



*Mission Permanente de la République de Cabo Verde*

**112th Session of the IOM Council**

**29/11 – 01/12/2021**

Statement by Her Excellency Ambassador of Cabo Verde, Mrs Clara Delgado Jesus

Madam President,

On behalf of the delegation of Cabo Verde I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 112<sup>th</sup> Council and wish you every success during your term of office.

My delegation also wishes to congratulate and thank Ambassador Garcia for his excellent work performed during his term as President of the Council, which was exercised in a context of extreme challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also would especially like to congratulate and thank the Director General for the excellent Report, which will deserve the full attention of this delegation, particularly with regard to the impact of the pandemic on the international migration trends.

The delegation of Cabo Verde fully aligns with the statement delivered by the African group.

Madam President,

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It is with great honour that I am here on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of Cabo Verde, who unfortunately could not be present, also as a result of the constraints caused by COVID-19 in the mobility of people.

We are facing a special moment, because while we mark IOM's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which I take this opportunity to congratulate, and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its insertion in the UN System, with all the gains that this milestone represents to the Organization, we now discuss the new challenges that it faces, as a consequence of the pandemic, which could reverse or jeopardize the important achievements made thus far.

The pandemic have caused huge economic losses, and, in a different way, increased unemployment in all societies, and could, therefore, be an instigator of a migratory phenomenon different from the usual trends. (At the same time,) the sanitary control measures adopted in all countries that restrict travelling left no room for migrants in search of work and better living conditions, and even family reunification, which constitutes a social drama, likely to foment illegal immigration and human trafficking by criminal groups.

We believe that this is the perfect time to restate the commitments we all made within the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and to assess the status of its national implementation in order to ensure that the stated objectives are being effectively met with regard to the promotion of a safe, orderly migration and respectful of migrants' human rights.

Madam President,

Cabo Verde is traditionally a country of emigration, but has in the last decades become as well a country that receives many immigrants. As so, we do consider both the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees important instruments to guide the country's policies on migration.

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The Government has been paying special attention to the outlined objectives and for this it has carried out, with the support of IOM, a review of the implementation of the GCM, involving all the key sectors dealing with migration. Although conditioned by health contingency, which forced the country into confinement for some period, considerable progress was made: the implementation of the II Action Plan for Immigration and Social Inclusion of Immigrants (2018-2021); the High Authority for Immigration was established in 2020; in 2021 the II National Migration Profile was developed and a Ministry of Communities set up; a Consular webpage was created under the initiative Digital Diaspora; An Amendment of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cabo Verde was signed, which significantly facilitate the mobility of cape verdeans in the territory of the EU; the National Parliament approved the declaration to ratify the Mobility Agreement between the Member States of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries.

In addition, other measures have been taken to provide regular immigration, through the dissemination of information about entry and stay in the country, access to health care and educational establishments, and the economic and social integration of the immigrants in the country.

During the emergency period, the Government was concerned with distributing food baskets to all needy migrant. It also create conditions to vaccinate all migrants of eligible age.

Madam President,

For a safe and regular migration it is important that all member States seek to embody the measures assumed by them under the commitments of the two compacts, respecting the human rights of the migrants.

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Finally, we encourage the Director General to continue the ongoing measures with a view to improving the functioning of the Organization in order to respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

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