



**Ministério  
da Educação**



**UNITED NATIONS  
TRANSFORMING  
EDUCATION  
SUMMIT 2022**

## **DECLARATION OF CAPE VERDE**

### **SUMMIT ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF EDUCATION SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, NEW YORK**

I want to start by thanking you for the invitation and the opportunity to speak at this Summit on the transformation of education, a unique occasion for Cape Verde to renew its commitment to invest in its greatest asset, its human resources and talent.

Education has been Cape Verde's development factor, and its greatest public good, and the greatest investment in the sustainable development of this small island state. Without education we cannot aspire for everyone to realize their potential in a country of consolidated democracy, safe, inclusive, equitable, without extreme poverty, and integrated in the region. This is our ambition!

A process of national consultations with different Stakeholders, including children and youth as well as the Local Education Partners Group, was initiated in May and concluded in August 2022, under the political leadership of the Minister of Education and technical leadership of the Studies, Planning and Cooperation Service of the Ministry of Education and with the support of a technical and organizing Committee composed of young university students, development partners (UNICEF), National UNESCO Commission following the guidelines received from the Summit Secretariat. In this process of consultation and reflection on education Cape Verde recognizes that:

1. Education and the excellent training of Cape Verdeans continue to be a national goal;
2. The pandemic of COVID-19 constituted an unprecedented risk to the education and well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable children who depend on school for education, health, safety and nutrition, estimating learning losses in at least two years of schooling;
3. The Program "Learn and Study at Home" designed and implemented in the context of the pandemic of COVID-19, allowed to continue the educational action remotely and extend audiovisual resources and strengthen the use of interactive tools for digital learning;
4. The focus on the vaccination of all teachers, adolescents and young people from 12 years of age allowed the resumption of classes in person with the full schedule, under safe conditions, helping to minimize the risk of school dropout and learning difficulties associated with psychosocial and cognitive factors, identified when the schools reopened.

Therefore, Cape Verde commits itself to:

- ✓ Develop the educational system integrated into the concept of knowledge economy, which guides young people to a proficient command of languages, sciences, technologies, with socio emotional skills and a knowledge of being in an increasingly digital world, for an active citizenship, promoting lifelong learning, the culture of research, experimentation, innovation and arts;
- ✓ Invest in digital transformation capable of connecting Cape Verde without borders, also with its highly qualified diaspora, to network and maximize knowledge, science and innovation;
- ✓ To strengthen the capacities of teachers to respond to the learning needs of students at the appropriate level, to take advantage of ICT, distance learning tools and as a mediating instrument in the transformative educational process;
- ✓ Increasing access to didactic and pedagogical resources, particularly digital ones, to give more space to learning through play and that appeals to multiple intelligences, important for a motivating learning, adapted to needs and interests;
- ✓ Strengthen inclusive education practices that cover both children, adolescents and young people with specific educational needs and those from different cultural background and that promote gender equality and are based on a multisectoral approach;
- ✓ Develop a national volunteer program focused on social education, for young people to intervene in both formal and non-formal contexts in different fields, especially in education for peace and sustainable development;
- ✓ Make the Internet an essential, public good, taking into account Cape Verde's joining the EllaLink international fiber optic submarine cable, the path already taken by the country in electronic governance and equipping all schools with computer equipment, connecting them to broadband Internet and making Resource Centers for digital learning and distance learning work in all municipalities;
- ✓ Reinforce actions for the development of digital competencies in the education system, with priority being given to a Digital Education for All Program that focuses on girls and women and includes primary, secondary and higher education, passing on ICT-intensive initiatives on a national scale;
- ✓ Transform Universities into spaces of innovation, experimentation and accelerated learning for the sustainable development of the country, particularly in ICT, Renewable Energies, the Sea Economy and Agriculture, capitalizing on the potential of the country's academic diaspora to create a truly Global University;
- ✓ Seek innovative forms of funding for Education, through National and International Alliances for digital, to stimulate demand in higher education in key areas for the sustainable development of the country and for the expansion and modernization of educational infrastructure;
- ✓ Devote 20% of the State Budget for Education over the next few years to the transformation of the sector, focusing on early childhood, the quality of learning, and digital transformation, relying not only on State resources but also on public-private partnerships, continuing to implement the medium- and long-term expenditure framework, taking advantage of the administrative and financial management reforms planned by the country, seeking efficiency and effectiveness gains.