



The Global Initiative
for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**SHADOW REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE
ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WOMEN**

CAPE VERDE, 55th session (8 - 26 July 2013)

**Submitted by:
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I. Concerns Relating to Women's Land and Property Rights in Cape Verde

1. Little information exists on the current situation of women in Cape Verde with respect to the status of their land and property rights. While Cape Verde is a poor country and highly dependent on women farmers, the State party report only makes a brief reference to women's land and property rights, noting that "According to data from the Census of agriculture 2004, 50.5% of family farms are headed by women, which is a new phenomenon in the Cape Verdean context. Despite this, it should be stressed that these women managed mostly dry land farms, which are less productive, therefore with lower income." (UN Doc. CEDAW/C/CPV/7-8, at para. 300).

2. The report goes on to mention that (UN Doc. CEDAW/C/CPV/7-8, at paras. 301-303) in partnership with the FAO, the Ministry of Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources, held a "Diagnosis of national legislation on gender approach in the management of water resources and land." The aim of which was to examine the legal and institutional framework in Cape Verde protecting gender equality in access and use of land, land planning and management.

3. According to the report, the study that legislative omissions creates "situations of gender inequality, because being the women the majority and the motor of the agriculture sector, the legislative silence affects them more" (UN Doc. CEDAW/C/CPV/7-8, at para. 303).

4. To further elucidate these issues, the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommends that the following questions be posed to the State party representatives during the review process:

- What legal protections exist to ensure that women's land and property rights are more fully recognized in formal law? Specifically, how has the State party sought to address the "legislative omissions" affecting the enjoyment of women's land and property rights which were found by the "Diagnosis of national legislation on gender approach in the management of water resources and land."
- What actions has the State party taken to ensure that women are aware of their land, property and inheritance rights? What avenues are available to women should they be in need of legal redress, and are there barriers in access to such legal avenues?
- How does marriage and family law in Cape Verde address the question of marital property? Do women and men, girls and boys have equal inheritance rights in Cape Verde and is this right realized in practice?
- How does the State protect the rights of women in situations where traditional practice may discriminate against women in matters related to land, property and/or inheritance?