INTERVENCIÓN DE
SU MAJESTAD EL REY FELIPE VI DE ESPAÑA

EN LA REUNIÓN DE ALTO NIVEL PARA CONMEMORAR
EL SEPTUAGÉSIMO QUINTO ANIVERSARIO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

Tema 128 (a): Fortalecimiento del sistema de las Naciones Unidas
SEPTUAGÉSIMO QUINTO PERÍODO DE SESIONES
DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

Nueva York, 21 de septiembre de 2020
(cotejar con la intervención pronunciada)

STATEMENT BY
HIS MAJESTY THE KING FELIPE VI OF SPAIN

AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING TO COMMEMORATE
THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Agenda item 128 (a): Strengthening of the United Nations System
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, September 21, 2020
(unofficial translation, check against delivery)
Remarks by His Majesty The King at the High-Level Meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations

Madrid, 21 September 2020

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government, Mr President of the General Assembly, Dear Secretary-General, ladies and gentlemen.

Greetings from Spain.

It is truly an honour and a pleasure to speak to you today.

On this day on which we solemnly commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, I would like to share with you a number of ideas, feelings and convictions.

First and foremost, a feeling of gratitude. It is difficult to imagine what the world would be like today without the United Nations. For 75 years, it has fulfilled a demanding mandate, addressing constant difficulties and challenges. This lengthy period of service has made the United Nations the benchmark Organization for the maintenance of international peace and security, for development, and for the protection of human rights that it is today.

This is why my first words are to offer my congratulations and convey my gratitude to all those individuals without whom the Organization would never have come into existence, and to all those who have played their part in its noble mission over the course of these past seven and a half decades, even, in some cases, giving their lives for the ideals on which it was founded. Thank you with all of my heart.

Together with this well-deserved gratitude, I must highlight our conviction regarding the need for greater unity. Indeed, we need more United Nations and for our nations to be more united.

Because of the pandemic, humanity is enduring an unprecedented global crisis that is testing the limits of our countries and of the entire United Nations system, but which also reveals the absolute necessity of structured international cooperation in an ever smaller world.
The response to the current challenges requires strengthened, more inclusive, and enhanced multilateralism. It requires a multilateralism that facilitates collaboration between State actors and civil society and that produces real, positive and tangible impacts on people’s lives.

Lastly, I would like to underscore the idea of commitment, and how crucial it is to the achievement of our Organization’s goals. Spain will continue to be, within the framework of the European Union, a loyal member of the United Nations and a reliable partner to its Member States.

We will remain actively committed to promoting specific actions in areas such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, the promotion of human rights and gender equality, peacebuilding, and environmental protection.

We will also, of course, remain committed to the fight against terrorism, to ensuring that crimes against humanity do not go unpunished, and to humanitarian action based on principles and on the protection of the most vulnerable; as well as to the necessary digital and ecological transitions upon which we must all embark.

I trust that these brief and heartfelt remarks, which express the sentiments of the Spanish people, serve to recognize the work of the United Nations as the universal Organization that its founders envisaged—the common home of humanity—and to encourage it to continue to persevere in the noble mission of improving people’s lives.

Today, all the Heads of State and Government that comprise this General Assembly have adopted a solemn Declaration defining the future that we want for our peoples.

Let us make this vision a reality, thinking at all times of society as a whole, of the common good of humanity. You can count on Spain for this undertaking.

Thank you very much and happy 75th anniversary.