



AIR CENTRE
ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE

PRAIA DECLARATION

Establishing the ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE (AIR CENTRE)

Praia, Cabo Verde,

7 - 8 May 2018

The signatories met at the “Third High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions”, held in Praia, Cabo Verde, 7-8 May 2018, and, making use of the terms and common understanding described below,

Following the conclusions of the “First High Level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions”, held in Terceira, Azores-Portugal, 20-21 April 2017, that determined the establishment of an innovative R&D agenda on “Atlantic Interactions” aiming to promote an holistic, integrative and systemic approach to space, atmosphere, oceans, climate change and energy, earth and ocean science in the Atlantic, together with emerging methods of data science, while fostering an inclusive perspective to science, technology and economic development to better understand emerging issues of climate change affecting our planet and the lives, prosperity and wellbeing of our citizens,



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Confirming the commitment reached in the “Second High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions”, held in in Florianopolis, Brazil, 20-21 November 2017, regarding the establishment of the AIR Centre - Atlantic International Research Centre, as an internationally distributed scientific organization across Atlantic countries, in association with scientific and research organizations worldwide, to be established in a stepwise process,

Hereby,

1. Note, with appreciation, all the progress achieved in establishing the AIR Centre, namely the contributions to a R&D agenda on “*Atlantic Interactions*”, including an outline of the Scientific Program and the preliminary identification of the first technical initiatives of the AIR Centre.
2. Congratulate the establishment of the non-profit association to promote the *AIR Centre* (Associação para o Desenvolvimento do AIR Centre – AD AIR Centre), registered in Portugal, to develop the initial activities and provide, promote and foster the basis of a truly international scientific agenda, organization and workforce throughout the Atlantic and across the Globe.



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3. Recognize the need, and appreciate the initial work that has been done, to launch a *Scientific Program* of the AIR Centre promoting an integrative approach to space, climate change and energy, earth and ocean science in the Atlantic, fostered by emerging methods of data science.

4. Recommend the continuation of the efforts to establish the *Scientific Program* in close cooperation with all appropriate parts.

5. Recognize the relevance of the following topics for their potential inclusion in the Scientific Program, without prejudicing their re-formulation or the inclusion of other pertinent topics to be identified:
 - a) Marine Resources and Biodiversity: Promote Sustainable Fisheries, aquaculture and ecosystem valorization;
 - b) Healthy and Clean Ocean: Protection of related marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts;
 - c) Systems integration from outer space to Deep Ocean: Observing, modelling and monitoring oceans and coastal areas for a better management of the Atlantic resources, plus the development, integration, transfer technologies and use of sensors, devices and systems;
 - d) Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change: including resilience of cities and coastal areas, disaster risk reduction and regional planning, where applicable;
 - e) Sustainable Energy Systems: including but not limited to marine renewable energy technologies development, global energy interconnections and the use of renewable energy sources;



- f) Data science, artificial intelligence and learning systems for ocean, atmosphere dynamics and climate issues: matching data producers and user needs.
6. Recognize the need to launch a *Cross-cutting Work Plan* of initiatives to support the development of the *Scientific Program* of the AIR Centre and actions to strengthen the scientific culture and awareness with the relevant partners in the areas of space, ocean and sustainability, appreciate the initial work that has been undertaken with this purpose and recommend its further development in close cooperation with all relevant parts, to be approved in the 4th High-Level Meeting in the Canary islands in November 2018, and aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the Belem Statement, among others. They can include:
- a. Developing coordinated actions to implement common standards for data sharing, using existing supranational e-infrastructures to test them;
 - b. Defining Transatlantic alliances of clusters, coastal cities, infrastructures, and research centres to provide solutions for coastal regions and cities of the South Atlantic Ocean in mitigating carbon emissions, adapting to the challenges of climate change, creating jobs, and promoting blue economy;
 - c. Sharing infrastructures and defining mobility and training programs;
 - d. Aligning scientific policies to enhance ocean innovation or identifying and developing academia-industry knowledge transfer and encouraging collective capacity building measures;
 - e. Promoting citizen's awareness and ocean literacy by fostering education and knowledge aimed to promote "Knowledge for Space" and its integration with ocean, earth and climate education in a holistic approach.



7. Acknowledge the importance of women in Science and Technology, namely their increasing role in scientific leadership and recommend that the execution of the Scientific Program of the AIR Centre can also consider equal opportunities for women.

8. Agree to join efforts in identifying and setting-up a coherent effort of national and international Science & Technology (S&T) funding agencies to jointly open calls to fund projects within the scope of the *Scientific Program* and *Cross-cutting Work Plan*, to be presented and discussed in November 2018.

9. Acknowledge that mobility of human resources is a privileged mechanism to foster common projects within the scope of AIR Centre's *Scientific Program* and therefore it should be included in its *Cross-cutting Work Plan* to facilitate mobility of researchers and students to enhance networking and achieve a high level of undertaking.

10. Acknowledge and support that the AIR Centre should be installed in the form of an international distributed scientific organization, comprising an international network of science, technology and innovation across the Atlantic, in association with other scientific and research organizations worldwide, to be further developed in coming years;



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11. Give note that the next High-Level Meeting will be held in the Las Palmas, Canary Islands, in 26-27 November 2018.

Praia, May 7, 2018,

The signatories, ‘

Domingos da Silva Neto, Secretary of State for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola

Gilberto Kassab, Minister for Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications, Brazil

Maritza Rosabal Peña, Minister of Education, Family and Social Inclusion, Cape Verde



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Ogbonnaya Onu, Minister of Science and Technology, Nigeria,

Manuel Heitor, Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education, Portugal

Olinto Daio, Minister for Education, Culture and Science and Communications, São Tomé and Príncipe, represented by Gloria do Rosário, General Director of Higher Education

Juan Maria Vázquez Rojas, General Secretary for Science and Innovation, Spain



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gui Menezes'. The script is fluid and cursive.

Gui Menezes, Azores Regional Secretary for Sea, Science and Technology, Regional Government of Azores

With the endorsement of South Africa, represented by

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The one on the left is a complex, scribbled signature, while the one on the right is a more circular, looped signature.

Cecil Masoka, Department of Science and Technology of South Africa