Statement by João Paulo Oliveira e Costa as an Academic Stakeholder during the 2020 UN 
Ocean Conference Preparatory Meeting. UN Headquarters, NYC, 05.02.2020 
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, 
I have the honour to represent the UNESCO Chair on “The Oceans Cultural Heritage”, 
of Nova University in Lisbon, Portugal. As an academic

my city of Lisbon, in order to develop policies that integrate not only economic, but also cultural 
aspects. 
We need to work together to avoid the pillage of our heritage by treasure hunters, 
reinforce identities and develop a sustainable life for our communities, especially at the coast. 
I coordinate a project dealing with the historic development of port cities linking the 
work of academic and non-academic stakeholders from America, Europe and Africa. Such 
cooperative scientific projects are of great importance for Small Island Developing States. Cape 
Verdean politicians asked for instance last month strongly for the enlargement of our related 
underwater archaeological missions to other parts of the country, as they are expecting that in