CLOSING REMARKS

UNWTO SECRETARY GENERAL

29TH March 2019
Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cabo Verde

• H.E. Mr. Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister of Cabo Verde your presence is a sign of the strong commitment that the government of Cabo Verde is giving to the travel and tourism sector of Africa

• My dear José Da Silva Gonçalves, Minister of Tourism and Transport and Minister of Maritime Economy – your dedication and strong leadership has contributed immensely to the success of this historic event

• Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization – I believe this joint effort is the first of many more to come!

• Madame Commissioner Amani Abou-Zeid in charge of Infrastructure and Energy at the African Union, tourism is a sector that is being more and more prioritized in the national development agendas of governments in Africa and the presence of AU is a commitment of your support to the development of this very important sector.

• I would like to sincerely thank the presence of all the members of Cabinet of Cabo Verde, all African ministers, dignitaries and delegates who has travelled from far to be part of this historic event.
Dear Prime Minister, Minister Da Silva Gonçalves, Ministers, dignitaries, and authorities.

- I am extremely glad of the fruitful discussions and deliberations that happened during the Experts meeting and the High Level Panels yesterday.

- As you know, the UNWTO Agenda for Africa was designed by consulting and working closely with member states from the continent, with a focus on 10 key priorities, to link the development of sustainable tourism in Africa to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals;

- Rightfully so, Cabo Verde has decided to take the lead on the priority relating to “Travel Facilitation (Connectivity/Visa)” and the achievement of this conference is in line with the implementation of it.

- We are proud to support initiatives from our member states contributing to the economic development of their nations, while promoting economic development and preserving our environment;

- The results of the UNWTO Visa Openness Report 2019 for Africa very encouraging, and will support African destinations with evidence-based policy making and helping prioritize activities within their facilitation policies;

- We are looking forward to the implementation of the action plan of the Santa Maria, Sal Island Ministerial Declaration on Air Transport and Tourism Development in Africa.

- Again, I would like to sincerely congratulate our host Cabo Verde for the amazing welcome and organization of this historical conference, Thank you dear Prime Minister, for the incredible welcome, you have an amazing country and amazing people, and thank you Minister José Da Silva Gonçalves for your leadership in making this event a reality.
• Thank you all again for your participation and commitment towards a more sustainable and responsible tourism.