

SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATION ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-6)

Nairobi, Kenya, February 29, 2024

Statement by the Minister of Agriculture and Environment (3 min, 16th position on the list)

Madam President, Dear Ministers and Delegates, Good morning

Cabo Verde fully endorses the Ministerial Declaration, decisions and resolutions proposed at UNEA - 6. This is one more opportunity to reaffirm our commitments to implementing the policies and actions to tackle the triple planetary crisis.

Like the other SIDS, we have very fragile ecosystems, which has exacerbated by territorial fragmentation and strong exposure to natural disasters and external shocks. Climate change and accelerated loss of biodiversity and increased pollution, especially from plastics, affect more severely the country.

In this regard, I am referring to more frequent and severe droughts, coastal erosion, saline intrusion, the risks of accelerated desertification, invasive species, the amount of plastic transported by marine currents, the loss of natural habitats, the destruction of corals and other marine ecosystems under threat from rising sea levels and ocean acidification.

We cannot afford not to engage in implementing policies to mitigate these phenomena and strengthen the country's resilience. Therefore,

- i. We are working on implementing a strong climate and energy transition agenda in line with global commitments. We are consolidating the governance framework, implementing the NDC and NAP, strengthening transparency and climate literacy and aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050;
- ii. We have approved a new plastics law and are actively participating in the negotiations for the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, which we all support;
- iii. We are updating the national strategy and action plans for biodiversity, taking on board the new global framework for biodiversity; our country is co-leader of the SIDS coalition for nature. I take this opportunity to invite countries to join this initiative.
- iv. We have adopted the circular water economy and the seawater desalination strategy for public supply and for agriculture combined with renewable energies, to strengthen resilience to droughts and climate aridity. Together with the FAO, we organize the international forums of the Water Scarcity in Agriculture, WASAG platform, looking for the best way to tackle this problem. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite countries to join this platform and its Call for Action;

Multilateralism is essential for accelerating the global agenda. We advocate making an increasingly efficient contribution to capacity building, sharing technologies and science-based solutions and mobilizing finance. This is the most effective way to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Thank you for your attention