



Termos de Referencia

Workshop 2.2: Maritime Economy

The transformation agenda is a comprehensive long-term strategy for the development of Cape Verde's economy premised on capitalizing on the few natural or comparative advantages of Cape Verde – ample ocean, geostrategic location, and a tropical climate. The agenda envisions transforming the Cape Verdean economy into a modern, high income and services economy based on new growth “clusters”. No cluster better illustrates this dynamic or is better positioned to take advantage of the strategic location of Cape Verde than the maritime economy cluster. The maritime economy cluster activities include: (i) Ship registry, (ii) container transshipment, (iii) transshipment of fisheries, (iv) fisheries (shipyard support services, fisheries processing, marketing and exports), (V) bunkering and (VI) oceanographic research.

Progress is being made and the maritime economic cluster is gaining in importance as share of economic activities. Fisheries now represent the most important merchandise exports for Cape Verde. Bunkering has grown over the last decade. The ports of Cape Verde have also experienced substantial growth in traffic. Between 1998 and 2011, annual average growth was 17 percent for the movement of containers and 9 percent for the volumes processed. However, in terms of productivity, Cape Verde is behind potential competitors in Sub Saharan Africa. The retention time of a container is 15 days in Cape Verde as opposed 7 days in Dakar.

On the institutional front, the government has created the Nucleo Operacional do Mar to provide the leadership for cluster development, facilitate reforms and to promote dialogue among stakeholders. The country has now embarked on reforms and upgrading of the regulatory framework to international standards. However, a lot remains to be done to articulate a vision and strategy for the cluster, engage the private sector, and ensure productivity is on the rise while reducing the institutional duplication and weakness in the cluster. The fact is that the maritime economy cluster is constrained by key limitations with respect to capacity and national capability.

The workshop session will examine the maritime economy cluster with a focus on the prospects for the future. Crucially, the workshop will take stock and also propose ideas for the way forward. Specifically, the workshop will focus on the following questions:

- What is the status, what are the challenges and opportunities?
- What are the priorities for developing the cluster?
- How to best organize the cluster to strengthen the coordination among the different actors?
- What institutional reforms to improve the management and competitiveness of the ports?
- What reforms to improve Cape Verde's competitiveness as a regional services center for fisheries, bunkering and cruise lines?