

**27<sup>TH</sup> EEAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
***Cooperation and Partnership for Sustainable  
Development: Water (SDG 6); Energy (SDG 7);  
Oceans (SDG 14)***

Assembleia da República | Auditório António Almeida Santos  
19 de setembro de 2019 | 9h30-10h15

**Intervention Topics**

- Dear ladies and gentlemen, it is a huge honour to chair the opening session of this conference dedicated to the Cooperation and Partnership for Sustainable Development, a topic on the daily agenda of the international debate for the protection of our planet.
- Challenges like climate change, marine litter, sea-level rise, the loss of biodiversity, food safety, acidification, as well as sustainability, are pressing questions that all governments and society in general must internalize in their actions as priorities.

- I will focus especially on the Ocean, that represents more than seventy percent of the surface of the planet and is responsible for the production of fifty percent of the oxygen that we breath, for the absorption of twenty five percent of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and for the capture of ninety percent of the additional heat resulting from greenhouse gases. For this reason, the Ocean is the principal regulator of the Earth's climate, as well as being home to more than half of the earth's species.
- Therefore, the survival of our blue planet is directly linked to how we take care of the Ocean.
- The Ocean has no borders and global challenges demand global solutions.
- The Sea, that throughout the centuries allowed us to connect with so many different people and cultures, is the same one that we are determined to protect, as well as for its potential value and economic growth, as for the

recognized need to reinforce a global line of governance, that enables its protection and the conscious and sustainable use of its resources.

- Portugal advocates a planned and articulated defence of the Ocean, throughout a global action, in which it has participated actively through the action of the Ministry of the Sea.
- To win the challenge of sustainable development we must face the great challenge of promoting sustainability in its several governance dimensions:
  - The environmental dimension, protecting and recovering the natural capital of marine ecosystems, the main support of the Ocean's health;
  - The social dimension, generating more and better jobs, strengthening social cohesion, and;
  - The economic dimension, creating wealth opportunities, promoting low carbon business models,

creating new companies and *eco-innovating* entrepreneurs.

- The asymmetric development, on a global scale, regarding knowledge and the financing capacities to fulfil new solutions or new activities in the scope of the new blue economy, compel a change of posture of the international society through international partnerships between countries, between the public and the private sector, between science and industry, but also through financing solutions that help countries with less financial resources to solve global problems, that belong to all of us.
- A widespread increase of knowledge and data sharing play a crucial role in this process.
- In this sense, the availability of precise and updated information on the state of the marine resources and of the ecosystems continue to be a challenge. The maritime

territories jurisdiction of the States will growingly lay on the effective knowledge of the deep sea and its resources.

- Portugal assumes a leading role at international level. We have been finding solutions and want to share them.
- Portugal has been working hard to foster an effective share of knowledge, in order to spread knowledge all around, and mitigate the inequality between the North and the South and internationalize the implementation of innovative project, that can support disadvantaged geographical areas.
- The cooperation between countries, companies, universities, NGO's and civil society is unavoidable in order to establish networks of knowledge-sharing that boost innovation and new sustainable approaches.
- The national effort in favour of the reinforcement of the Ocean Governance also reverberates through the

external relations conducted by the Ministry of the Sea, that on a bilateral scope praises the outstanding role that Portugal plays on this issue, though the increase of interactions with partners from the most diversified geographical areas.

- We have been actively participating in initiatives promoted by the United Nations and the European Union in order to build up a strategy for Ocean Sustainability and the construction of a Blue Circular Economy.
- To fight the negative impacts resulting from human action in order to allow us to potentiate, on a structured basis, the blue growth, we need a smart, integrated and embracing governance of the Ocean, centred on sustainability and based on knowledge and innovation.
- The promotion and defence of a sustainable use of the Ocean was assumed as a priority for Portugal since de

first moment of the negotiations of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Portugal is absolutely committed with this agenda and particularly with SDG 14. Therefore, we proposed to organise in 2020, in Lisbon, the second United Nations Ocean Conference dedicated to the implementation of SDG14.
- We are engaged in being a relevant international actor, through the affirmation of the principles of sustainability, the promotion of knowledge networks and the involvement of citizens in the participative and responsible management of the marine environment.
- Ocean Governance means managing its resources in a way to keep them well preserved, productive, safe, clean and resilient, as a fundamental economic asset.
- Ninety-seven percent of the Portuguese territory is Sea; therefore, our purpose is a Sustainable Ocean and all the

Portuguese people are required to participate in that sense.

- I wish you all very fruitful coming days and that the outcomes of this conference continue to foster the pursuit of the work in favour of the protection of our Ocean and above of all, our planet.
- Thank you very much.