

**Statement delivered by  
His Excellency Paulo Veiga  
Secretary of State for Maritime Economy of the Republic of Cabo Verde  
on the occasion of the  
41st Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)  
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Thank you Chairperson.

Honourable Ministers,

Esteemed delegations,

Allow me, on behalf of the Government of Cabo Verde, to greet all of you and thank FAO for inviting us to attend this 41st session.

Once again, I would like to thank the outgoing Director-General, Prof. José Graziano da Silva and his vast management team for the excellent work they did.

I'll take this opportunity to once again, congratulate Director-General elect, Mr. Qu Dongyu, for the term of office entrusted to you as the head of FAO. We are deeply convinced that he will be able to put his vast knowledge and experience at the forefront of this organization's noble mission. We wish him an excellent mandate of successfully leading FAO, addressing all the challenges arising from the 2030 Global Agenda, contributing to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and enabling all member countries to adapt to climate change and follow the path of sustainable development.

Mr Chair, dear colleagues, Cabo Verde is a small island developing state, or as prefer a large ocean state in the Sahel's prolongation who faces enormous challenges. These include reducing the poverty rate, youth and woman migration, guaranteeing food and nutritional security, as well as ensuring access to healthcare and securing the well-being of its population. In addition, Cabo Verde also strives to tackle the impacts of climate change, developing resilience mechanisms to extreme meteorological and climate events such as droughts, which are increasingly frequent and prolonged.

Despite considerable progress, particularly in education, infrastructure, sanitation, health, food and nutritional security, our archipelagic country still needs a strong international support to be able to further the goals of sustainable development as our country possesses scarce natural resources, even the most basic ones, such as water and soil.

Given the very specific limitations imposed by its small land size and insularity, Cabo Verde does not yet have the technical and financial capacity to meet the challenges it faces in its development. Thus, like other small island states, it counts with the special

focus of FAO and other cooperation partners to maintain and accelerate its positive course towards development of agriculture and fisheries.

In this regard, I would like to underline FAO's support in the field of blue economy. By bringing an innovative and integrated approach to issues related to coastal communities and the sea, its environment and resources in their various capacities and ensuring the interdisciplinary between the various sectors promoting a balanced social and economic development.

Allow me to conclude by expressing our full willingness and commitment to fruitful cooperation, which enables FAO to become more and more involved in strengthening the capacity of countries to help eradicate poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition, thus in the concert of Nations, allowing us to achieve the goals of sustainable development. Therefore, we hereby endorse the recommendations proposed in document C2019/2 regarding Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development.

Thank you, Chairperson.