



REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE
Permanent Mission of Cape Verde to the United Nations

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STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. VICTOR MANUEL BARBOSA BORGES
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COOPERATION AND COMMUNITIES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE MIDTERM COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL REVIEW OF
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE DECADE 2001-2010

New York, September 18th 2006

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to express my satisfaction for the realization of this event aimed at reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs, adopted five years ago.

This event is justifiable only if we, LDCs and development partners, are capable of learning from our weaknesses; conceiving strategies and alternative directions while fully assuming our commitments and responsibilities.

As a rule, the results achieved are considered weak, unstable and unable to reverse the heavy dynamics of underdevelopment. The unequivocal progresses achieved do not overshadow the flaws and failures which constitute daunting challenges to both the LDCs and the international community.

Actually, the assessment leaves us apprehensive and skeptical.

If we continue with the same pace of implementation of the BPOA, we will for sure be disappointed in 2010 and in 2015.

Therefore, if we are really to achieve the goals and targets established in the Programme, a more consistent and persistent action is required from all of us, although the primary responsibility for development rests with the LDCS themselves.

Madam President,

Cape Verde entered the Group of the Least Developed Countries in 1977, two years after its independence. We have come a long way during these thirty years.

In relation to the sectors of health and education, Cape Verde has achieved the goals and targets established.

The series of reforms carried out in the financial sector and the fiscal and public administration systems have provided a renovated impetus for the foreign investment and development.

In this context, I would also point out the political reform which allowed the establishment of a democratic system, the appearance of a cultural and political environment of tolerance and acceptance of the rules of democracy. Four elections have taken place in Cape Verde, two of them leading to peaceful shifts of power.

Despite the progress made, we are aware that we still have a lot more to do, so that Cape Verde can fully achieve the goals and targets established in the BPOA and the MDGs.

The resolve of the different governments of Cape Verde, the commitment of the Capeverdean society to the ideals of development, as well as the support from the partners explain the substantial gains in our development process.

That is why I would like to seize this opportunity to once again, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cape Verde, to express our deep gratitude to all our development partners for their solidarity.

Madam President,

As we all know, the General Assembly, in December 2004, decided to graduate Cape Verde from the LDC status.

This fact, in our view, should deserve a special attention from the United Nations System and the international community as a whole, particularly because Cape Verde is a small island country, without natural resources and permanently exposed to droughts and external shocks. It should be taken into consideration that Cape Verde met two of the criterion required for graduation, the Human Asset Index and the per capita income. However, we are far from meeting the third criteria, that of economic vulnerability, essential to support development.

In accordance with the provisions of the GA Resolution 59/209, we established a “Smooth Transition Support Group” composed of a small number of bilateral and multilateral partners, with the aim of monitoring the transition process and helping with the clarification of the objectives, scope and contents of the so called smooth transition.

We are convinced that by January 2008, period when Cape Verde will exit the Group of the Least Developed Countries, we will have a common framework for dialogue and assistance for the transition period, in conformity with the spirit of the recent LDC Ministerial Declaration adopted in Cotonou.

Referring to the said declaration, specifically its paragraph 13, I wish to share with you a pessimistic confidence made to me by a friend of mine and former colleague from the North according to whom the international cooperation would hamper the positive dynamics of development. I dare believe that we will all make a development focused and non-burocratic management of graduation, thus proving my former colleague and friend wrong.

Madam President,

Cape Verde is in dare need of external financial resources. While we try to attract foreign direct investments, we should bear in mind that like migrant remittances they are not a substitute for official development assistance.

The challenge we have is that of finding a good equation for a greater synergy among the various modalities of financing.

In the specific case of Cape Verde, graduation requires investments in terms of volume, quality and opportunity, so as to create a speedy economic dynamics and to reduce vulnerabilities. This a *sine qua non* condition for the success of our graduation. It should be kept in mind though that the practices and tools will need to be adapted to the new situation.

From our side, we will continue to count on the cooperation and solidarity of our bilateral partners, financial institutions and the UN System.

Madam President,

Before concluding, allow me to acknowledge the commendable work that Benin as Coordinator of the LDC Group and the Office of the High-Representative have been doing to place the LDCs issues high in the international agenda.

Thank you for your attention.