Statement by H.E. Mr. Jorge Carlos De Almeida Fonseca, 
President of the Republic of Cabo Verde 
on the occasion of Nelson Mandela Peace Summit 
New York, 24th September 2018 

(Check against delivery)
Excellencies
Heads of State, Government, and Delegation
Madam President of the General Assembly
Mr. Secretary-General
Ladies and gentlemen

Greetings to Your Excellency, Madam President of the General Assembly, and all present here.
We welcome this august forum's initiative in adopting a resolution in 2017 to commemorate the
100 years of Nelson Mandela's birth by organizing this Summit for us to reflect on Peace in the
World.

The United Nations have recognized, formally since 2009, the humanist values that Nelson
Mandela embodied, the ideals of peace and fraternity that he embraced, and the causes for which
he fought and paid the high price of being deprived of his freedom for more than 27 years.

I also note Nelson Mandela's contributions in humanitarian crises, conflict resolution, the struggle
against racial discrimination, promoting and protecting human rights, the struggle against poverty,
as well as his role in fighting for democracy and promoting the culture of peace and reconciliation
in South Africa and throughout the world.

Peace, the stability that Peace allows, and the progress that Peace drives, are undoubtedly the
greatest of public assets for Humanity and the interaction among Nations. Nelson Mandela, as the
great symbol of Peace, naturally inspires us and guides us in our reflection and action, and reminds
States and Nations of their duty to do everything for the World to achieve global Peace.

Unfortunately, while still in the first quarter of the XXI Century, we regret to see the proliferation
of existing and the outbreak of new conflicts that bring more suffering and destruction of life.
Seventy years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, many areas of shadow still persist
and insist on blemishing the face of human dignity. Three years after the adoption of the
Sustainable Development Goals for our people and our planet, men and women face the risk of
being left behind if we do not find solutions to finance the achievement of the goals established
for 2030.
Excellencies

Fortunately, the picture is not all grim if we turn to examples that point to our way forward, where conflicts were ended or avoided, where human rights are promoted, and where poverty is on the decline.

These examples support the Secretary-General’s Vision, whom I take the opportunity to congratulate for establishing a mutual relationship of cause and effect between lasting peace and sustainable development. Let us look at examples where political dialog prevents the outbreak of conflicts and where development enhances the possibilities of peace. Finally, let us look at the examples in Nelson Mandela’s actions in political struggle, as well as in tolerance and advocacy for the ideals of justice.

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For Cabo Verde, in our struggle for emancipation from colonialism, Nelson Mandela’s example was more than a reference. It anchored us. The preservation of Peace after independence was our foremost achievement. Peace allowed us to progressively establish a Rule of Law based on democratic values, respect, and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. Stability helped us lay the foundation for sustainable development despite the difficulties commonly faced by Small Island Developing States with scarce resources.

We believe that the example of Cabo Verde, though small, is a powerful example that demonstrates our intrinsic strength. As we have enjoyed international solidarity, our modest contribution toward a World with more peace and development lies in providing our example and, with it, working in solidarity with others.

We honor the memory of Nelson Mandela.

May we have Peace and Development in the World.

Thank you.