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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
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**SUMMARY PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15 (C) OF  
THE ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1**

**Cape Verde\***

The present report is a summary of two stakeholder submissions<sup>1</sup> to the Universal Periodic Review. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. Lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to the absence of submissions by stakeholders regarding these particular issues. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The periodicity of the review for the first cycle being four years, the information reflected in this report mainly relates to events that occurred after 1 January 2004.

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

## **I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK**

N/A.

## **II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND**

### **A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

N/A.

### **B. Implementation of international human rights obligations**

#### **1. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

1. The Global Initiative to end all corporal punishment of Children (GIEACPC) noted that the Constitution protects children from “abusive exercise of the authority in the family” (art. 87), but there is no prohibition of all corporal punishment. It added that corporal punishment is prohibited in the penal system and that ministerial guidelines forbid the use of corporal punishment in schools, but there is no explicit prohibition in law. It also mentioned that corporal punishment is reportedly unlawful in alternative care settings, but it has no details of applicable legislation.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde (Network of Women Economists of Cape Verde) (REDEMEC) stated that the situation of insecurity in Cape Verde was under better control, although some murders had been observed. It pointed out that the use of the armed forces to maintain public order had decreased considerably, although they were still called in some cases. It added that the police was working in a better organized manner and that the situation was calmer in Praia and other regions. Although there was still some violence by organized gangs of youths, they were much less active.<sup>3</sup>

3. REDEMEC stated that acts of violence were still being committed between rival youth gangs, but fortunately without dramatic consequences in terms of loss of human life.<sup>4</sup>

#### **2. Administration of justice and the rule of law**

4. REDEMEC pointed out that the administration of justice was still very slow in Cape Verde and that the prisons were full owing to delays in the justice system; persons in pretrial detention were held for long periods without being tried. It noted that the sluggishness of the judicial system was also one of the causes of social conflict and that there were no juvenile courts.<sup>5</sup>

#### **3. Freedom of association and peaceful assembly**

5. REDEMEC reported that the main social demonstrations had been organized by the workers of certain enterprises, with trade union support, and by truck and taxi owners and drivers in view of frequent increases in fuel prices.<sup>6</sup>

#### **4. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

6. According to REDEMEC, employment comes high on the list of demands, especially among young people.<sup>7</sup> The lack of jobs may in fact be one of the main causes of social conflict in Cape Verde, alongside property offences, drug dealing and other offences committed by marginalized unemployed youths.<sup>8</sup> REDEMEC reported that the unemployment rate is around 25.7 per cent for women and 18.2 per cent for men.<sup>9</sup>

## **5. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

7. REDEMEC noted the forthcoming submission of a review of the social insurance system, including an increase in the retirement age from 60 to 65 years for public administration employees, and recommended that the Government discuss the subject with the trade unions.<sup>10</sup>

8. REDEMEC highlighted the fact that land, in both urban and rural areas, continues to be a source of conflict between the population and national and municipal authorities. In the major cities, the poorest inhabitants informally occupy State land, creating vulnerable settlements that are in conflict with the authorities. The authorities are often accused of discrimination in the distribution of land for housing construction in urban areas.<sup>11</sup>

## **6. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

9. According to REDEMEC, Cape Verde continues to be a receiving country for migrants from neighbouring West African countries, albeit in a more organized fashion, as they no longer have to go through the border thanks to their status as citizens of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Nonetheless, many of them stay in Cape Verde. REDEMEC emphasized that it is rare to find boats transporting illegal migrants, usually headed for Europe, since the exclusive economic zone is more regularly patrolled, with support from the European Union.<sup>12</sup>

## **III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

10. REDEMEC highlighted development, the functioning of democracy and maintaining peace as the main challenges facing Cape Verde.<sup>13</sup>

11. REDEMEC pointed out that the proliferation of arms among the citizenry gave reason for concern and was taking on dangerous proportions.<sup>14</sup> In this context, REDEMEC recalled that the parliament of Cape Verde had already ratified several protocols, but had not yet ratified the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, and Other Related Materials as had the other ECOWAS States.<sup>15</sup>

12. Considering that elections are times of heightened tensions between supporters of the different political parties, REDEMEC felt that democracy needed to be consolidated and elections organized in such a way as to minimize election fraud.<sup>16</sup>

13. According to REDEMEC, public administration should function according to its own rules, without interference from political parties. Everyone should fight patronage and nepotism, since they are a source of conflict. Good governance should remain a constant challenge in order to consolidate democracy.<sup>17</sup>

14. REDEMEC considers that the Government of Cape Verde should support economic projects for employment generation, since youth unemployment is a major obstacle to social peace.<sup>18</sup>

## **IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS**

N/A.

## **V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

N/A.

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org) (One asterisk denotes a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.)

*Civil society*

GIEACPC*	The Global Initiative To End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London, United Kingdom
REDEMEC	Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde (Network of Women Economists of Cape Verde), Praia, Cape Verde

<sup>2</sup> The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, UPR Submission, 18 July 2008, para. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, UPR Submission, p. 1, para. 4.

<sup>4</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 2, para. 7.

<sup>5</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 1, para. 6.

<sup>6</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 3, para. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 2, para. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 1, para. 5.

<sup>9</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 3, para. 3.

<sup>10</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 3, para. 11.

<sup>11</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 1, para. 4.

<sup>12</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 1, para. 8.

<sup>13</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 2, para. 7.

<sup>14</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 2, para. 8.

<sup>15</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 4, para. 2.

<sup>16</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 2, para. 9.

<sup>17</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 2, para. 10.

<sup>18</sup> Rede das Mulheres Economistas de Cabo Verde, op. cit., p. 2, para. 11.

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