

**Speech by His Excellency Patrice Émery Trovoada, Prime Minister and Head of Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe**

29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Baku - Azerbaijan

Allow me first to express our gratitude to the Azerbaijani Government for the perfect organization of this event of the utmost importance, which brings together world leaders, civil society, governmental and multilateral organizations to reinforce the commitment to increase our ambition in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to address climate finance and how to turnkey climate decisions into concrete actions and solid plans.

Being member of the SIDS, I would like to commend the Republic of Azerbaijan for its solidarity on the initiative to support us.

**Excellencies,**

São Tomé and Príncipe, an island country located in the Gulf of Guinea, stands out for its natural beauty and unique terrestrial and marine biodiversity, harboring species found nowhere else in the world.

As a Small Island Developing State, our country faces specificities and vulnerabilities that make it particularly sensitive to climate change. Although São Tomé and Príncipe have a low rate of greenhouse gas emissions, our populations every single day suffers the consequences of climate change: extreme climate occurrences like prolonged droughts, heat waves, floods and increasingly unpredictable agricultural seasons. These effects put food security, water resources and livelihoods at risk, as well as compromising any development and resilience initiatives.

Despite these challenges, we have made continuous efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change, mobilizing climate finance for sustainable development and the protection of our ecosystems. Notable initiatives include the conservation of mangroves, the creation of marine protected areas and protected natural parks on the island of São Tomé, as well as the island of Príncipe, which has already been recognized as a world biosphere reserve.

In line with the Paris Agreement, we are committed to reduce emissions by 27% by 2030 and are accelerating the decarbonization of our energy sector as a priority for sustainable growth and improvement of quality of life.

In 2023, we signed a memorandum with Portugal to convert part of our public debt into climate actions guaranteeing the preservation of natural capital and a more sustainable future, counting today for 5.3% of our total public debt.

This kind of initiative could turn São Tomé and Príncipe into a global example of how to reconcile debt relief and economic recovery with environmental preservation.

**Distinguished participants,**

Today at COP29, once again, tirelessly we call for more funding for renewable energy, carbon capture, and other green technologies for a rapid transition, once again we call for enacting stricter regulations and a fair and unified approach to the problem based on climate justice and common sense.

We will not give up.

We need to increase global public awareness, as, independent of geographies, facts and science is unequivocal about the world conjuncture worsening.

We are leaders, leading people, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our decisions and actions bring concrete benefits for them, capable of shaping the future of the humanity.

Thank you