

26 February 2024

(24-1661)

Page: 1/1

**Ministerial Conference  
Thirteenth Session  
Abu Dhabi, 26-29 February 2024**

Original: French

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR ALEXANDRE DIAS MONTEIRO  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND ENERGY****CABO VERDE**

Cabo Verde is a small island State, with an economy highly dependent on tourism. Like all small island developing States (SIDS), it is highly vulnerable to climate change, as well as economic and health-related shocks. For that reason, Cabo Verde has made economic diversification one of its priorities to build resilience.

Cabo Verde recognizes the importance of trade and environmental sustainability, and remains committed to promoting a broader and conscious understanding of trade policies and practices. To this end, Cabo Verde is open to working with its WTO partners. We are pinning our hopes on a WTO that is responsive to global challenges that warrant the engagement of all. A WTO that remains true to its core mission of promoting trade liberalization. A WTO that serves as an effective vehicle to support the development aspirations of all Members, and a WTO that works productively to resolve disputes between Members.

We also want our citizens to benefit from a greater integration into regional and global chains through a diversified, sustainable and innovative industrial economy. Moreover, we support the joint initiative on e-commerce, and reaffirm our support for joint actions on investment facilitation for development, and on trade and gender. We recognize the WTO as the appropriate forum to address and regulate issues related to the dynamic and ever-evolving nature of international trade.

As the ocean makes up 99% of Cabo Verde's territory, marine resources play a crucial role in the country's socio-economic life. We recognize the strategic importance of the ocean economy for our country's economic diversification and sustainable development. Cabo Verde remains committed to prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, thus seeking to guarantee the preservation of our marine resources.

It is clear that protecting the marine ecosystem requires coordinated, global action. Cabo Verde maintains that the outcomes of the negotiations must be reflected in appropriate and effective mandates. Our country emphasizes the importance of special and differential treatment, including exemptions from stringent and onerous transparency and notification requirements. We are of the view that this approach is key to ensuring that developing countries like ours can participate fully in global initiatives to protect the oceans, without being burdened by disproportionate requirements.

Moreover, Cabo Verde is firmly committed to promoting international partnerships aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. We believe that only through collaborative efforts can we meet the environmental and economic challenges affecting our oceans. We will therefore continue to work in close collaboration with other countries and international organizations to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for generations to come.

---