



Missão Permanente da República de Cabo Verde
Junto das Nações Unidas

**Implementation of SDG14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans,
Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development
Preparatory Meeting, NY 14 - 15 February 2017**

**Considerations of J. L. Rocha, Ambassador and PR of Cabo Verde
on the Elements for the “Call for Action”**

Co-facilitators, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. At the thematic session, I highlighted the fact that the oceans environment, seas, coastal lines, the coral reefs and their magnificent diversity of marine flora and fauna are indeed invaluable resource for the whole planet and especially for the Small Island Developing States, the so-called sea locked countries, whose societies, culture and economies are intrinsically linked with oceans.
2. As we know, through carbon sequestration, the oceans also regulate the climate and temperature, making the planet friendly to diverse forms of life. Yet, human activities are threatening, in many ways, the healthiness and balance of oceans, seas and their marine ecosystems. Many of these threats, in particular those related to overexploitation and mismanaging and some climate change impact should be avertable.
3. We all refer to their interconnection and indivisibility, when it comes to implementing the SDGS, and so it will be the case with SDG14. Moreover, we had the opportunity to consider extensively the themes that should contribute to a global and integrated implementation of the specific targets with regard to SDG14. It also

means that national, regional or global policies and their programs can now, and more than ever, rely on clearly defined guidelines. What we need from now on, as a true Call for action, is to lay the groundwork for effective implementation of policies and programs that will realize the SDG14 targets.

4. A meaningful and comprehensive “Call for Action” should address, in a balanced manner, at least 3 major aspects:
 - a. **Focus areas:** with priority for ocean health and its monitoring, drivers of economic growth (fisheries...), potable water production from desalinization and climate change mitigation and adaptation, among others.
 - b. **Means of implementation**, i.e. access to finance, capacity building, data collections and processing and technology sharing specially for the most vulnerable countries like SIDS;
 - c. **Follow up and Review of the partnership developed during the Partnership Dialogues.**

My delegation stands ready to engage constructively in this discussion and look forward for the co-facilitators proposal.

5. I THANK YOU.