their particularities and positive discrimination, as the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, currently being developed, will demonstrate.

Cabo Verde expresses full convergence and support to the United Nations call for action to save the oceans and protect the future.

We advocate for standards and binding rules of law that express global commitments and that can ultimately lead to the Universal Declaration of Ocean Rights.

We support the UN Assembly Resolution to End Plastic Pollution and its subsequent implementation.

We advocate for strong engagement with climate finance and external debt-for-nature-capital and climate agreements for the acceleration of the energy transition, the water strategy for agriculture, and the transition to the blue economy.

We advocate strong partnerships in innovation, scientific knowledge, and technological resources.

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To Cabo Verde, the sea that once stood for emigration and longing, today stands for:

- tourism;
- desalinated water;
- exportation of fishing, aquaculture and canning industry products;
- food security;
- digital economy through fiber optic submarine cables;
- center for the development of skills and R&D in the blue economy;
- potential for exploiting Blue Biotechnology
- potential for clean energy production;

- potential to enhance the country's location as a hub for maritime activity and for cooperative maritime security.

With regard to maritime security, Cabo Verde reaffirms its commitment to host, as soon as possible, the Multinational Maritime Coordination Center for the Zone G.

We have all the reasons to protect the sea that surrounds us, ensuring social and environmental sustainability, the strengthening of coastal communities, and the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Reforms, policies, and investments have been carried out towards this end. Cabo Verde has:

- a Blue Economy Policy Charter,
- a Special Zone for Maritime Economy,
- a Sea Campus aimed at knowledge, research and professional training,
- about 7% of the territorial sea designated as protected marine areas.

Cabo Verde is in the process of revising the plastic law to reinforce preventive measures against pollution.

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I will conclude by expressing appreciation for the selfless work of the UN and its SG, António Guterres, in a very challenging global context of humanitarian, climate, health and economic crisis.

Recognizing the good governmental, scientific, academic and NGO partnerships that have allowed Cabo Verde to grow in terms of blue economy and green economy.

Continue to support Cabo Verde, and we will deliver results in return!

Thank you very much.