Your Excellency, the President of General Conference.

Your Excellency, General Director of UNESCO Madam Audrey Azoulay.

Excellencies, Representatives Ministers of many Nation of the World.

Cabo Verde comes to the UNESCO 40th (Fourth) General Conference imbued with a spirit of optimism and convinced that we are doing our contribution for a sustainable development, for an education with quality, accessible to all, for a diverse cultural services, for the development of creative industries, for the respect of copyright and the recognition of the creator’s and artist works. We are also optimistic about the country's efforts in regarding to the environmental protection and the ecosystem despite the adverse conditions carried for the past, three years of poor agricultural year due to the lack of rainfall. Cabo Verde has made a strong commitment on qualifying its citizens. Our commitment to greater press freedom and more freedom of speech in our society is also visible, it has been transposed into laws, and government actions that seek to promote the quality of our institutions through the implementation of best practices. We came to the UNESCO 40th General Conference confident with the belief that UNESCO can be a partner and an organization even more profitable and central for the requirement accomplishment of a humanity better prepared for the challenges of the century.

Excellencies, in the sector of culture and creative industries, Cabo Verde has invested in the last 3 (three and a half years), a strong rehabilitation program of cultural heritage, we have an ongoing program of 8 (eight) million dollars financed 100% (one hundred per cent) by the Government, Cabo Verde ratified the Treaty of Marrakech, the Copyright Treaty and the Performances and Phonograms Treaty and it will soon ratify the Beijing Treaty. Therefore we also approved in 2017 (Two thousand and seventy) the Copyright and Related Rights Law, a new law about the Collective Management Entities, was also implemented a private copying law that allows a better management of financial entities and artistic associations. We have also been focused on artistic training, we have founded the Cesária Évora Academy of Arts and we have an innovative program for financing the students in need, which currently reaches more than three thousand children’s in 22 (twenty two)
country municipalities. This financial support program proves the power of art and the culture in transforming communities. In culture, we also have a structured programme to build cultural infrastructure in all the islands and communities. In Cabo Verde, cultural policies are implemented in a double sense: continuous training, union, transformation and empowerment of the communities, on the other hand, as an auxiliary service to tourism. The results are evident in the creation of new employments. No less important, is the work that is being carried out in the process of national crafts certification and in the creation of a job qualification system linked to the creative sectors through their introduction into the social security system.

We believe that culture and education are the most important instruments to promote peace and sustainability. It is worth the investment.

In the education sector, the Government's objective is to build a Quality Education where everyone has equal opportunities in building their future. The aim is for an education system that leaves no one behind and that is able to guarantee that no child, adolescent or young person leaves the education system due to financial difficulties and that has the capacity to effectively combat failure and school dropout. The focus of the country continues to be within the framework of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals: ensure quality education, gender equality, employment and decent work, innovation and the reduction of inequalities, aimed at achieving the Dream of a developed Cape Verde, inclusive, democratic, open to the world, modern, safe, with full employment and full freedom.

In this sense, the country has been undertaking a profound reform of the education system that includes pre-school education, basic, secondary and technical education, extracurricular education, higher education, scientific research, technological development and innovation, as well as, school social action.

Cabo Verde is also experiencing a good time for communication in the digital transition era. The country has invested more than one billion Cape Verdean escudos for the implementation of Digital Terrestrial Television and at this moment, 70% (seventy per cent) of the population is already covered by digital television signal. By 2020 (Two thousand and
twenty), the whole process will be completed, transforming Cabo Verde into one of the first countries in Africa with the transition completely completed. This step represents not only the improvement of quality and access to various types of content by the population, especially the most isolated, but also the promotion of plurality of information important to our democracy.

In terms of consolidating the freedom of the press, important steps are being taken to ensure the full independence of the media and to consolidate the conditions of journalism exercise to be free, impartial and exempt. We strengthen the role of the Regulatory Authority for the media, we strengthen the funding of public media companies, and we increase the annual values of the State's incentive to private media. Cape Verde is in position 25 (Twenty-five), among 180 (one hundred and eighty) countries, in the world ranking of press freedom.

We would like to emphasize that Cabo Verde approved on 31st (thirty first) October the project of Parity Law that responds to the 2030 (Two thousand and thirty) Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, which highlights the need to prioritize an integrated and crosscutting approach to gender policies to ensure that the specific needs of men and women are addressed in all spheres of governance. This important instrument will contribute to the consolidation of Cape Verdean democracy.

Excellences, Cabo Verde has made an interesting journey in the protection and conservation of its natural heritage, which due to our archipelagic and insular condition is fragile and extremely vulnerable to the effects of Climate Change. In 2003 (Two thousand and three) was established a national network of 46 (Forth six) protected areas covering 18% (Eighteen per cent) of the land territory and 5.6% (Five point six per cent) of the territorial sea. The perspective is to reach 30% (Thirty per cent) of the national protected territory. In addition, we have submitted two applications to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the islands of Fogo and Maio, which we await with optimism for their approvals. We are also committed to the international recognition of our geodiversity, through applications to the Geopark category of some of the geosites of world interest for their historical, scientific and cultural value.
In conclusion, I would like to say that, with joy that Cape Verdean people receive the news stating that the expert commission of UNESCO recommended the inscription of Cape Verdean musical genre, *Morna*, on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. I would like also, to reinforce here that, the achievement of this gain in December at Bogotá, will be an honour and a pleasure for all Cape Verdeans, it will represent the recognition of our journey and our historical legacy as a people and, as a nation.