



(Check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E.Mr. Fernando Wahnou Ferreira
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cabo Verde
to the United Nations**

**on the occasion of the General Assembly
Special Session on ICPD Beyond 2014**

New York, 22nd September 2014

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset let me congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election and express the satisfaction of the Government of the Republic of Cabo Verde to take the floor in this twenty-nine special session.

We take this opportunity to welcome the report of the Secretary-General contained in the document A/69/62, entitled “Framework of Actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014”.

The Government of Cabo Verde shares the conclusion of the report in which the increase of individual human rights, capabilities and dignity, across the multiple sectors of the ICPD, is the foundation of sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Cabo Verde has been putting the human being at the center of its endeavors to implement the Programme of Action namely in the fields of poverty reduction, access to sexual and reproductive health services, access to education, reduction of maternal and child mortality, family planning and protection of reproductive rights. Combating violence against women and women empowerment has been one of the highest priorities for the Government.

In its annual report just released, UNICEF indicates that Cabo Verde is about to achieve the MDG 4 on child and maternal mortality. I would also like to inform that Cabo Verde is on the track to accomplish most of the MDG's.

Mr. President,

The education of a young population and job creation continue to pose a great challenge to the Government of Cabo Verde. However, as a consequence of the sound policies in this field, the lower rate of fertility and the ageing of the population have created a new challenge on issues related to the phenomenon of immigration, which has already started to pressure our social and economic structures. The expertise and support of the UNFPA in this matter will be of the utmost importance to Cabo Verde.

Cabo Verde still fully committed to the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. We are aware and compromised with the outcome of our regional review and the findings and recommendations of the ICPD beyond 2014.

Let me conclude by stressing that, my country would like to count on the continuous and strong support of the UNFPA to implement the 15 recommendations contained in the report of its review for Cabo Verde.

Thank you for your attention.

