



A BEACON FROM CABO VERDE

CARLOS ALBERTINO VEIGA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | No. 11 | MAY 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

We have concluded another month in which Cabo Verde asserted itself, through the Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga, with clarity on the international stage, not only through its presence, but through the quality of its ideas, the consistency of its actions, and the way it successfully connected different dimensions of its identity: the ocean, culture, sport, and its diaspora.

At the Global Sustainable Islands Summit, I had the opportunity to contribute to a debate that is gaining increasing global relevance. At this

event in the Canary Islands, we put forward a simple yet transformative idea: the need to move beyond the concept of Small Island Developing States and to assert a new reality, that of Large Ocean Nations. This is not merely a change in language, but a shift in position in the world. It is about moving away from defining ourselves by limitation and instead asserting ourselves through the scale of our ocean, the responsibility it entails, and the role we must play in global decision-making.

This vision resonated and was accompanied by a presence that sought to be comprehensive, institutional, political, and generational, with the involvement of young participants supported by the Our Shared Ocean program, a clear sign that the future of this agenda is being built with new voices and new responsibilities.

This was also a month of concrete action. In the United States, we supported the Cabo Verdean Football Federation's mission at a time of preparation for what will be one of the greatest milestones in our collective history. In New York and the Boston area, we worked with partners, engaged with our diaspora, and helped prepare not only for World Cup participation but also for a moment of national convergence, where the country projects itself to the world with ambition and confidence.

This movement coincides with another clear sign of Cabo Verde's positioning on the international stage: its designation as African Capital of Culture 2028. This recognition confirms what we have long known, that our cultural identity is one of our greatest strengths and an essential instrument for projection and development. It further reinforces our conviction to maintain, as a fundamental pillar of the Foundation, our strong connection to and support for Cabo Verdean culture and the arts.

April also brought a moment of reflection and deep sadness, with the passing of Mário Marta, whose voice and journey leave a lasting mark on Cabo Verdean music and on the way we share our culture with the world.

The unifying theme across these moments is clear: Cabo Verde's identity stems not from the size of its land, but from the breadth of its ambition. Whether it's in the ocean, in cultural pursuits, in sports, or among its diaspora, Cabo Verde is becoming a nation that aims not just to take part but to shape and lead.

This is the path we will continue to build, and I would like to count on you to be part of this journey.

Paulo Veiga

President of the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation

THE OCEAN AS A POLITICAL ARENA

CABO VERDE AT THE CENTRE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF THE OCEANS



The Global Sustainable Islands Summit is not just another international conference. It has become one of the leading global platforms bringing together political leaders, multilateral organisations, researchers, and strategic decision-makers focused on the future of island territories.

In a context where climate change, food security, energy, and geopolitics converge in the ocean, this forum, organised by Island Innovation, is establishing itself as a critical platform for redefining priorities, alliances, and development models.

More than a space for debate, the GSIS is becoming a turning point. For the first time, a collective awareness is emerging among island territories that their historical fragmentation, geographic and political, can give way to a new form of joint assertion. One based not on vulnerability, but on the real scale of their ocean domain, their

strategic positioning, and their central role in managing one of the most decisive resources of the 21st century.

It was within this context that Cabo Verde took part through the Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga, in a presence that reflected not only institutional representation, but also strategic vision. The participation of Paulo Veiga, as keynote speaker and active voice across key panels, ensured a strong and coherent national presence.

This was further reinforced by the involvement of three students supported by the Our Shared Ocean programme, who played an active role in the side event, highlighting the importance of engaging new generations in shaping the ocean agenda.

This combined presence, institutional, political, and generational, reinforced the Foundation's positioning as an active platform in shaping the Atlantic agenda and asserting Cabo Verde as a

relevant actor in the global ocean debate.

In the Ocean Governance panel, Paulo Veiga introduced a key shift: the need to invert the model. For too long, ocean policies have been built from the top down, often technically sound, but distant from people.

The proposal is clear and transformative: to move towards a bottom-up model, where communities, fishermen, and local actors become active participants in building solutions, rather than passive recipients.

Because ultimately, it is the people who live the ocean every day, and they are the ones who ensure its sustainability. ■





FROM SIDS TO LARGE OCEAN NATIONS

THE VISION OF THE FOUNDATION'S PRESIDENT, PAULO VEIGA, FOR A NEW LANGUAGE OF OCEAN NATIONS

Some ideas are not merely expressed, they reshape the way the world thinks. That is precisely what happened at this year's Global Sustainable Islands Summit side event, when our President, Paulo Veiga, took the stage as keynote speaker to present a proposal that is both conceptual and deeply political.

The idea is to move beyond the concept of SIDS (Small Island Developing States) and assert a new, fairer and more ambitious designation: Large Ocean Nations.

The premise is simple, yet transformative. For decades, countries like Cabo Verde have been defined by their landmass, fragments of territory scattered across the ocean, measured in square kilometres of land. Yet this perspective overlooks what truly defines us: our maritime dimension, our Exclusive Economic Zone, our strategic position in the Atlantic, the richness of our marine biodiversity,

and the energy potential of our natural resources.

When that equation changes, everything changes. Cabo Verde is no longer seen as a small island state, but rather as what it truly is: a large ocean nation.

“We are not small. We are immensely oceanic, and it is time for the world to recognise that, and for us to assert it ourselves.”

This is not merely a semantic shift. The way countries define themselves on the international stage determines how they are treated. It influences access to funding, weight in negotiations, the ability to shape global agendas, and the position held within decision-making structures. A “small developing state” is positioned as a recipient. A “large ocean nation” is positioned as a partner. The difference is not symbolic, it is structural.

In his intervention, supported by data and strategic vision, Paulo Veiga structured this new paradigm around three key pillars: the true scale of archipelagic states when measured by their ocean domain, the responsibility that comes with managing a global resource, and the need for international representation proportional to that responsibility.

The reaction was clear. The concept of Large Ocean Nations resonated strongly with delegations from other island states, representatives of multilateral organisations, and experts working at the intersection of sovereignty, identity, and the ocean. More than a well-received idea, there was a shared sense that a new narrative is beginning to take shape.

This year's Global Sustainable Islands Summit did not end with conclusions alone, it left behind a new language in circulation. And that language, increasingly, has its origins in Cabo Verde. ■



ON THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP, CABO VERDE ON A MISSION TO US

FEDERATION, FOUNDATION AND DIASPORA BUILDING A HISTORIC MOMENT



With just two months to go before the start of our collective dream, Cabo Verde's first-ever participation in the FIFA World Cup, the country was present in the United States on a mission that went far beyond sport.

Led by the Vice President of the Cabo Verdean Football Federation, Teresa Brito, and supported by the Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga, represented by Bruno Filipe Costa, this mission aimed to strengthen connections, align priorities, and position this historic milestone as a national project, both at home and across the diaspora.

In New York, at Capelli's headquarters, the official jersey for the World Cup was unveiled. More than a piece of equipment, it symbolised a collective journey and the affirmation of a national ambition.

In the Boston area, the mission gained another dimension. There, within one of the most vibrant Cabo Verdean communities abroad, meetings with institutions, community leaders, and citizens reinforced a clear message: the diaspora is an active part of this journey.

Boston was also identified as the location for the national team's pre-World Cup training camp, a decision that combines logistical preparation with strong symbolic value: preparing for the World Cup alongside one of the largest Cabo Verdean communities in the world.

This mission made one thing clear, the World Cup will not be just a competition. It will be a moment of national convergence.

We are on our way, and we will arrive together. ■

NOTE OF CONDOLENCE



It is with deep sadness that the Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga expresses its condolences on the passing of Mário Marta, at the age of 53.

Mário Marta stood out as an artist of great sensitivity, deeply connected to the roots of Cabo Verdean music, particularly in the interpretation of morna and coladeira. Throughout his career, he built a respected presence both in Cabo Verde and across the diaspora.

His participation in this year's Festival da Canção in Portugal reflected a journey marked by dedication and a strong sense of belonging.

His passing represents a significant loss to Cabo Verdean culture. Beyond his voice, he will be remembered for his integrity, his presence, and his commitment to the music that defines us as a people.

To his family, friends, and all those who shared his path, we extend our deepest condolences. ■

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



CABO VERDE *AFRICAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2028*

The designation of Cabo Verde as African Capital of Culture 2028 is more than recognition, it is a statement.

A statement of a country that has built a unique cultural identity over decades, shaped by encounters, crossings, and a rare ability to transform diversity into unity. From music to literature, language to contemporary creation, Cabo Verde has quietly become one of the most consistent cultural voices in the Atlantic space.

This distinction places the country at the centre of a new cycle, one where culture becomes not only expression, but strategy: a tool for international projection, identity affirmation, and economic development.

Being African Capital of Culture is not just about holding a title. It is about assuming responsibility, representing a diverse and dynamic continent, building bridges between Africa and the world.

2028 will be a milestone, but the journey begins now. ■

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2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation's mission is to promote the social and economic development of Cabo Verde, based on the values of solidarity and entrepreneurship, contributing to a fairer future for all Cape Verdeans.

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