

Statement by Mr. Mário Batista Camala

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Ladies and gentlemen,

My country, as a candidate for the Aarhus family, after having completed all formalities required by the convention and the additional documents since April 26, 2018, would like to inform that we continue to work to promote respect for the three (3) pillars of the Aarhus Convention, because, for us, whether we are accepted or not in this important family, whose instrument effectively promotes democracy in the environmental management process, it is also for us, one of the greatest instruments which involves all stakeholders in a participatory way for the defense of a healthy and ecologically sustainable environment, thus responding to the different aspects of the 2030 agenda, but also many aspects of the common strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development of the African continent – The 2063 Agenda.

We continue to work with NGOs, grassroots community organizations, the prosecution and the judiciary in debates and discussions on the importance and need to promote the Aarhus Convention even not being yet officially members.

We also support the idea of creating an NGO of lawyers specialized in the environment issues, aiming at strengthening the engagement of this professional class more intensely as possible.

We are also in a period of legislative reform, that is, of revision and creation of environmental legal instruments covering explicitly almost all three pillars of the Aarhus Convention.

Dear colleagues and distinguished delegates,

I would also like to inform you that we still making effort in persuading colleagues from other African countries, such as Angola, Senegal, Cape Verde, The Gambia, to take decision and moving forward to adhere to the Aarhus Convention.

As stated before, it's always a honor for Guinea-Bissau being pioneer outside the European area in moving forward with the process of accession to the Aarhus Convention.

To conclude my short speech, I would like to say what we are here to learn from the progress made by other countries Parties in implementating the Convention

That's all we have to announce for now.

Thank you