



*República de Cabo Verde*

PRIMEIRO MINISTRO

**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER OF  
CABO VERDE, MR. JOSÉ MARIA NEVES,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE III UN CONFERENCE ON SMALL  
ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**Apia, Samoa, September 1, 2014**

H.E. Mr. Lupesoliai Malielegaoi, *Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa and President of the Third United Nations International Conference on Small Island Developing States,*

(H.E. Mr. Ban ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations – if present)

H.E. Mr. Wu Hongbo, *Secretary General of the Conference,*

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Cabo Verde, I would like, first of all, to congratulate Your Excellency, Mr. Prime Minister Malielegaoi, on your election to the presidency of this Conference and, at the same time, to thank you for the warm reception and fraternal friendship.

I also wish to thank the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon and to all those, who have demonstrated sensitivity and interest in the issues concerning the specificity of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), namely for their sustainable development.

I would also like to make a special reference to the work done by H.E. Mr. Baron Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru and President of the AOSIS, for the efforts made in the leadership of this important negotiating group and for which we express our deep appreciation.

The United Nations proclaimed 2014 as the International Year of the Small Island Developing States, to draw the attention to their specificities and, at the same time, celebrate their invaluable contribution to the Humanity.

Taking into account the wider environmental, economic and social vulnerabilities and the high costs of their modernization and transformation, the Small Island Developing States should deserve a strategic and high-priority attention of the International Community.

The development of our countries will have to be supported by strategic partnerships that will ensure economic growth, social progress and the protection of the environment.

We live in an age in which, alongside with great opportunities, we are facing numerous challenges for which, individually, we cannot find answers.

In our opinion, it is imperative for the resilience of the Earth planet, in particular for the Small Island Developing States, that there is a full assumption of commitments, measures and urgent actions that allow us to reduce the effects and the adverse impacts of climate change, namely the rising of the sea levels, the acidification of the oceans, the frequency and magnitude of natural disasters, desertification, drought and land degradation.

For the Small Island Developing States, it is not only a question of resilience, but in some cases the territorial integrity and survival in others. Fundamentally, this is an issue that affects everyone and for which we must mobilize all our political will.

Another important challenge for the SIDS is the exploitation and preservation of seas and oceans. The survival, the economy and the development of our countries depend on the oceans, to which they are intimately linked. So we have to set, at the global level, appropriate policies for the preservation and exploitation of the seas and oceans.

For the Small Island Developing States, to fulfill the future Sustainable development Agenda requires, undoubtedly, the improvement of the means of implementation, including financing, transfer of technologies, capacity building and participation in international trade.

We hope, therefore, that the next Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, from 13 to 16 July 2015, could provide new guidance and commitments to ensure radical changes in financing the development of the Small Island States Developing States.



It should also be considered, the exponential reduction of the vulnerabilities of countries recently graduated from the list of LDCs, maxime of the Small Island Developing States and a matter of capital importance to avoid the reversal in the development process and to consolidate the gains achieved, which according to our experience, requires measures of appropriate funding, increasing of the transition period and a monitoring program, specific to each situation.

It is vital and imperative for the Small Island Developing States, the effective materialization of agreed commitments in previous meetings, of which emanated important action plans, namely the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy that cannot and should not be forgotten.

The solidarity and the strengthening of cooperation among the three regions of the Small Island Developing States, namely the Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS are key elements for the affirmation of this project.

It is important for Cabo Verde, that the strengthening of coordination and cooperation, especially in the African region of the Atlantic, in which it operates, could create a regional platform for policy coordination, like those existing in the other regions. On this basis, we think it is useful to request the support of our partners and especially the United Nations, to establish such a platform.

The Outcome Document of the present Conference, the SAMOA Pathway, guide us to the implementation of intelligent and tangible actions, which will allow us to achieve the objectives of sustainable development in our countries.

The shared values and principles of the Small Island Developing States, as well as the concerns and the strategy to overcome them, alone illustrate a renewed partnership. The development strategy we share, based on dialogue, affirmation and consolidation of good governance, respect for the democratic rule of law, promotion and defense of human rights, gender equality, environmental preservation, promotion of the private sector and the competitive insertion in the world economy, clearly demonstrate our commitment with a better future for our peoples and for all Mankind.

It is with particular joy, that I reiterate Cabo Verde's commitment to the objectives I have just mentioned, which, in our view, should also constitute general principles accepted by all the States gathered here.

I thank you.