

Distinguished participants,

Dear Friends,

I really appreciate and thank the kind words of Arlen Woffinden addressed to me and I present my compliments to all participants.

It is a great honor to be here in this prestigious University and participate in this Symposium on religious freedom, democracy and civil society with the opportunity to listen to very interesting communications, share experiences and discuss with people from different countries, matters that are common to us all .

Allow me, therefore, to begin by thanking the organizers of this important Symposium for the warm and fraternal welcoming that was reserved to me and Jaqueline, as well as for the excellent conditions given to all participants to ensure the success of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on International Law and Religion, held in this inspiring city of Provo, surrounded by magnificent mountains which remind me of my country Cape Verde, and reduce homesickness.

Since I've arrived here, and I identify myself as being from Cape Verde, many of my colleagues in this symposium immediately question me about the geographical location of Cape Verde, its population and system of government. Therefore, I thought that it would be interesting to present some facts on Cape Verde, on PowerPoint, prepared by Jaqueline and I yesterday night so as to share important information with all the participants.

In my speech I will to share with you the experience of Cape Verde on religious freedom and democracy in my country, with a special focus on our constitution.

As you've already noticed, English is not my native language and, therefore, with your permission, I will make my presentation in Portuguese.