



**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION 2023**

08 February 2023, 10-13pm

Agenda item 4 UNICEF programme cooperation,

**INTERVENTION OF AMBASSADOR JÚLIO MORAIS  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CABO VERDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Madam President, Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wanted to convey my congratulations to you Madam President on your election as the President of the UNICEF Executive Board and congratulations to the other members of your Bureau

It's a pleasure to be here with you to attend the 2023 UNICEF Executive Board First Regular Session.

The Common Country Programme development process was underpinned by a strong engagement, collaboration and participation between the government, key developments partners in Cabo Verde and the three agencies UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA.

This Common Country Programme is aligned to our national 2030 Ambition Strategy, to our Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development II (PEDS, 2022-26) as well as to UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA's Strategic Plans.

On the other hand, it is also framed by African Union Agenda 2063, the 2030 SDG Agenda and by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mme. Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

UNICEF always played an important role in efforts to support the country, particularly in the areas of strengthening human capital, by improving the conditions of access of the most vulnerable populations, especially women and children, to basic public services such as education and health.

UNICEF has been a steadfast strategic partner in matters related with Child Protection with a view to consolidate the Child Protection System in Cabo Verde., and with their support Cabo Verde carried out the major reform already done on sexual crime against children that culminated with the 4th revision of the Penal Code (law n. ° 117/IV/2021) and the 3rd revision of the Code of Penal Procedure (122/IX/2021).

UNICEF has also been a strategic partner in matters related with birth registration with a view to consolidate the Child protection system towards the universalization of birth registration. For instance, in 2022 the percentage of children registered under 5 years was of 97,5%.

Considering the challenges faced in the domain of Child Protection, we appreciate the continued support of UNICEF particularly in the strengthening of actions to prevent and combat sexual violence; in the implementation of the II National Action Plan to Prevent and Fight Sexual

Violence for the period of 2022-2024 and the Penal Code; in the strengthening of human and institutional capacities of the different stakeholders that work in the domain of Child Protection; as well as the capacities of families and communities for better parenting and care.

Mme. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The CCPD 2023-27 will continue to focus on children at risk of violence, abuse, and neglect by strengthening the child protection and justice systems at all levels as well.

The programme will consolidate UNICEF's work to improve justice for children and access to justice services through raising awareness, training justice and police and creating special child protection measures for children in contact with the justice system.

The Government of Cabo Verde values the presence of the three agencies in the Joint Office model and acknowledges each UN Agency's comparative advantage and capacity to implement this Common Country Programme.

In this CCPD, the three UN agencies are joining hands to deliver more efficiently in education, health, child protection and climate change, and give a strong focus on strengthening data, evidence, and knowledge generation and use. These are all areas where UNICEF's role to define transformational solutions with, by and for all girls and boys, is essential in support to the «leave no one behind» and the universalization of the children's rights.

The Government is committed to these objectives and to the transformative way of working together as partners, including with the private sector and bilateral and multilateral development partners, to leverage results for children can truly help us more effectively address current and emerging issues such as multi-dimensional poverty, youth and adolescents, mental health, the effects of climate change on children, etc.

The Government and other national multi-stakeholders were closely involved throughout the process of development and in key decisions.

Thus, the government endorses this CCP, is pleased with its content and remains committed to partner in this approach, recommending its approval.

We wish you every success with this session, and please know that you can count on the full cooperation of Cabo Verde.

I thank you.