



CANARY ISLANDS DECLARATION

Establishing the ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE (AIR CENTRE)

Las Palmas, Canary Islands,

26-27 November 2018.

Bearing in mind the conclusions and the commitments of the first two High-level meetings on “Atlantic Interactions”, held in Terceira (Azores, Portugal) and in Florianopolis (Santa Catarina, Brazil), in 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,

Reaffirming the need to promote an innovative scientific agenda with a multidisciplinary approach that can surpass the existing R&D gaps and link the areas of Space, Oceans, Atmosphere, Climate Change, Energy and Data Science, in a South-North and North-South cooperation, including a **Basic Scientific Program** with six main lines of action, including: i) marine resources and biodiversity, ii) healthy and clean oceans, iii) systems integration from inner space to deep ocean, iv) mitigation and adaptation to climate change, v) sustainable energy systems and vi) data science; as identified in the Third High Level meeting on “Atlantic Interactions”, held in Praia (Santiago, Cabo Verde), in 2018.



Recognizing, with appreciation, all the collaborative work that has carried out by the Steering Committee and its Executive Committee, as set in the Florianopolis Declaration, and by the AD AIR Centre, including the implementation team,

Acknowledging the interest of a large number of national, regional and international institutions and entities to participate in the AIR Centre activities, already substantiated in more than 7 signed MoUs,

During the “Fourth High-level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions” held in Las Palmas, Canary Islands, 26-27 November 2018, the signatories, making use of the terms and common understanding described below,

Hereby,

- Strengthen the development of the AIR Centre as an **international distributed scientific organization**, and request the Association for the Development of the AIR Centre (AD AIR Centre), the non-profit association created to promote the AIR Centre, to lead the active participation of scientific and research organizations and industry amongst Atlantic countries;
- Encourage the countries participating in the High-Level Meetings to join the AD AIR Centre and strengthen their participation and institutional collaboration with AD AIR Centre, following the path already initiated by **Cape Verde, Portugal, Spain, Nigeria and South Africa**;



- Stimulate the **set-up of national nodes** related to AIR Centre activities, by integrating research infrastructures, research centers, innovation performers and funding agencies. Since those nodes are at the heart of the distributed nature of this initiative, the signatories welcome their creation in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Nigeria, Portugal, São Tome e Principe, Spain, South Africa and Uruguay.
- Support the development of the **organization and management structure of AIR Centre in the coming years** -.
- Give prominence, amongst the work in progress, to the international search for the **AIR Centre Executive Director (CEO)**, to be concluded before the end of 2018, according to the international calls published in October 2018, and to the international search for **other two senior officers**, to be opened and concluded on the first trimester of 2019;
- Welcome the **vision papers and project proposals for the AIR Centre**, encompassing the bases for Crosscutting Work Plans, and recommend to the working groups the development of a *Basic Scientific Program*, including mobility of human resources as a privileged mechanism to foster common projects integrating Space, Oceans, Atmosphere, Climate Change, Energy and Data Science in the Atlantic;



- Reinforce the joint efforts to identify and set-up a coherent set of funding initiatives for joint calls for projects within the scope of the AIR CENTRE and agree to designate a national S&T funding entity to participate in discussions' fora or in an AD AIR CENTRE advisory board on financial and funding issues;
- Give note that the next High-Level Meeting will be held in 2019 in Namibia [date tbc].

Las Palmas, 26th November 2018

The signatories,

Maria do Rosário Sambo, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Angola, represented by Filomena Vaz Velho, Director of the National Fisheries Research Institute

Maritza Rosabal Peña, Minister of Education, Family and Social Inclusion, Cape Verde, represented by Aquilino Varela, National Director for Higher Education

Dr. Ogonnaya 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,

Pedro Duque, Minister for Science, Innovation and Universities, Spain

With the endorsement of:

South Africa, represented by Cecil Masoka, Director for Multilateral Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, South Africa

Gui Menezes, Azores Regional Secretary for Sea, Science and Technology, Regional Government of Azores, represented by Bruno Pacheco, Azores Regional Director for Science.