



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
the Government of the Autonomous Region of Azores
and the Government of Bermuda

The **GOVERNMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF AZORES**, herein represented by the President of the Government, Vasco Alves Cordeiro, and

The **GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA**, herein represented by the Premier and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP, hereinafter referred to as Parties,

WHEREAS the historical and emotional ties that unite the territories of Bermuda and the Azores, a result of the Azorean emigration that has headed to that Atlantic territory since the mid-nineteenth century;

WHEREAS the contribution of the Azoreans and of their descendants to the economic and social progress of Bermuda and the importance of the Portuguese and Azorean culture in that territory;

WHEREAS the role played by the Government and people of Bermuda in welcoming and integrating the Azoreans who have chosen that territory to work and, therefore, to also contribute to its economic and social development and its cultural enrichment;

WHEREAS that the Azoreans and their descendants living in Bermuda maintain a strong connection to the Azores;

WHEREAS the interests and challenges of both archipelagos, a result of the island nature of their territory and their location in the North Atlantic;

WHEREAS, in this context, that the Governments of Bermuda and the Azores are signatories to the Hamilton Declaration on Collaboration for the Conservation of the Sargasso Sea, 11 March 2014;



WHEREAS that Bermuda has joined the Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories of the European Union and that the Azores are an outermost region of the European Union;

WHEREAS that the Governments of the Azores and Bermuda are committed to promoting mutual cooperation and friendship, in view of their privileged historical, cultural and emotional ties,

THEREFORE the Participants have reached the following understanding for encouraging, strengthening and deepening the friendly and cooperation ties that unite them, deciding for this purpose:

Article One Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to set out a framework for promoting:

- i. cooperation and mutual understanding between Bermuda and the Azores; and
- ii. the encouragement of closer ties between their peoples, institutions and public and private entities.

Article Two Areas of Cooperation

1. The Participants will endeavour, in particular, to facilitate, promote and support cooperation between their territories in the following areas:

- a) Culture, history, and popular traditions;
- b) Sea, conservation of marine and land environments, and sustainable development;
- c) Relations between training, research and teaching institutions and exchanges of students, teachers and researchers;
- d) Community associations, especially in the cultural and social areas;

2. The Participants will equally explore new areas of cooperation where they can contribute to economic and social development, as well as to bring the peoples of Bermuda and the Azores closer, particularly in terms of economic cooperation in the areas of tourism, trade and foreign investment, and under the programs and relationship with the European Union.



Article Three

Execution of the memorandum

The Participants approve to instruct the sector-specific agencies of each government to deepen and establish bilateral action plans and projects for the development of each of the areas, complying with the spirit of solidarity, friendship and cooperation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article Four

General Provisions

1. This Memorandum of Understanding represents the mutual understanding of the Participants but does not create legally binding obligations.
2. Any dispute regarding interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved by consultation between the Parties and shall not be referred to a tribunal or third party.
3. The Participants may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by mutual consent in writing or by either Party giving 30 days written notice to the other Party.

This Agreement is signed in duplicate, one copy in each language, Portuguese and English.

Ponta Delgada, 03 May 2016

Vasco Alves Cordeiro

*President of Government of the Autonomous
Region of Azores*

The Hon. Michael H. Dunkley, JP, MP

*Premier and Minister of National Security
of the Government of Bermuda*