

# Biography



**Cristina Duarte** is from Cabo Verde, a 'very small country' in West Africa. Cabo Verde, a Portuguese-speaking country, is an active member of several international groupings, including African Union, La Francophonie, ECOWAS and CPLP (Community of Portuguese speaking countries that includes Brazil). As a well-managed country, Cabo Verde is considered by all a 'success story' in Africa. Its success can be seen in the proper functioning of Cabo Verde's democratic system, including its sociopolitical stability, its exemplary functioning of its parliamentary system, successive peaceful electoral transitions, the Mo Ibrahim Prize awarded to its former leader, and national consensus around a development vision. Cabo Verde has become an excellent example of good governance in Africa, with proper management of public assets, fiscal transparency, gender balance in the national cabinet, and the sharp reduction of poverty rates over the last decade.

The country's macro-economic indicators and human development indices, which are among the best in Africa, are good indicators of its strong performance since independence. Cabo Verde, a country that many believed was not viable thirty-nine years ago when it received independence, graduated from the United Nation's less developed countries (LDC) list in 2008 to a middle-income country. Cristina Duarte, Cabo Verde's Minister of Finance and Planning since 2006, has played a decisive role in the positive outcomes in Cabo Verde over the last decade. She is among the eminent personalities of Cabo Verde.

Cristina Duarte has an excellent academic record including a degree in Economics from the Univer-

sidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal and an MBA in the field of International Finance and Emerging Financial Markets from the United States of America. Cristina Duarte is fluent in five (4) languages: French, English, Portuguese, Italian and Cape Verdean Creole. Her language skills are a major asset to lead intergovernmental organizations.

She has a diverse professional experience, particularly in the public administration as General Director of Ministry of Fisheries and Rural Development, in international organizations (as consultant to FAO, UNDP, World Bank), in the private sector (Citigroup/Citibank) and in government as Minister of Finance, Planning and Public Administration. She has been a Governor of the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the IMF for nine (9) years.

Cristina Duarte has worked in several African countries, including South Africa, Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya and Mozambique. She has a deep understanding and extensive knowledge about Africa's development issues as well as the socio-economic and financial challenges facing the continent. She is also keenly aware of the opportunities the emerging global economy offers Africa and she is committed to the structural transformation of African economies and societies.

Her father, Manuel Duarte, was a Freedom Fighter in the independence struggle in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde. He was able to instill in her strong values of respect, integrity, discipline and his great sensitivity to the struggles for political and economic independence of Africa. She is heir to a great tradition of responsibility and duty.

Thus, Cristina Duarte is a leader and her election as President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) will undoubtedly be a major asset to the institution. In addition, her election would be recognition of the role of Portuguese-speaking countries in recent history of Africa and would be a great sign of encouragement for the many African women in banking institutions as well as all women aspiring for leadership positions. Indeed, her election would make Cristina Duarte the first woman president in the history of the AfDB and the first president from a Portuguese-speaking country.