

## Commission to Study the Organization of Peace

### HRC 24<sup>th</sup> Session – UPR Cape Verde

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to stand before you and address this very issue.

Cape Verde is a socially and politically stable country, with all political parties, whether in government or opposition, supporting the macroeconomic and reform policies recommended by the IMF and the World Bank.

Cape Verde received the second-highest ranking for governance performance in the 2012 Ibrahim Index of African Governance. While government authorization is needed to publish newspapers and other periodicals, freedom of the press is guaranteed in law and generally respected in practice. The independent press is small but vigorous, and there are several private and community-run radio stations. State-run media include radio and television stations. The government does not impede or monitor internet access.

According to the 2011 U.S. Department of State's International Religious Freedom Report, there were no societal or governmental incidents of religious intolerance, and the constitution requires the separation of church and state. However, the vast majority of Cape Verdeans belong to the Roman Catholic Church, which enjoys a somewhat privileged status. Academic freedom is respected.

Freedoms of assembly and association are legally guaranteed and observed in practice. Nongovernmental organizations operate freely. The constitution also protects the right to unionize, and workers may form and join unions without restriction. Approximately a quarter of the workforce is unionized, but collective bargaining is reportedly rare.

Cape Verde's judiciary is independent. However, the capacity and efficiency of the courts are limited, and lengthy pretrial detention remains a problem. In 2010, Cape Verde signed the Dakar Initiative to fight trafficking by strengthening judicial systems, improving security forces, and increasing international cooperation. In 2011, Interpol agreed to work on a permanent basis with Cape Verdean authorities. In June 2012, Cape Verde's attorney general declared that "money laundering" was on the rise along with an increase in drug trafficking.

Since 1990 the law on education was promulgated setting out to guarantee free access to the educational system and compulsory education; 90% of children in-country attended school. As to The rights of the child, Cape Verde has acceded to several international instruments including the CRC and its 1st and 2nd optional protocols; support units have also been set up for children subjected to abuse and child emergency centers and shelters were also in place in-country. Child mortality was on the decline in the country, as was acute malnutrition, the head of delegation noted.

One of the first initiatives of Cape Verde was its unreserved ratification of the CEDAW; the percentage of women in the workforce, public positions and in school enrolment has also increased steadily. The State instituted a law to specifically address gender-based violence aimed to address such cases and bring those responsible to justice and to raise awareness;

The United Nations raised Cape Verde out of the least developed countries category in 2008. Cape Verde's has taken efforts under successive governments to ensure the full implementation of public policies for the promotion of gender equality, including with the Cape Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity's Program of Action for the Promotion of Gender Equality (2011-2012). Cape Verde has done great for working collaboratively with several international and regional human rights organizations to ensure respect for and protection of human rights.

Thank You all.