



Republic of Cabo Verde

*Permanent Mission of Cabo Verde to the
United Nations*

**Statement by
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**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 70TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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MR. PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

First of all, allow me to ask the indulgence of this distinct audience to address my greetings, on behalf of all Cape-Verdeans, to the distinguished Delegates to this 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly of the United Nations, as well as add our voice to all statements made here, which call for the building of a Better World.

This session provides us with the opportunity, as we celebrate the anniversary of the UN with pride and joy, to engage in a critical and concrete reflection on the future of humanity and the challenges faced by the United Nations. Therefore, the theme chosen for this Session could not be more timely and pressing – “The United Nations at 70: the Road ahead for Peace, Security and Human Rights.”

Seven decades after the signing of the San Francisco Charter, it is incumbent on us to examine the progress made so that we can envision new actions for our Organization in order to grow in strength, unity, and capacity as to overcome the challenges to international peace and security, as well as, make more concrete contributions to a more just, equitable, sustainable, and solidary world. Cabo

Verde, which also celebrates the 40th Anniversary of its National Independence this year, is among the countries that believe in the fundamental principles and goals of such framework and defend the preservation of these pillars, which continue to be critical and current for United Nations actions and serve as crucial tools with which to build a common future.

We underline the crucial importance of proceeding with UN reforms for the road ahead and appeal for constructive negotiations among the various Member States towards the revitalization of the powers of the General Assembly and an understanding regarding an enlargement of the United Nations Security Council membership, which in our view should reflect the changes that have occurred in the world, with a more equitable and appropriate representation.

It was with great satisfaction that we participated at the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the post-2015 Development Agenda, which began this past September 25th. We take this opportunity to again declare Cabo Verde's adherence to the principles contained in the 2030 Agenda and our full agreement with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals. The poorest and most vulnerable nations legitimately aspire to development, and we must all commit to achieving the goals that are being established for 2030.

With regard to the Small Island Developing States specificities, which is the case of Cabo Verde, some essential elements will have to be considered, namely the threat to their survival as a result of climate changes; their particular vulnerability to natural disasters; the risks of losing their biodiversity; the reduced size of their markets; the high costs of transportation and energy; and their difficulties in accessing financing.

For all these reasons, they deserve special attention from the United Nations System in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a source of hope for billions of human beings who aspire a more just, equitable, and inclusive world. The will to place people at the center of development means that we must find appropriate instruments and a consistent practice in a sustainable environmental framework.

In light of the unequivocal correlation between sustainable development and climate change, Cabo Verde, as other small and vulnerable countries, hopes that the expressions of intents and declarations translate into tangible commitments that lead to the reduction of greenhouse-effect gas emissions but also provide a balanced treatment for the issues of adaptation and mitigation. Meanwhile, the New Agreement that is expected to be signed in Paris must not fail to properly frame the inevitable issues of "Losses and Damages," development and technology transfer, capacity development, as well as a clear and predictable definition of financial support for the most vulnerable nations.

We are firmly committed to accepting our responsibilities and making our contributions in this domain. In Cabo Verde, we have already established the goal of 100% renewable energy in our grid and are on our way to achieving it with international cooperation and United Nations monitoring. At this time, we have approximately 30% of penetration and believe that we will exceed 50% by 2020.

We cannot but express our consternation regarding the serious cases of Human Rights violations in different parts of the world. Unfortunately, after almost seventy years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, humanity is yet to fulfill the promises made and the hopes that led to the adoption of this foundational document.

Cabo Verde is proud to be a benchmark in terms of liberties, democracy, rule of law, promotion and protection of human rights and promotion of human dignity.

Peace and Security, together with political stability, are essential ingredients for the foundations of development and the well-being of our populations. Thus, we are increasingly concerned about the proliferation of existing conflicts and tensions in Africa and the Middle East, resulting in thousands of refugees who, driven by total desperation in search of better living conditions, find death instead and expose a problem that has deep economic, social, political, environmental, and humanitarian roots and ramifications. This global refugee problem and, I would say, this great challenge for humanity, require a firm engagement of all.

The scourge and stigma of war not only affect the well-being of the populations in their territories but also create instability, disrupting the development of entire regions equally. Cabo Verde joins those who claim for the rapid settlement of the conflicts based on a combination of efforts and respect for International Law and, in particular, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its Protocols.

The situation in the Middle East continues to deteriorate with no end in sight for the various conflicts that sweep the region, and the violations of human rights by the actors in the conflict in Syria, as well as the atrocities that are being perpetrated in the territories under the control of terrorist factions and religious fundamentalists are a major cause of concern. The United Nations must redouble its efforts to reach a negotiated solution for this and other conflicts that corrupt the sense of humanity in our planet.

Terrorism urges the International Community to increase its efforts in combating this phenomenon and extremism in all forms and expressions. We firmly condemn

all forms of terrorism and, in particular, the barbaric actions of extremist groups in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

As an archipelago nation, the sea plays a crucial role in the history, identity, and subsistence of the Cape-Verdean people, providing vital natural resources and serving as a connection among the ten islands that form the archipelago of Cabo Verde. As a Small Island Developing State, Cabo Verde relies on the partnership of the International Community to face maritime security challenges, namely those posed by trafficking and its related crimes, as well as the preservation and management of our seas.

I would also like to bring to this august Assembly's attention that, in September of 2014, in an exemplary action of regional cooperation, seven West African States, including Cabo Verde, submitted a joint request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles pursuant to Article 76 of the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea. Last August, we had the opportunity to make a technical presentation to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and expect a favorable response to the submission soon.

Cabo Verde also welcomes this General Assembly's decision to establish a Preparatory Committee for the development of a legally binding International Convention on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond the national jurisdiction of the States.

The world has great and renewed expectations for the role of the United Nations Organization in maintaining international peace and security but also in promoting development and creating a more prosperous and solidary international society,

reducing injustice and iniquity, combating poverty, promoting human rights and combating the effects of climate changes.

We do indeed believe that the United Nations is essential. A more sustainable world living in peace and security is possible!

Thank you very much for your attention.