



Terms of Reference:

Analyze Cape Verde's Economic Transformation over the last decades

In April 2003, the Government of Cape Verde held a Forum on Cape Verde's Transformation Strategy. Eleven (11) years after implementation of this Strategy, the Government found it necessary to hold a second Forum, with the entire Cape Verdean society, to review the progress made and, from there, identify the strategy and actions to accelerate the transformation process.

The first Forum enabled a broad national consensus on the need for rapid changes and a common national vision for the future adopting a strategy for national transformation.

The consensus on the path to follow drew attention to the need to accelerate the pace of national transformation, be it in terms of the economy, society, human development, and improving quality of life for all Cape Verdeans. The adopted strategy recognized the paramount importance of strengthening democratic culture in Cape Verde, ensuring good governance, maintaining social peace and security, training human resources, as well as developing infrastructure in the country and creating the business environment necessary for economic transformation.

The adopted transformation strategy highlighted the need to address the short and medium-term economic challenges, such as unemployment and high dependence on ODA, by developing high value added tourism and light industries (textiles and clothing) and exploring the opportunities in Europe (Cotonou agreement) and in the U.S. (AGOA). In the long term, the transformation effort must be anchored on taking advantage of Cape Verde's geostrategic situation, namely its sea and air spaces, investing heavily in creating competitive advantage factors.

Implementing the transformation vision and strategy required addressing a number of critical challenges, such as: consolidating the institutions, implementing a mechanism for monitoring the strategy's implementation, developing the domestic private sector, consolidating the market economy, creating a network of partners and strategic partnerships, formulating public policies and a legal framework supportive of a climate for change and foreign direct investment, training human resources, building infrastructure, marketing Cape Verde, and communicating the vision.

This plenary session will be strategic in nature and will aim at assessing the implementation of the transformation strategy since its formulation, by analyzing the reform and public policy efforts over the last decade, with a view to identifying key opportunities and challenges, finding out what worked and what areas need changes that are indispensable to accelerating the transformation. This assessment will be made according to the view of: civil society, the private sector and the Government. Specifically, the session will analyze and give political answers to the following questions:

1. Assessment of the Transformation Strategy: view of various sectors?
2. Assessment of what has been done and its impacts?
3. What's left to do?
4. What must be done?
5. What are the challenges?