

**SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER, Dr. Jose Maria Neves, ON
THE OCCASION OF the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Al-Nasser

Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon

Distinguished Heads of State and Government

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honor to participate in the United Nations General Assembly and to have the privilege to greet you all on behalf of the people and Government of Cape Verde.

I address you in the Cape Verdean language, Creole of Cape Verde. I believe this to be the first time Capeverdean Creole is used in United Nations General Assembly. I do it to share with you this authentic world Heritage, born on the threshold of the fifteenth century, considered by linguistic experts as the oldest Creole of euro African origin and the oldest within the atlantic context.

I use it also because language is culture, history and memory. Languages are expressions of thoughts, knowledge and practices. Languages are civilization. Therefore, speaking in Creole of Cape Verde, in the most important hall meeting of Heads of State and Government, is a reference to the identity of Creole as an anthropological value of all humanity and to highlight in it the Capeverdeanship, the soul, the way of being, the ethos and pathos of Cape Verde, which resulted from the crossing of various peoples of the world, in of itself, a synthesis of the meeting of worlds. By so doing I also pay vibrant tribute to Aristides Pereira, the first president of Cape Verde, and a great African fighter for freedom, and human dignity. He has recently passed.

The central theme of this general meeting - the role of mediation in the settlement of disputes by peaceful means - is a crucial and imperative theme for the world and reflects the identity, the way of being and lifestyle of Cape Verdeans. As subscribers of the principles and fundamentals of the United Nations, we believe in Peace and Human Rights as the key factors in the construction of sovereignty, democratic rule of law and sustainable development. Therefore, the mediators are required to position and approach matters with the universal matrix of Peace and Human Rights as its highest priority for and from all members of the United Nations.

In addition, we consider also crucial an approach focused on the prevention and control of non communicable diseases worldwide, specifically in the context of the challenges faced by developing countries.

A special word for the development of themes such as desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), scheduled for June 2012 , which we strongly support.

One of the most decisive actions of independent Capeverde, occurring soon after the year 1975, was the reforestation, along with the orographic correction, and the mobilization of water.

A Small Island developing State, at the crossroads of two large regions - the Sahel and Macaronesia, suffering the effects of the most stringent climatic randomness of one region and the oceanic isolation of the other, Cape Verde is concious of the importance of the green as well as blue economy, in favor of Sustainable Development.

We need the UN to work out our share in preventing climate change, food and water shortage. We count on UN and all countries of this great General Assembly, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to converge towards the green economy and sustainable development. Therefore, there is in Cape Verde an ongoing and ambitious program for the national coverage in renewable energy by 50% , by 2020.

Despite remarkable and positive changes, some internationally recognized, such as beeing graduated to middle income country and in the path of fully achieving almost the Millennium Development Goals, I still would like to seize this opportunity to better introduce my country to the sixty-sixth General Assembly.

Cape Verde, ten islands in the middle of the Atlantic, strategically positioned in the corridor and the cross-Atlantic flow, which makes it not only a strong partner for the global security and geostrategic interests in the world trade, but also an active and useful member of international community in the fight against trafficking and related crime. The vast oceanic region of Cape Verde is an important space for security in the promotion of regional peace and prosperity, and also in the affirmation of an international coalition to fight illicit transnational crime.

What country is this? Some wonder. Some understand it as the nation of Amilcar Cabral. Others see it as the country of Cesaria Evora. Cape Verde, is a land that was once an important entrepot and transshipment base of African slaves, both for Europe and Americas and it now has its oldest city - Ribeira Grande or the Cidade Velha - named by the UNESCO as a World Heritage.

A state that encourages other states to reset, by virtue of History, Memory and Human Rights, the International Route of Slaves, such as it does the Holocaust, one of the heights of human barbarism. A nation that defies the CPLP Lusophone partners, partners in Africa and the entire world, to reaffirm its symbolism against barbarism, dictatorship, colonialism, and disrespect for

human rights by promoting the candidacy of the Concentration Camp of Tarrafal on the island of Santiago, as the World Heritage of Humanity.

Those who know us, know that we are a country concerned with development. We do not settle for being middle income country, we need the partnership of the international community to fulfill our destiny.

In the transformational agenda of Cape Verde we have identified five pillars, in the Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction, through the promotion of effective governance, the strengthening of human development, the confrontation of structural and social challenges of competitiveness, and the investment in infrastructure for improving social cohesion.

Cape Verde is developing a foreign policy in favour of democracy, justice, peace, cooperation and sustainable development. We look at the planet as the home for all, respecting the sovereignty and will of the people, while emphasizing the global convergence in the core of humanity. Thus, we are concerned about hunger in the Horn of Africa. We are concerned that thousands of children die every day from hunger in Africa. I worry that this does not motivate a stronger international intervention, since the dictatorship of hunger is the worst of dictatorships. We urge the United Nations a more effective and assertive effort to reverse the picture of this human tragedy in East Africa.

Therefore, we must eradicate the geopolitics of hunger. We all need to take the paradigm of the Zero Hunger in the World!

We are also concerned about wars and tensions that thrive a little bit everywhere, but now more localized and in high intensity in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, to the delight of the dealers of misery, those who invest in the war industry and to the suffering of millions of human beings, especially children, women and elderly. We must reach a global consensus that security, peace and stability arises from economic and social development of States and Peoples. We must deconstruct war, conflict and tension between countries and peoples and ensure the commitment of the Sixty-sixth General Assembly for this noble goal. We must reiterate that mediation is essential to settle disputes whether in Africa or the rest of the world.

The global economic crisis is acute. In large countries, it gives signals of settling, and in poor countries it is amplified. If the crisis is global, it requires global responses against recessionary policies such as the protection of domestic markets and the war against unfairly priced imports. It also requires global positions that converge towards social inclusion as a way to reduce the impact of the economic crisis.

We reiterate our firm position of respect towards international laws, the principles of non-interference in internal affairs and sovereignty of peoples and nations. We do not endorse situations of different standards for similar cases, as if peoples and nations are not equal and deserving of the same treatment, as stated in the UN Letter.

Before ending, I must emphasize our position in favor of increasing the reform model of global governance by the UN, allowing, among many gains, small states to have a greater voice in the decision-making process of the international system. Cape Verde unequivocally supports the expansion of permanent members of UN Security Council, considering that the world is no longer as it was at the end of World War II, nor does it resemble the one at the End of the Cold War.

Thank you!!