Miguel da Cunha Lisboa Trovoada, was born on 27 December 1936, in Sao Tome and Principe.

While he was a Student in Law in Lisbon, he prematurely left the university to engage in the anti-colonial struggle. A co-founder of São Tomé and Principe Liberation Committee "CLSTP" in 1960, he established contacts with other national liberation movements in Africa, especially those of the former Portuguese colonies, with which he worked together to establish in Rabat in 1961 the Conference of Organisations of Portuguese Colonies "CONCP" , a framework for coordinating their common struggle.

Following the "Carnation Revolution" that ended the dictatorship in Portugal, he led the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe that negotiated with the Portuguese government and signed in November 1974, the Algiers Agreements on the accession of his country to national independence on 12 July 1975.

As Prime Minister from 1975 to 1979, he also performed cumulatively the functions of other ministerial departments.

He went into exile in 1981. On his return from exile in 1990, he became a candidate in the first free and democratic presidential elections organised in 1991 and was elected President of the Republic. He was re-elected in 1996 for a second term, which ended in 2001.

He was respectively mediator and observer in different conflicts and elections in Africa, both on behalf of the African Union and the International Francophone Organisation. He became a
member of the High Level Group of Heads of State of West Africa that mediated in the political and military conflict in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire until the signing of the Peace Agreements of Linas Marcoussis in Paris.

He is currently the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for the Republic of Guinea Bissau.

President Miguel da Cunha Lisboa Trovoada is a founding father of the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea of which he was the Executive Secretary from 2009 to July 2014.