

Climate Change

At the outset, we would like to put on record our full support to the AOSIS position on climate change, as it has been articulated by the distinguished delegate of Tuvalu.

Cape Verde is within SIDS a very specific reality. It shares all the vulnerabilities of this group of countries and is severely affected by drought. Drought is an evident consequence of climate change. It is a permanent constraint to the preservation of our biodiversity, food security and water supply.

Management of climatic phenomena is of utmost importance for Cape Verde, a volcanic archipelago with a large coastal area, an active volcano and extremely vulnerable to climate change. Hence our focus on the effective implementation of international legal binding instruments such as UNFCCC, Agenda 21, JPOI, and the conventions on Biodiversity and Drought and Desertification.

For us, only an encompassing strategy that address both the natural and anthropogenic causes of climate changes and sea level rise, can effectively strengthen resilience against the effects of these phenomena.

Integrating adaptation approaches in national development plans, namely in our poverty reduction and growth programs is a key element of such a strategy. Poverty aggravates the effects of climate change, namely coastal erosion and deforestation. Alternatives have therefore to be found namely for very poor families for which extraction of sand in beaches for construction purpose, although illegal, constitutes an essential and, often, sole source of income, mainly in rural areas.

Other elements are protection of the most vulnerable areas and recovery of degraded areas and effective implementation of adaptation projects, including those approved within the African region framework.

In order to identify and to quantify correctly the impacts of the climatic changes and sea level rise and to define mitigation and recovery modalities that best suit our reality, the Capeverdean authorities deem it fundamental to invest in scientific research, taking advantage of the dynamics of the recent creation of the University of Cape Verde.

Another important measure is the creation of a national network for climate monitoring, which requires sufficient technical and financial capacity.

The production of energy and desalinization of water of the sea to produce drinking water are two important consumers of fossil fuels. The consumption tendency is clearly on the rise. Therefore, the country urgently needs to access clean technologies of energy and water production. We have potentials for developing renewable energy, namely solar and wind. Furthermore, there are

projects of expansion of three “wind” parks in the archipelago, but we are still to identify potential implementation partners.

Before concluding, we would like to support the proposal of convening a high level summit on climate change. Such a proposal is consistent with the urgent need to act if we are to avoid the potential and unimaginable impacts of climate change. It also integrates in the vision of the UN Secretary General in what relates to his priority areas of action.

I thank you.