



Republic of Cabo Verde

*Permanent Mission of Cabo Verde to the
United Nations*

**Statement by
H. E. Mr. José Maria Pereira Neves
Prime Minister of the Republic of Cabo Verde**

**on the Occasion
the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit**

New York, 25th September 2015

His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda and Summit Co-Chair,

His Excellency Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark and Summit Co-Chair,

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

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all the Heads of State and Government, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to all the delegations present at this Historic Summit, for the debate and consensus that have been reached so far and for the crucial importance of the document to be adopted for the future of humanity.

Indeed, we are deciding on how to transform our World by 2030, because we wish to live in a much better world that guarantees sustainable development, prosperity and opportunity to all.

The documents already adopted , namely the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway for Small Islands Developing States, the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries and the reflections in Africa that led to the adoption of the African Union 2063 Agenda, provide us with the true dimension of how far we have come, the consensus already reached and the enormous challenges we have ahead.

In 2000, at common home that is the United Nations, we made the commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Today, 15 years later, we can proudly say that it was worth the effort and that the world is a much better place, although not all goals have been achieved and not all have honoured their obligations.

We are once again being called upon to make new commitments, now oriented towards sustainable development by 2030. Responsibility for development with each one of our countries, but as Pope Francis said, we will have "to adopt the ethics of global citizenship and share responsibilities".

At the time of its independence in 1975, Cabo Verde was considered an unviable country, and the conditions with which it began its history as a sovereign nation were extraordinarily difficult. A small island developing state, comprising series of islands, without any traditional natural resources, and characterized by drought, desertification, scarcity of water, famines and emigration.

Now, 40 years later, thanks to the determination of Cape Verdean women and men in the islands and in the Diaspora, good governance and the hard work that has been carried out, we are a middle-income country which is on the right track to achieve all of the Millennium Development Goals and their related targets.

Today we are a reference in terms of freedom, democracy, rule of law, protection and promotion of human rights and human dignity.

We have come a long way, however we are aware of the great challenges we have to face, particularly the poverty, which still affects nearly a fourth of the population, and the high unemployment rate, especially among youth and women with little professional skills. We must also deal with

climate change and its effects, particularly in the small island states such as Cabo Verde.

In 2003, with the massive participation of local authorities, civil society, enterprises and non-governmental organizations, we shared a Development Agenda aimed at building a modern, competitive, prosperous, fair and inclusive nation with opportunities for all and at transforming Cabo Verde into an international service centre and a logistic platform in the West African coast.

In 2014, we carried out an assessment of the implementation of this Agenda, redefined ways and rhythms and we made the commitment to build a developed Cabo Verde by 2030. Our main ambition is to raise the current GDP per capita of 3,800 US dollars to at least 12,000 US dollars and to achieve a high human development index based on strong investments in education, health, social security, housing, territorial planning and management, infrastructures and water mobilization. In order to meet these objectives, we must fasten the pace of economic growth and build a green and blue economy that is dynamic, sustainable and innovative and that is able to create jobs and engender progress and social well-being – a fair and inclusive economy that can eradicate poverty, fight inequalities and create opportunities for all.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face huge constraints to their sustainable development, difficulties in accessing financing, high transportation, energy and infrastructure costs and social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

Small Island Developing States and lower-middle-income countries, along with African countries, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, therefore deserve special attention from the

international community, so that they can meet all of their commitments within the scope of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Therefore, Cabo Verde takes as its own the document "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." We will do our homework and work to build partnerships and bridges that allow us, in a win-win perspective, to be useful to humanity, to build a developed and prosperous country and to contribute towards making the world a better place.

Thank you very much.