



(Check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E. Mr. José Luis Rocha,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cabo Verde  
to the United Nations  
on the Occasion of the Fifty-second Session of the Commission on Population and  
Development  
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**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

Thank You Mr. Chair, and All Protocol Observed

The present Session's focus on the Review and Evaluation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development is timely and appropriate to both the follow-up and the four-year review cycle in 2019 of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

25 years after the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action, the commitments affirmed in Cairo remain important to all countries in order to address the economic, social and environmental challenges driven from population dynamics.

We also welcome the Secretary General's Reports for this session and the recommendations therein, with particular attention to those related to the priority theme and to the flow of financial resources to assist in further implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

Mr. Chair

I will now turn to the situation of my own country, Cabo Verde. The government remains committed with the main goals of the Programme of Action and the Outcomes of the Review Conferences, throughout the implementation of the country's current National Plan for Sustainable Development and the alignment of the latter with majeure and landmark agendas, inter alia, the Agenda 2030, the Addis Agenda on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement.

Cabo Verde's population is youthful, with a median age of 28 years, but with some signals of its ageing, and that leads us to recognize the need for adequate policies and resources in order to ensure the demographic transition in a sustained manner.

There is a window of opportunity for the demographic dividend that will close by 2060 and that should be used. As a result, national authorities have prioritized bold policies to take advantage of the demographic bonus.

Having no time to go in detail, I would like to underscore sound achievements in a few areas, such as, human capital development, through education for all, access to health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, access to increased social protection and gender parity and equality. This was also possible thanks to the investments made in economic and social

infrastructures, the strengthening of public and private institutions and the good governance of public policies.

Obviously the challenges remain, despite the progress made so far, driven by the economic vulnerabilities of a small island developing state that we are, and due to other factors such as climate change, the impact of drought in life and the economy, persistence of poverty and regional and social inequalities. These challenges, combined with some pressure on population growth, require us to boost tangible and more inclusive solutions, supported by demographic and statistical data, in order to avoid setbacks in our development process.

The fifth General Population and Housing Census scheduled for June 2020 in Cabo Verde will be a major statistical operation, aiming to improve knowledge of population and housing characteristics. It will be also a privileged source for the SDGs indicators and will feed and support the dialogue between public and private decision-makers at central and local level, as well as between the Government and its development partners.

Moreover, if national leadership is critical in promoting investment and data in these sectors, so is the international cooperation to complement that effort. The Secretary General's report states precisely (I quote) *to promote sustainable development and seize the opportunities offered by demographic transitions critically depends on balanced investments and developments assistance.* (End of quote).

Mr. Chair.

To conclude, Cabo Verde views the ICPD agenda as a universal and a comprehensive framework for population issues and dynamics, without which it would not be possible to set humankind development in its right path. However, the implementation of the ICPD at national and local levels will be the best way to assure that path. So, let us joint our wills and means to make that becomes true.

I thank you for your kind attention.