

**STATEMENT BY
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OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE**

**AT
THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS
13 JANUARY 2005**

Mr. President,

At the outset I wish to greet Your Excellency and express my delegation's appreciation for the attention and warm hospitality given to us since our arrival on this beautiful island country.

Also, through you, Mr. President, allow me to convey the best wishes of the Government and People of the Sahelian Islands of Cape Verde to the Government and People of the sister island country of Mauritius.

Allow me also, Mr. President, in particular, to greet His Excellency Mr. Mari Alkatiri, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, and welcome his country to our family, the Alliance of Small Island States.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This International Meeting is taking place in the aftermath of one of the most tragic natural disasters human kind has witnessed. The losses of human lives and materials on the countries hit by the tsunami might never be accurately determined. Its socio-economic impact on those countries is, thus, unquestionable and it sets the countries back in their development process many many years.

The way in which the international community has come forward to assist these countries is commendable and crucial and it is important that this assistance be continued, in a coordinated manner, to allow a rapid rehabilitation of the areas hit and destroyed.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A sustainable development is what all countries are aiming at. While it is true that it is possible to reach that stage of development, the difficulties encountered in the process are not the same for all countries.

My Government strongly believes that the primary responsibility for development rests with the countries themselves. However, there is an international consensus that SIDS represents a special case in the development process. Thus, as such, they should be supported by the international community with resources which can be timely obtained.

Mr. President,

As pointed out in its National Report on the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, Cape Verde made important progress in implementing the actions and measures recommended and is determined to consolidate this process. Positive results have been achieved in the social domain, namely on the sectors of health and education, as well as in key sectors such as tourism and infrastructure and the integrated management of natural resources. These achievements, however, will not be sustainable if a further implementation does not take place, particularly in the sectors of trade, infrastructure and capacity building.

Once again, Mr. President, Excellencies, my Delegation wants to draw the attention of the International Community to the concept of "Island Paradox". The validity of this concept is becoming more and more evident as small island states are exposed to and hit by external shocks. The hurricanes which hit the small island states in the Caribbean region, the tsunami which hit the small islands in the Indian Ocean and the drought which have been affecting some small island developing states are illustrations of the validity of this concept.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this regard, allow me, to insist on the issue of graduation, since all potential candidates for graduation from the list of the least developed countries are small island developing states with special economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities.

The Government of Cape Verde welcomes the ECOSOC decision to establish a smooth transition period for graduating LDCs, as is the case of my country. And, in this context, looks forward to, very soon, start with the partners, an open dialog aimed at defining a smooth strategy that best suits the national reality and helping the country face the challenges of its development.

In this connection, the definition of more flexible modalities for budget financing and the financing of adequate programmes and mechanisms of monitoring of the whole process of phasing-out, should be highlighted. To that end, relevant specialized agencies, organizations and bodies of the UN system should be involved, as a means to guarantee the involvement and the accountability of the international community in the process of graduation.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cape Verde presents all common vulnerabilities of small island developing states. And, adding to these disadvantages are the negative effects of the prolonged drought and desertification to which the country has been exposed.

For these reasons, Cape Verde has, in addition to the actions taken at the national level, actively participated in international initiatives aimed at promoting the sustainable development of small island states. In this context, as part of the preparatory process of this International Meeting, Cape Verde hosted the Regional Meeting for the AIMS SIDS, in 2003, and a workshop on negotiation skills for all SIDS Regions, last November.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a renovated confidence in the future of SIDS and the conviction that this meeting will be an important landmark for the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Barbados Programme of Action that Cape Verde supports the Declaration to be adopted at the conclusion of the this International Meeting.

To that end, a strong political will is necessary along with the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders, including governments, private sector, civil society and development partners, aimed at establishing strong partnerships for the mobilization of resources and the implementation of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the decisions and recommendations adopted.

As a member of the Government of Cape Verde, I assure you of my personal commitment to act towards this goal. Thank you.