



**Statement delivered by H.E.Mr. José Luis Rocha,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde
to the United Nations
on the occasion of the International Day of Education
High-level Interactive Dialogue
New York, 24th January 2020**

Mr. President,

As we celebrate the International Education Day, I would like to thank you for convening this important H-L Interactive Dialogue on the topic “Aligning Inclusive Quality Policies with Sustainable Development”.

The Constitution of Cabo Verde accommodates the section “Fundamental Rights and Duties”, which is a direct import of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 50 of the Constitution says: “**Everyone has the right to learn, educate and teach**, including the right to attend public education establishments, in addition to recognizing communities, civil society organizations and other private entities and citizens, the freedom to create schools, educational establishments and other forms of education in observance of the Law”.

As evidence of the enforcement of the right to education, in 2012, the African Development Bank recognized Cabo Verde's important performance in the field of education since independence in 1975. 20% of the budget is spent on education, literacy and schooling levels are among the highest in Africa and the country has exponentially multiplied pre-school establishments, primary schools, secondary schools, vocational training centers and, lastly, higher education establishments more recently.

Although it was basically a quantitative investment, the evaluation concluded that **Cabo Verde has the essential infrastructures to install a state-of-the-art indicative system** based on new technologies, with positive effects on teacher's qualification, on pedagogical development, on improving the teaching - learning process and democratizing access to quality education.

To achieve the objective of quality and inclusive education for all Cape Verdeans, as well as to reduce regional inequalities in this area, the Government launched a Strategic Education Plan, as an integral part of the country's sustainable development strategy (PEDS), both being aligned with the SDGs.

Through these plans, the Government intends, inter alia, to implement a formal pre-school education system, guarantee equitable access to compulsory and free schooling up to 8 years (with a perspective of extension up to 12 years), improve equitable access to secondary education with skills to continue the study or insertion in the active life and, finally, to develop the higher education that promotes entrepreneurship and citizenship focused on the sustainable development of the country.

The ongoing transformations in the educational system and professional training embody the Program for the development of human capital in Cabo Verde and includes the creation of institutional, regulatory, financial and cooperation conditions for its implementation.

Cabo Verde's graduation to MIC resulted in part from the country's achievements in its human development index. The continuity and consolidation of results in this area means more investments with domestic resources and with the support of international cooperation. However, instead of looking for phasing over solutions, many partners opted for phasing out their programs.