Statement by the Delegation of Cabo Verde
to the UN General Assembly

First Committee

Nuclear Weapons Cluster

12 October 2017

(Check against delivery)
UN General Assembly - First Committee

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Statement delivered by Mr. Jose Luis Rocha
Permanent Representative of Cabo Verde to the United Nations
New York, 12 October 2017

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first convey my congratulations to you and other members of the Bureau on the assumption of your offices. I assure you of my delegation’s full cooperation and thank the Secretariat for its support.

Mr. Chairman,

The continued existence of nuclear weapons, their possible use or threat of use is a complex and challenging issue for humanity, fully justifying that the prohibition and elimination of such weapons should be kept high on the agenda of the international community.

In this context, Cabo Verde reiterates its commitment to the Treaty of PELINDABA, which re-affirms the status of Africa as a nuclear-weapon-free-zone.

The establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, namely the Treaties of TLATELOCO, RAROTONGA, BANGKOK, CENTRAL ASIA AND MONGOLIA’S NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE-STATUS, are positive and
important measures toward attaining the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Such advancement would deserve to be completed by the creation of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and of all other weapons of mass destruction.

Cabo Verde joined many others in signing the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the world’s first legally-binding treaty prohibiting the development, testing, manufacturing, purchasing or possessing of nuclear weapons.

The adoption of the Treaty last July followed by the ceremony of its signature in past September by a large number of United Nations member states marks, both, a high point of international cooperation and, by there, a significant step in the history of non-proliferation.

The existence of a treaty to prohibiting nuclear weapons of course, will not make them immediately disappear, but will reinforce the stigma against their use, support commitments to nuclear risk reduction and represents a disincentive for proliferation

Cabo Verde therefore call on all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the TPNW as soon as possible to facilitate its entry into force.

Mr. Chairman,

Cabo Verde remains strongly committed to non-proliferation. In addition to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), my country is also Party of the
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), a crucial step to advance nuclear disarmament and nuclear proliferation, whose entry into force, regrettably, is still pending. Finally yet importantly, Cabo Verde was part of the 125 countries that signed on October 2013, the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Cabo Verde promises to be constructive in its engagement with other Member States, to fulfil the moral imperative and the objective of a nuclear-weapon free world.

I THANK YOU.