

Cabo Verde Takes Global Stage: Island Nation Becomes Africa's Innovation Powerhouse at Web Summit 2025

In the year marking its 50th independence anniversary, Cabo Verde is making history at Web Summit Lisbon 2025 with the largest African delegation ever, with over 100 participants in a mission supported by the European Union under the Global Gateway initiative.

Fresh from its historic qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the island nation is now set to score another victory, and this time in technology and innovation. Cabo Verde is strongly positioning itself as a digital hub in the Atlantic, continuing an internationalization journey launched in 2019 that has already seen over 500 startup founders participate in major global events such as Web Summit (Lisbon & Rio), GITEX (Morocco and Nigeria), The Next Web (Netherlands), among others.

Cabo Verde positions itself as a strategic entry point into West Africa and the Lusophone diaspora, converting geographic location and visibility into economic traction and opening new routes for startups and tech companies looking to scale from the Atlantic. The country's strategy is clear: train talent, consolidate modern infrastructure, create testing environments, and connect founders/startups to markets and capital.

In Lisbon, the delegation includes startups, academia, private sector partners, and national representatives aiming to close deals, launch pilot projects, and accelerate real-world solutions in digital finance, smart tourism, blue economy, health, and education. Cabo Verde presents a strong value proposition, offering political stability, regulatory reliability, and a robust partner network that shortens the path from prototype to market.

Throughout Web Summit Lisbon 2025, the national presence will feature product demos, investor meetings, and engagements with international media to share case studies and impact metrics. The core focus is "deal readiness," product validation, and gaining access to distribution networks during the four-day event.

One major highlight is the signing of a new partnership that integrates Cabo Verde's TechPark into the international iMAP network by TESLA Venture Studio - connecting the country to innovation hubs across Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas, and the GCC. This integration strengthens Cabo Verde's role as an Atlantic innovation platform, offering acceleration programs, investment access, and soft-landing services for global startups entering African markets.

The Secretary of State for Digital Economy, Pedro Lopes, will speak on the panel "*Policies that Drive Startup Ecosystems*" alongside:

- Bernardo Correia, Secretary of State for Digitalization, Government of Portugal
- Irakli Nadareishvili, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Government of Georgia

- Hanna Myshko, Regional Director for the Gulf States, Ukraine, and Moldova at StrategEast.

Additionally, Cabo Verde will host its flagship ecosystem and diaspora event - **SikaBadu Summit** at the Cabo Verde Cultural Center in Lisbon on November 11.

About Cabo Verde Digital

An initiative of the Government of Cabo Verde dedicated to tech training, entrepreneurship, and ecosystem internationalization in collaboration with the private sector, academia, development agencies, and the diaspora.

About Cabo Verde TechParks

TechPark Praia and TechPark Mindelo offer cutting-edge infrastructure for innovation with modular offices, training and conference centers, business incubation, and data centers - focused on entrepreneurship, tech transfer, and international collaboration.

About TESLA Venture Studio

TESLA Venture Studio works with governments and entrepreneurship support organizations to accelerate innovation ecosystems and scale sustainable and digital startups through iMAP residencies and visibility programs focused on market entry in the EU, GCC, Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

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