



A BEACON FROM CABO VERDE

CARLOS ALBERTINO VEIGA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | No. 7 | JANUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

We reach the end of 2025 with the serenity of those who have walked a path and with the firm hope of those who believe in the future. It has been an intense, demanding, and deeply significant year for Cabo Verde and for the Carlos Alberto Veiga Foundation.

Throughout this year, the Foundation has established itself as an active presence, both nationally and internationally, always guided by the same conviction: Cabo Verde must think about its future with ambition, but firmly grounded in its values. We were present where it mattered to be, giving voice to the country, learning from the world, and building bridges.

At the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) in Nice, we presented Cabo Verde's vision as a responsible and committed ocean

nation. During the Ocean Week at Expo Osaka in Japan, we participated on one of the world's largest global stages of innovation and future-thinking, demonstrating that even small countries can have big and relevant ideas. And finally, in the United Arab Emirates, we accompanied the National Team in an international tournament, because we believe that sport is also diplomacy, identity, and national pride.

Still within this context of external affirmation and strategic cooperation, we highlight the presence of Paulo Veiga, President of the Carlos Alberto Veiga Foundation, at the Macaronesia Mobility Conference. This was a participation of high symbolic and strategic value, reflecting Cabo Verde's commitment to being at the centre of regional solutions for the future of mobility. His intervention strengthened the dimension of inter-archipelagic cooperation and projected the vision of a more integrated, inclusive, and innovative Macaronesia. By representing the Foundation, he carried with him an experience of leadership and a clear commitment to sustainable development, helping to guide the debate towards policies that promote social cohesion, economic growth, and greater connectivity between peoples and territories.

At home, we raised our ambition. Ocean Summit 2025 was the most demanding and structured edition ever, integrated into Cabo Verde's Ocean Week, affirming the country as a space for reflection, science, innovation, and ocean citizenship. It was more than an event; it was proof that Cabo Verde can lead by example when it combines knowledge, commitment, and long-term vision.

None of this would have been possible without people. The Foundation's team, national and international partners, volunteers, friends in Cabo Verde and in the diaspora. People who believe that it is worth building, even when the path is difficult, and who know that true progress is born from persistence, cooperation, and trust. To all of them, I extend my most sincere thanks, with deep gratitude and recognition.

In this month of Christmas, I reaffirm the importance of this time of togetherness, sharing, and humanity. A time that invited us to slow down, to care for one another, and to value what is essential. It is in this spirit that we close the year, strengthening the bonds that unite us as a community and renewing our confidence in our collective future.

The year 2026 approaches with new challenges, in an increasingly demanding and unpredictable world. It also approaches with new opportunities. The Foundation looks to the new year with realism, but with profound optimism. We believe in Cabo Verde, in the talent of its youth, in the strength of its diaspora, in the centrality of the ocean, and in the transformative power of knowledge.

I therefore wish everyone an Excellent New Year, with renewed confidence, concrete opportunities, and the necessary courage to transform challenges into paths of progress. We enter 2026 with serene ambition, more structured projects, and the firm conviction that the future is built every day, through serious work, a sense of mission, and closeness to people.

Paulo Veiga

President of the Carlos Alberto Veiga Foundation

CARLOS ALBERTINO VEIGA FOUNDATION PRESENT AT THE **CONFERENCE “OCEAN GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS”**



In December, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation was represented at the conference “Ocean Governance and Human Rights – Challenges and Opportunities”, held at the Temple of Poetry in Oeiras, as part of International Human Rights Day. This meeting brought together public decision-makers, experts, academics, and representatives of civil society to reflect on the inseparable relationship between ocean protection and the promotion of human rights.

The conference addressed central themes of the contemporary international agenda, such as sustainable ocean governance, the blue economy, maritime security, migration, the protection of coastal communities, and equitable access to marine resources. These are issues that are not only environmental or economic, but profoundly human, social, and ethical.

For the Carlos Albertino Veiga

Foundation, being present at this type of initiative is an integral part of its mission. Participating in spaces of international dialogue and reflection makes it possible to follow best practices, contribute to the global debate, and reinforce the vision of Cabo Verde as an ocean nation, aware that the future of the sea is directly linked to the future of people.

In a global context marked by climatic, geopolitical, and social challenges, ocean governance requires integrated approaches, based on knowledge, international cooperation, and respect for human rights. It is at this intersection of science, public policy, and citizenship that the Foundation has positioned itself, promoting a humanistic vision of the ocean as a common heritage and a source of sustainable development.



The Foundation’s presence at this conference reinforces its commitment to knowledge diplomacy, to building bridges between countries and institutions, and to defending a development model that places people at the centre. We believe that only through active participation in these forums will it be possible to anticipate challenges, influence agendas, and ensure that countries like Cabo Verde have a voice in the decisions that shape the future of the oceans. Participation is also an affirmation of responsibility. Because the ocean is not just a resource, it is a right, a legacy, and a collective opportunity. And it is with this conviction that the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation will continue to be present wherever the blue future is being thought, debated, and built. ■



MACARONESIA MOBILITY CONFERENCE

CONNECTIVITY, COOPERATION, AND A COMMON VOICE



On 4 and 5 December 2025, the Elder Museum of Science and Technology, in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, hosted the Macaronesia Mobility Conference, a meeting that brought together representatives from the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, and Cabo Verde, as well as public and private entities linked to the transport and mobility sectors. Throughout the sessions, it became clear that connectivity is the central pillar of Macaronesia's future. In a territory marked by insularity and geographical dispersion, ensuring regular, accessible, and efficient connections by land, sea, and air is an essential condition for

promoting social cohesion, stimulating economic growth, and strengthening the region's Atlantic and European integration. The debates were structured around three fundamental axes. In land transport and intermodality, the need to invest in sustainable solutions and effective coordination between different modes of transport was highlighted. In maritime transport and ports, the strategic role of these infrastructures as central hubs for trade, tourism, and island supply was underlined. In air transport and airports, there was consensus on the urgency of ensuring stable and competitive air connections capable of

bringing communities closer together and projecting Macaronesia onto the international stage.

One of the most emphasised points throughout the Conference was the need for the region to speak with a single voice. Only through a joint and coordinated position among the four archipelagos will it be possible to attract investment, influence European policies, and transform insular geography into a true strategic opportunity. This unity strengthens Macaronesia as a space of cooperation, innovation, and inclusion, prepared to face mobility challenges with shared and sustainable solutions.

The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation was present at this meeting, reinforcing its role as an agent of connection, dialogue, and future vision. Following the Conference, the Foundation assumed the commitment to bring together entities and associations from the region, promoting the creation of a common platform that amplifies the voice of local and regional actors. This step represents a clear investment in structured cooperation and in building a collective identity that values both diversity and the strength of Macaronesia. The Macaronesia Mobility Conference delivered an unequivocal message, the future of the region will depend on the ability to build bridges, physical, institutional, and political, and to affirm Macaronesia as a united, resilient, and truly connected territory. ■

MINDELO HOSTED A STAGE OF THE WORLD BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOUR



The month of December will be remembered as a historic moment for Cape Verdean sport, following the hosting, for the first time, of a stage of the World Beach Volleyball Tour (Volleyball World Beach Tour) in the city of Mindelo. The competition took place on Laginha Beach, bringing together athletes from several countries and placing Cabo Verde on the international circuit of the sport. Hosting a stage of the world tour represents a clear gain in credibility and affirmation for Cabo Verde on the global sporting stage. The event held in Mindelo was part of the “Futures” category, one of the tiers of the world circuit, and the Foundation hopes that it may expand to other islands and higher levels of competition in the near future.

The event involved the Cape Verdean Volleyball Federation, the International Volleyball Federation, and a broad organising team, led by Amílcar Graça (Micau d’Laginha), to whom the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations. For the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, hosting this stage of the World Beach Volleyball Tour in Mindelo is a clear sign that Cabo Verde is prepared to welcome highly demanding international events, strengthening the link between sport, youth, tourism, and external projection. More than a competition, this was a firm step in affirming Cabo Verde as an Atlantic country, open to the world and confident in its future. ■

NATIONAL PRIDE



JOSÉ FILOMENO MONTEIRO

A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND DIGNITY

“Life does not end when the body departs, but when the legacy is lost.”
African proverb

The month of December brought to Cabo Verde a deeply felt and widespread loss. The passing of José Filomeno Monteiro marks the disappearance of a figure whose life was shaped by dedication, discretion, and a profound sense of service to the country. Throughout his journey, José Filomeno Monteiro distinguished himself by the serious, responsible, and calm manner in which he assumed every role. At a time when noise so often overshadows what truly matters, he was an example of integrity, institutional respect, and commitment to the common good. He served Cabo Verde with dignity, believing that silent and consistent work is what truly builds. More than the positions he held, his human legacy endures. The memory remains of someone who believed in institutions, dialogue, and the patient construction of the country. His example reminds us that true recognition is not measured by immediate applause, but by the lasting mark left on collective life. For the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, paying tribute to José Filomeno Monteiro is to recognise a generation that helped to structure Cabo Verde with responsibility, a sense of mission, and a vision for the future. It is also a call to new generations to understand that progress is built on values, character, and commitment to the collective. In this Christmas month, a time of reflection and remembrance, we honour a man who has departed, but whose legacy remains alive in the country’s recent history. To his family, friends, and all those who shared paths with him, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation expresses its deepest solidarity. José Filomeno Monteiro leaves us, but he is not lost. His example remains as a reference and a source of national pride. ■

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**2021
2030** United Nations Decade
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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