



# Spain: A Global Actor in the Fight against Climate Change



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# SPAIN, A COUNTRY READY FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

## Climate change, the great challenge of our time

Global warming is an unequivocal phenomenon. Since 1950, as a result of human activity, temperatures have been rising across the planet at an ever accelerating rate, causing the melting of the polar caps, rises in sea level, and an increase in the frequency and intensity of different extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts, and torrential rains. The impact of climate change is closely tied to persistent poverty and rising inequality in many parts of the world. They are symptoms of a globalization that has shown itself to be unjust, and which is ravaging our planet's natural resources. **Climate change has become the principal threat to the future of humankind, and the greatest environmental, ecological, and social challenge** that the world faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is also the case for Spain, which, due to its geographical location and socioeconomic conditions, has a high level of vulnerability.

As a planetary problem, **the fight against climate change is clearly global in nature**, and therefore, demands a multilateral response at the United Nations. In this sense, the successive **UN Climate Change Conferences (COP)** have been working since 1995 to align all of the countries in the world in their fight against global warming. Noteworthy milestones include the **Kyoto Protocol** (1997), which established the obligation of certain countries to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG). During a series of Summits, work was done on an agreement that did **not differentiate among countries in GHG reduction**. This agreement was finally reached at the 2015 Paris Summit, with a binding Agreement requiring all signatories to present emission reduction plans to prevent global temperatures from increasing more than 2 degrees Celsius, seeking to limit this increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Undoubtedly, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marked the beginning of a global agenda for sustainable development, which involves the transformation of the economic model and a new social contract of inclusive prosperity within the limits of the planet. This year's Conference, COP25, under the presidency of Chile and hosted by Spain in Madrid, seeks to promote the action and ambition of all possible forces and to lay the foundation for climate action that is consistent with science.

## Spain's commitment to constructive multilateralism

Spain has not stayed on the sidelines of this process. In addition to taking on European and international commitments to combat climate change, Spain has played a **proactive role** which has enabled us to consolidate our position as a high-profile **international actor** in the fight against global warming—while also putting the 2030 Agenda at the centre of the Spanish government's actions. The creation of a **Ministry of Ecological Transition**—whose priority goal is to modernize the Spanish economy in a sustainable, just manner respecting the limits of the planet—has clearly reflected Spain's commitment to the UN's environmental goals. The drive to promote renewable energy that our country has experienced in recent years, the widespread social concern and awareness of the business community, the European Union's positive assessment of the sustainability projects being promoted nationwide—all of this has consolidated Spain's position as a model for ecological transition.

Indeed, at the latest UN **Climate Action Summit** in September, the UN Secretary-General himself tasked Spain with mobilizing countries' climate actions around a series of key social and policy aspects to promote climate action: a **just transition**, ensuring that no one is left behind in the process of transitioning towards a climate-neutral world; mainstreaming **gender** into climate policies; and committing to a joint response to the challenges of **climate and health**.

Moreover, Spain's international commitment to the multilateral fight against global warming has led us to accept the **huge challenge of organizing the 2019 Climate Summit (COP25)** in Madrid after the withdrawal of Chile, which will continue in its role with the presidency and coordination of the event. This is an organizational challenge to carry off in record time, in order to host, from 2 to 13 December, approximately 20,000 people, ranging from political representatives to members of NGOs, from corporations to the mass media. This consensus decision between Chile, Spain and the UN once again shows our spirit of multilateralism and mutual support to fight climate change.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## List of Acronyms

### 1. A GLOBAL PROBLEM: A MULTILATERAL RESPONSE

- 1.1. Climate change is a reality: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- 1.2. Legal instruments of the United Nations
- 1.3. Climate conferences: An annual forum to join forces against climate change
- 1.4. Chile and Spain, facing the challenge of COP25
- 1.5. 2030 Agenda: Sustainability and human development as cornerstones
- 1.6. International development cooperation: Promoting climate action

### 2. CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE: AN INCONTROVERTIBLE REALITY

- 2.1. Spain, one of the most vulnerable countries
- 2.2. Africa and Asia, the most affected continents
- 2.3. Climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean

### 3. SPAIN, LEADING A JUST TRANSITION IN THE WORLD

- 3.1. Climate Action Summit in New York
- 3.2. Coalition of Social and Political Drivers of Climate Action
- 3.3. Development cooperation and climate change: Financial support for climate funds
- 3.4. Spain and the 2030 Agenda

### 4. SPAIN'S GREEN NEW DEAL

- 4.1. A cross-cutting strategic framework
- 4.2. Act on Climate Change and Energy Transition
- 4.3. Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030

#### 4.4. Just Transition Strategy

4.5. Consolidating the framework: Repealing the sun tax and promoting self-consumption

4.6. Mobility

4.7. Adaptation to climate change

4.8. Climate change and employment

## 5. A WORLD REFERENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

5.1. Committed to the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda

5.2. The EU's best ecological transition plan

5.3. Ideal conditions for renewable energy

5.4. GHG emissions continue to fall in Spain

5.5. Increased investment in green energy

5.6. Biodiversity is in Spain's DNA

## 6. SPANISH SOCIETY, THE DRIVING FORCE OF OUR COMMITMENT

6.1. Climate change—perceived by Spaniards as the main global threat

6.2. Awareness and optimism: We are still in time

6.3. Within the EU, Spaniards are among those most concerned about climate change

6.4. Citizen awareness in Spain

6.5. Spanish companies—committed to climate action



## List of acronyms

AECID – Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CEOE – Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organizations

CEPYME – Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises

COP – Conference of the Parties, UN Climate Change Conferences

ETS – Emissions Trading System

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization

GCF – Green Climate Fund

GHG – greenhouse gases

HLPF – High-Level Political Forum

ILO – International Labour Organization

IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

NAP – National Adaptation Plan

NDC – Nationally Determined Contribution

NECP – National Energy and Climate Plan

OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

RIOCC – Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices

SDG – Sustainable Development Goal

UNCCD – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

VNR – Voluntary National Review

WHO – World Health Organization

WMO – World Meteorological Organization



# 1. A GLOBAL PROBLEM: A MULTILATERAL RESPONSE

The only possible response to the multiple global challenges we are currently facing—challenges which are both complex and interconnected—is **multilateral action** based on the fundamental principles of social and intergenerational justice, peace, and human rights. The **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development and the **Paris Agreement** on climate change—both adopted in 2015—represent the necessary response and the international commitment in order to address the social, economic and environmental challenges of globalization, putting people, the planet, prosperity and peace at the centre, under the pledge to “leave no one behind”.

Since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the scientific community has been warning about the negative consequences of human action for the health of the planet, and the future impacts of this action.

The earliest investigations into the **greenhouse effect** can be traced back as far as the 1960s. A decade later, the Club of Rome commissioned two reports: “The Limits to Growth” and “Mankind at the Turning Point”, both of which mentioned the climate consequences caused by human beings due to the **rise in carbon dioxide** (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels. Subsequently, in 1985, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Conference on the “Assessment of the Role of Carbon Dioxide and Other Greenhouse Gases in Climate Variations and Associated Impacts” warned that such gases would cause **significant warming** during the following decades.

However, it was not until 1988 that the UN, on the joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP, established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Faced with a global problem, the UN understands that it must provide a multilateral response.

## 1.1. Climate change is a reality: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The principal goal of the IPCC is to **provide an objective source of scientific, technical and socio-economic information on climate change**, its causes, and potential impacts and response strategies.

In 2014, the IPCC elucidated the role of human activity in climate change in its Fifth Assessment Report. Its conclusions are categorical: **Climate change is an incontrovertible fact, and human activities constitute its principal cause**. There is alarming evidence that we may already have reached or exceeded the tipping points that would give rise to irreversible changes in major ecosystems and in the planet’s climate system.

The Report provides an **exhaustive assessment of sea level rise and its causes over the past few decades, in addition to calculating cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** since the pre-industrial era and offering an estimate of future CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with the aim of keeping warming under 2 degrees Celsius. According to the Report, the global average temperature rose by 0.85 degrees

Celsius over the period from 1880 to 2012. Ocean temperatures have increased, snow and ice cover have fallen, and sea levels have risen, affirms the IPCC, which also stated that, given current concentrations and ongoing GHG emissions, it is probable **that at the end of this century, the global average temperature will continue growing above pre-industrial levels**. It is estimated that sea level rise will be between 24 and 30 cms by 2065.

In addition, in October 2018 the IPCC published a **Special Report** asserting that limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius—and preventing warming from reaching 2 degrees Celsius—would require rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. A number of significant impacts could be avoided if global warming is kept at the 1.5 degrees Celsius level.

The IPCC is currently working on its **Sixth Assessment Report**, which it plans to publish in 2022, in time to contribute key information for the first global stocktake of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will be held in 2023. The countries will then assess the progress made to achieve their goal of keeping global warming significantly below 2 degrees Celsius, and aiming to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

## 1.2. Legal instruments of the United Nations

Combatting climate change is indisputably a global challenge, and therefore requires a multilateral response through the UN, coordinated through three main pillars:

### ***United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)***

The UNFCCC was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development—the **Earth Summit**—held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The adoption of this Convention, which entered into force in 1994, was conceived as a **first step towards tackling the problem of climate change**. The ultimate objective of the Convention is **to stabilize GHG concentrations** at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system. This level should be achieved within a timeframe sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

Today, it has near-universal membership: A total of 197 countries, including Spain, have ratified the Convention, thus becoming Parties thereto.

### ***Kyoto Protocol***

In 1995, negotiations began to strengthen the global response to climate change through Climate Summits. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted during the event held in the city of that name. The Kyoto Protocol **legally obliges its developed-country Parties to meet emission**

**reduction targets.** The first commitment period of the Protocol began in 2008 and ended in 2012; the second began on 1 January 2013 and will end in 2020.

Today there are 192 Parties to the Protocol, including Spain.

## ***Paris Agreement***

During the 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations Climate Conference (COP21) held in Paris in 2015, the Parties to the UNFCCC reached a historic agreement on combatting climate change, committing to accelerating and scaling up the actions and investments necessary for a sustainable future with low carbon emissions.

The Paris Agreement, signed on 22 April 2016 by 175 world leaders at the UN headquarters in New York, **brings all nations into a common cause—for the first time—to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.** As such, it charts a new course in the global climate effort. It is, by a wide margin, the international agreement that has been signed by the highest number of countries on a single day. Other countries have signed it since. To date, the Paris Agreement has been ratified by 187 Parties, including Spain.

The Paris Agreement's central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by **keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels**, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Following the approval of the **Paris Agreement Rulebook at the 2018 Climate Summit**, held in Katowice (Poland), all the necessary tools are now in place to set into motion the global efforts to fight climate change and advance towards the established goals.

In this key year, 2019, it is essential that progress be made in implementing the commitments already adopted against climate change, and in promoting a debate focused on raising countries' ambition on emission reduction.

In this regard, the **Climate Action Summit**, convened by the UN Secretary-General in September, was a key milestone for creating the necessary conditions to ensure that in 2020, pursuant to the Paris Agreement, countries present more ambitious **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs, or plans for combatting climate change) than those put forward in 2015, as well as long-term low-emission development strategies consistent with the Paris Agreement's objectives.

The Paris Agreement is closely intertwined with the **2020 Agenda**—in reality they constitute a single agenda for articulating the necessary transformation towards a just and sustainable globalization. Consequently, ensuring alignment and promoting joint and coordinated action to achieve the SDGs and climate action is fundamental to maximizing collateral benefits, and achieving positive systemic change.

## **1.3. Climate conferences: An annual forum to join forces against climate change**

The **Conference of the Parties (COP)** is the supreme body of the UNFCCC. Within this body, the 197 Parties take decisions to mitigate the effects of the crisis climate currently affecting our planet.

The Parties have met annually since the entry into force of the Convention in 1994, and their principal objective is to **review the implementation of the commitments adopted so far, and to negotiate further commitments**. In addition, representatives from civil society, corporations, organizations, interest groups and associations—in short, all relevant actors in the fight against climate change—participate in the COP as observers.

The first COP meeting was held in 1995 in **Berlin**. This meeting gave rise to the Berlin Mandate, which called on the Parties to begin negotiating a new international treaty on combatting climate change that included emission reduction commitments.

COP3, held in **Kyoto** in 1997, gave rise to the Kyoto Protocol, one of the most important agreements on the regulation of anthropogenic emissions. This Protocol establishes binding targets for 37 industrialized countries, which undertook to reduce their GHG emissions by 5.2% against 1990 levels over the five-year period from 2008 to 2012.

However, it soon became clear that an adequate response to the challenge of climate change would require actions by *all* countries, not just developed countries. This led to the establishment, at the **Bali** Conference in 2007, of the “Bali Action Plan”, the first framework for negotiation that sought to provide a truly global response to climate change.

COP15, held in **Copenhagen** in 2009, was a major disappointment: The event, which marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Conference, looked set to produce a new agreement that would outstrip the Kyoto Protocol. However, it was concluded without any agreement having been reached, producing nothing more than a general sense of failure.

COP16, held in **Cancun** in 2010, was more productive. Following on from Copenhagen, it served to normalize the negotiation process and concluded with significant advances, including the creation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the UNFCCC’s principal financial instrument for channelling resources to developing countries.

In addition, the **Doha Amendment** to the Kyoto Protocol, establishing a second commitment period until 2020, was approved in the Qatari capital in 2012.

It was not until COP21, held in **Paris** in 2015, that any further progress was made at these Conferences. COP21 resulted in the signing of the Paris Agreement, an ambitious international treaty on combatting climate change, ratified by 186 States, which, for the first time, unites all nations in the fight against climate change, taking into account their past, present and future responsibilities. And it does so based on six fundamental characteristics: it is differentiated, just, ambitious, lasting, balanced, and legally binding.

## 1.4. Chile and Spain, facing the challenge of COP25

This year, 2019, has seen multitudes of people take to the streets, calling for urgent action against climate change. With the governance framework of the Paris Agreement, and the

corresponding Rulebook approved in Katowice, we are entering a new stage in climate negotiations, in which we will be able to meet the demands of the scientific community and of public opinion to raise ambition on sustainability.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties, **organized by and to be chaired by Chile**, will be held in **Madrid from 2-13 December**. Spain offered to host the event Chile's withdrawal. Nevertheless, Chile will still play a central role in the Conference and in coordinating international negotiations. In fact, the Chilean Presidency of COP25 will begin in December 2019 and continue until December 2020. Carolina Schmidt, Chile's Minister of Environment, is the President-Designate for the Conference.

The Chilean Presidency's preparations for COP25 have been efficient and exhaustive. Significant efforts in terms of prior dissemination and awareness raising are currently being coordinated between Chile and Spain to ensure that the Conference is a success.

This is the action summit. Under the slogan "**Time to Act**", this COP is going to be a major event, because it is the first Conference to be held since the adoption of the Paris Agreement Rulebook in 2018 and it falls between September's Climate Action Summit, convened by the UN Secretary-General, and the presentation of a new round of plans for combatting climate change in 2020. Furthermore, Chile has baptized this Conference the *Blue COP*, making the connection between climate change and oceans the focus of debate. Discussion will be fuelled, amongst other things, by IPCC's recent *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, which "highlights the urgency of prioritizing timely, ambitious and coordinated action to address unprecedented and enduring changes in the ocean and cryosphere." COP25 will also address current challenges such as renewable energies, the circular economy, ecosystems, biodiversity, and electric mobility.

Approximately 20,000 visitors from almost 200 countries are expected to participate in the event, in addition to the Heads of State and of Government and their representatives.

## 1.5. 2030 Agenda: Sustainability and human development as cornerstones

On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, a comprehensive action plan for people, planet and prosperity, as well as for strengthening universal peace and access to justice. Through the Agenda, world leaders adopted a set of global goals to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new agenda for sustainable development leaving no one behind. To meet these goals, everyone must do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society, and people like you.

The Agenda proposes **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 interconnected and indivisible Targets** encompassing all spheres of sustainability—economic, social, and environmental. A new strategy will govern the sustainable development programmes for the next 15 years. On adopting this Agenda, countries committed to mobilizing the necessary resources for its application through partnerships especially focused on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people—the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development.

**SDG 13 of the 2030 Agenda is exclusively focused on climate action**, and refers this action to the targets agreed by the UNFCCC. The Targets of SDG 13 are as follows:

- **Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards** and natural disasters in all countries.
- **Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.**
- **Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity** on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
- **Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country Parties to the UNFCCC** to a goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the GCF through its capitalization as soon as possible.
- Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least-developed countries and small-island developing States, including focusing on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities.

In addition to SDG 13, a large part of the transformations necessary to achieve the 1.5 degrees Celsius objective are already included in all the other SDGs: sustainable food production systems and agriculture, SDG 2; universal access to clean and efficient energy, SDG 7; sustainable industrialization and innovation, SDG 9; sustainable cities and human settlements, SDG 11; sustainable consumption and production patterns, SDG 12. Similarly, the SDGs include the Targets that need to be met in order to ensure that adaptation to climate change and the necessary transition are carried out in a manner that is socially just, leaving no one behind: eradication of poverty, resilience building and social protection, SDG 1; health and well-being, SDG 3; gender equality, SDG 5; decent work, SDG 8; and reducing inequality, SDG 10. As the UN recognizes, **climate change is a global challenge that transcends national borders**, a problem that requires the international community to work in a coordinated manner, and for developing countries, in particular, to advance towards low-carbon economies.

There is no doubt that the two agendas are closely related: tackling climate change also entails combatting poverty, as the poorest people are usually those most negatively affected by climate change. This is why we must seek coherence, cooperation, and synergies between the two agendas, and eliminate or minimize competition, ensuring that sustainable development actions and climate action do not have a negative impact on each other. **Understanding the connections between climate change and sustainable development** is the first crucial step to promoting coherence in the implementation of these two agendas. This is why it is essential to ensure alignment and to promote the joint action of multiple actors who coordinate their efforts to achieve the SDGs and climate action to maximize collateral benefits—to achieve a positive systemic shift towards just and sustainable globalization.



## 1.6. International development cooperation: Promoting climate action

Given the global nature of climate action, development cooperation policies and external action must serve as instruments of climate action, and in particular, must support the design and application of ambitious **NDCs** in cooperation partner countries and in international agreements with a view to achieving the Paris Agreement objectives. However, it is also vital for comprehensive climate change strategies to be consistent with sustainable development and with the SDGs, to ensure consideration of any co-benefits, secondary adverse effects, or risks that could arise from adaptation and mitigation actions. Sustainable development and equity provide a basis for evaluating climate policies.

**Spanish Cooperation** is backing the commitments adopted by its partner countries in the framework of the Paris Agreement, supporting them in meeting their NDCs based on their needs and priorities. Combatting climate change means combatting poverty, and this is why Spanish Cooperation is focusing all of its actions on resilience building, seeking the convergence of policies to reduce poverty and inequality with those aimed at protecting ecosystems, thus complying with the ethical mandate of both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda to “leave no one behind”.



## 2. CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE: AN INCONTROVERTIBLE REALITY

Research carried out by the Australian National University has shown that **the origin of the current climate change process dates back to 1830**. This means that humankind has been disrupting nature for more than 180 years, beginning with the Industrial Revolution, i.e. between the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The IPCC drew two basic conclusions in its Fifth Assessment Report: Climate change is real, and human activities are its principal cause.

**No area in the world will be spared the effects of climate change.** However, certain areas are more affected than others by its impact, as a result of more frequent natural disasters, rising sea levels, loss of marine ecosystems, and wildfires. These reasons, among others, make Spain one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, according to the *Global Climate Risk Index 2019*.

The **IPCC's Fifth Report** concludes that warming oceans and shrinking snow- and ice-covered surfaces have led to a 19-cm rise in sea level between 1901 and 2010. The Report also states that it is highly likely that, in the late 21<sup>st</sup> century, the global average temperature will continue to rise over the pre-industrial level. Thus, ocean temperatures, and the melting of snow and ice, will continue to increase. The recent IPCC *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, published in September, pointed out that, in a high-emissions scenario, the mean sea level could rise between 0.81 and 1.10 m by 2100 in relation to the 1986-2005 period. The Report also highlights the **need to take urgent action** to address ocean warming and prevent, for example, melting glaciers and rising sea levels.

**The IPCC's recent *Special Report on Climate Change and Land*** was approved in August. The report points out that the only way to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius is by reducing GHG emissions in all sectors, including land and food. Use of land (agriculture, food production, and deforestation) accounts for 23% of emissions, but, at the same time, natural soil processes absorb a quantity equivalent to one-third of the emissions caused by burning fossil fuels and by industry. The report advocates sustainable land management to simultaneously ensure food security, nutrition for the world's population, and biodiversity conservation, while transforming farm production methods and adapting dietary patterns.

Moreover, from the poverty perspective, the IPCC's Fifth Report points out that the impact of climate change will **slow down economic growth and further erode food security**, triggering new poverty traps, particularly in urban areas, and emerging hunger hotspots. Climate change can also indirectly increase the risk of violent conflict by exacerbating underlying problems of poverty and inequality.

## 2.1. Spain, one of the most vulnerable countries

In Spain, the most conspicuous effects of climate change include **longer summer seasons**, estimated at five weeks since the 1970s, with more intense and frequent heatwaves. Other effects observed are a decrease in rainfall and a drier climate.

WHO figures show that **air pollution** in Spain causes more than 30,000 deaths per year, in addition to affecting the health of 15 million people in our country. According to the Ministry of Ecological Transition, the most affected areas are Madrid and Barcelona, followed closely by the regions of Andalusia, Extremadura, Castilla-La Mancha, and Valencia.

Moreover, it is estimated that **every year approximately 1,400 people die in Spain because of high temperatures**, a figure that by the mid-21<sup>st</sup> century could rise to 12,000 people if adaptation measures are not taken. Higher temperatures also lead to the spread of diseases common in tropical areas, which were not common in our country. It is also projected that climate variability will have a particular impact on **cardiovascular, respiratory, and neurodegenerative diseases**, such as Parkinson's disease, and on the increase in allergies.

**Rising sea levels** will especially affect large low-lying coastal cities, such as La Coruña (7 m), San Sebastián (7 m), Málaga (8 m), Seville (11 m), Barcelona (13 m), and Valencia (16 m), but also smaller towns such as San Vicente de la Barquera, Tarifa, Conil, Algeciras, Almería, and natural habitats such as the Santoña Marshes Natural Park, Doñana National Park, and the Ebro Delta.

According to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, the areas most vulnerable to **desertification are the arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas**. Spain is seriously affected by this phenomenon, given that more than two-thirds of its territory fall under one of these three categories.

The increased dryness of ecosystems also leads to greater vulnerability to possible wildfires.

## 2.2. Africa and Asia, the most affected continents

Despite Spain's high vulnerability to the effects of climate change, other areas of the planet are more exposed than our country. For instance, one of the most affected areas will be Africa, even though it is the continent contributing the least to climate change.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Africa's vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by a number of non-climatic factors, including **poverty and inequality, food insecurity, high prevalence of disease, chronic conflicts, low levels of development, and low adaptive capacity**; factors which, in turn, are equally exacerbated by the consequences of climate change. It is projected that sub-Saharan Africa will be the most affected region, not only because its farm production will be lower and water and food insecurity will be higher, but also because it is more exposed to coastal flooding and extreme weather events and to more intense risks involving human health.

The non-climatic factors aggravating Africa's vulnerability include strong dependence on primary products; rapid population growth that is exerting pressure on degraded landscapes; insufficient governance and weak institutions; low capital investment; lack of access to foreign

markets; poor infrastructure; inadequate technology transfer; and high levels of foreign debt, despite the debt cancellation programmes of recent years.

The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative's *ND-GAIN Country Index* states that the countries that will be more exposed to climate change are in Africa and Central Asia, as well as in **Southeast Asia** (e.g. Somalia, Chad, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Myanmar, and Bangladesh). Other areas among the most affected by climate change will be Lagos (Nigeria), Manila (the Philippines), Haiti, Yemen, island states such as Kiribati and Fiji, and the Arabian Peninsula. Reasons for their vulnerability include rapid population growth, lack of sanitation system infrastructure and development, vulnerability to natural disasters, rising sea levels, water scarcity, and desertification. Moreover, some of the most affected ecosystems are the Amazon rainforest and the Antarctic tundra, as well as mountain glaciers, the retreat of which has accelerated in recent years.

## 2.3. Climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean

The **report by the La Rábida Observatory on Climate Change and Sustainable Development** in Ibero-America has stated that the region's population is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, because half of them live in the countries highest on the socio-ecological vulnerability index, whose key factors include poverty, inequality and rapid urbanization. Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Bolivia and Paraguay are the Ibero-American countries with the highest climate risk index.

Experts predict that, unless GHG are significantly reduced, by the year 2100, temperatures in Central America will rise by 1.6 to 4 degrees Celsius, with an increase of up to 6.7 degrees in the rest of Ibero-America.

Water scarcity resulting from climate change **will affect between 12 and 81 million people by 2020**. This is compounded by the projection that, unless our emissions are reduced, by 2100 the rise in sea levels could reach figures of 45 to 82 cm, significantly affecting many urban population groups.

The La Rábida report points out that, **in economic terms**, the impact between 1970 and 2008 of the accumulated losses due to climate change—the majority caused by extreme storms—is estimated at more than 81.4 billion dollars.

All of these consequences are compounded by the **migration** caused, precisely, by global warming. Millions of people in the areas most affected by rising sea levels, **desertification, deforestation, and the lack of drinking water** will become climate refugees. The World Bank has warned that 17 million people may be forced to emigrate due to climate change. If the situation is not reversed, up to 1% of Latin America's population—2% in the specific case of Mexico—could become internal climate migrants.

Some countries have already announced ambitious commitments to reverse this situation. For example, **Chile**—the country under whose Presidency the COP25 is being held—was the first Latin American country to set the goal of obtaining 20% of its energy from unconventional

renewable energy sources (such as wind power and solar power) by 2025, and it has announced that it will achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

## 3. SPAIN, LEADING A JUST TRANSITION IN THE WORLD

The fight against climate change is clearly global in nature, and demands a **multilateral response within the UN**. In the past year, **Spain has stepped up its role as a key country in efforts to combat global warming** and its consequences. Spain has also taken on a leading role in promoting a just ecological transition and a **Green New Deal**—a set of **public and private initiatives aimed at transforming the economic model** through public investment and the resulting job creation. It is also noteworthy that Spain has recently announced an ambitious decarbonization plan with a view to 2050, which has been praised internationally for its ambitious scope and commitment to halting climate change.

Spain has worked to create a roadmap for our country to achieve **climate neutrality by 2050**, the date marked by the UN Secretary-General (ahead of the Paris Agreement timeline), meeting its international commitments, consistent with science and with the message that the Spanish people have expressed in street demonstrations nationwide, calling for greater ambition and for climate justice. Spain was the first country to demand this 2050 neutrality commitment in the European Union, so that Europe would respond to the IPCC's call, setting off a ripple effect in many countries in our region. Spain agrees with the European Parliament and with the President-elect of the European Commission that the EU must respond to recent scientific reports, and to the climate emergency that we are now experiencing, by raising the ambition of our current target (at least 40% by 2030, compared with 1990) to 55%.

Moreover, Spain's position as a **global reference in social rights and freedoms, with a decided commitment to equality**, has led our country to be tasked, at the multilateral level, with acting as a standard-bearer for incorporating into the fight against climate change a markedly social agenda, including such cross-cutting issues as health, welfare, equal opportunities for women, and quality jobs worldwide.

The **Climate Action Summit**, held in September in New York, set the stage for the UN and Spain to sketch out their lines of action in these areas of the fight against climate change, with results including the creation of the Coalition of Social and Political Drivers of Climate Action, whose mandates include climate and clean air, a just transition, and gender, three key issues in achieving climate justice.

### 3.1. Climate Action Summit in New York

In a context marked by the rise in GHG emissions, temperatures, and sea levels, and in which we are discovering the health consequences of climate change, **UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for stepping up national commitments to halt global warming**.

Guterres invited Heads of State and of Government to a **Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019**, with two main goals: **mobilize political commitment to raise ambition with regard to the 2015 Paris Agreement targets**; and to send a clear message to markets and

policymakers to create a consensus between national and subnational governments, between corporations and civil society. After the Climate Action Summit, the SDG Summit was held, which the Secretary-General had called to mobilize voluntary commitments for implementing the SDGs. These back-to-back summits were seen as a way to ensure alignment and promote joint action by multiple actors to advance on both agendas, which are two sides of the same coin.

The idea was to avoid a formal summit involving one speech after another by national representatives, prioritizing instead the presentation of initiatives, partnerships, and proposals with a mobilizing impact. To prepare the summit, Secretary-General Guterres identified **nine thematic areas or coalitions, tasking different countries, together with international organizations and other relevant stakeholders**, to work on each one of them and to select success stories and proposals.

The cross-cutting, comprehensive approach of a regulatory framework to fight climate change, proposed by the Government of Spain (Comprehensive National Energy and Climate Plan, draft of the Climate Change Act, and the Just Transition Strategy) has aroused the interest of the international community. Therefore, the UN Secretary-General **called on Spain to lead one of the pillars of the Climate Action Summit**, and to form—**together with Peru** and a group of UN bodies and agencies—the **Coalition of Social and Political Drivers of Climate Action**. A cross-cutting working group on which Spain and Peru have already been coordinating since early 2019, and whose goal is to **strengthen climate action through three key drivers** of social mobilization: **health, a just transition, and gender**, issues for which three initiatives were presented that have already received the support of countries around the world.

The Coalition must urge States to take on a greater commitment in health and air quality issues, implementing policies aimed at achieving the targets set by the World Health Organization (WHO); committing to a just ecological transition that leaves no one behind, with the creation of quality jobs; and developing gender policies that guarantee the full participation of women in this process.

Besides the group of social and political drivers, the other priority areas or thematic lines aimed at responding to climate change on which other States and actors have worked are: **Nature-based Solutions** (China and New Zealand); **Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action** (Kenya and Turkey); **Resilience and Adaptation** (United Kingdom and Egypt); **Climate Finance and Carbon Pricing** (France, Jamaica, and Qatar); **Energy Transition** (Denmark and Ethiopia); **Industry Transition** (India and Sweden); **Mitigation Strategy** (Chile); and **Youth and Public Mobilization** (Marshall Islands and Ireland).

Spain's acting President of the Government, Pedro Sánchez, in a letter to the UN Secretary-General, expressed our country's commitment to raising country climate ambition on emission planning and reduction. Specifically, there are plans to present in 2020 a long-term decarbonization strategy, along with a Just Transition Strategy and a National Strategy against Energy Poverty. Moreover, Spain has undertaken to reduce its GHG emissions by 2030 to at least 20% less than 1990 levels; to meet a renewable energy target of 35% of final energy consumption (currently at 17.5%); and to achieve a mix of renewables higher than 70% in the electricity sector (approximately 40% today).



## 3.2. Coalition of Social and Political Drivers of Climate Action

The Coalition, led by Peru and Spain—together with agencies such as the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and **WHO**—has worked on three initiatives that are closely related to the issues of the Summit called by the UN Secretary-General: **climate, air quality, and health; a just transition; and gender**. These three lines of work refer to health as a driver of the fight against air pollution and climate change; to the need to protect those who will be affected by the transition to low-carbon economies, and to create green jobs; and to the importance of taking into account the particular impact of climate change on women and girls, as well as the leadership they may have in these global efforts.



**Spain is leading the just ecological transition**

Together with Peru, Spain heads the **Coalition of Social and Political Drivers**, mobilizing UN Member States to work towards sustainable economic change that leaves no one behind.

**Air quality and health**

Fossil fuel emissions cause millions of deaths each year across the globe. This situation calls for the harmonization of air quality policies, the application of WHO standards, and the promotion of sustainable electric mobility.

**Women and climate change**

Climate change particularly affects the most vulnerable groups, especially women. It is essential that women be key players and beneficiaries of the ecological transition.

**Green jobs**

Countries must work to minimize the negative impacts of the necessary adaptation to a low-emission economic model, and to promote sustainable jobs.

### *A just transition*

A just transition in the fight against climate change means **minimizing the negative impact on workers and their communities of the necessary adaptation to a low-emissions economy**, articulating policies to protect those who will be most affected and to create jobs. In other words, for the ecological transition to be able to create **green jobs**, and for communities to develop sustainably. Spain is spearheading this movement, and is the first country to have its own Just Transition Strategy.

The initiative of the Coalition of Social and Political Drivers led by Spain and Peru urges States to undertake national plans for a just transition, adopting such measures as inclusive social dialogue, professional capacity-building, promoting low-carbon enterprise, creating green jobs, social protection policies, and transferring technology to developing countries. All of this with a view to leaving no one behind in the new sustainable economic models.

During the high-level event before the Climate Action Summit in New York, Spain's Minister of Ecological Transition, Teresa Ribera, presented the outcomes of the initiative **Climate Action for Jobs**, a coalition now comprising **46 countries and a dozen multinational corporations** that have undertaken to ensure a just transition to a sustainable, emission-free economy.

The States that signed on to the initiative undertake to drawing up **National Plans for a Just Transition, Decent Work, and Green Jobs**. Plans that will make it possible to identify employment opportunities in decarbonization processes, as well as the skills necessary for workers to play an active role in the ecological transition.

Plans that will be built through social dialogue, and which must include an evaluation of the impact and potential of the ecological transition. In addition to policies to protect workers and vulnerable groups, both from the transition itself and from climate disasters.

**Corporations have a key role** in this initiative. Prominent signatories include Spanish multinationals such as Iberdrola, Acciona, Endesa, and Ferrovial, along with international leaders such as Engie, Orsted, and Sodexo. At the national level, the Climate Action for Jobs coalition has created a partnership with the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organizations (CEOE), which will work jointly on the initiative "Advancing towards a Just Transition and the Creation of Green Jobs for All".

## ***Health and climate***

It is becoming ever clearer that the human activities that are destabilizing the climate also have a negative impact on health. The burning of fossil fuels, the main driver of climate change, causes more than 7 million deaths worldwide every year. It is essential for governments to take measures **giving priority to the health and well-being of their citizens**; in fact, the Paris Agreement estimates that more than 1 million human lives can be saved by reducing air pollution.

The Coalition of Social and Political Drivers has promoted commitments aimed at national and subnational governments **to achieve healthy air quality and the implementation of WHO guidelines by 2030**; it has also promoted **electric mobility** to reduce road transport emissions.

The day before the Climate Action Summit, Minister Ribera also presented an initiative, which has **already been joined by 53 countries and 87 regional and municipal governments (33 of them from Spain)** which have undertaken to make health a policy driver for raising climate ambition.

The **Climate and Air Quality Initiative** proposes achieving, by 2030, healthy air quality and the harmonization of policies to fight climate change and air pollution. It provides, among other aspects, that signatory countries implement **air quality and climate action policies** that allow the WHO guidelines to be met, promote sustainable electric mobility, and reduce road transport emissions.

The countries and cities committed to this initiative should **evaluate the number of lives they save** with these measures, the benefits to the health of children and other vulnerable groups,

and the financial savings for health systems. Moreover, it will be necessary to monitor progress and share experiences and best practices to improve air quality through an international network coordinated by the UN.

## ***Gender and climate***

Climate change is jeopardizing global advances in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Therefore, climate action must empower women and make them beneficiaries, stakeholders, and leaders.

The Social and Political Drivers initiative led by Spain and Peru proposes that States commit to **implementing, by 2025, measures such as mainstreaming gender in their strategies for combating climate change, and promoting initiatives that foster women's and girls' full leadership** of mitigation and adaptation measures.

At the high-level event on gender and climate change held at the UN headquarters, Minister Ribera presented this initiative, already **endorsed by 51 countries**, which have committed to adopting national plans to combat climate change taking gender into account.

Climate change particularly affects the **most vulnerable groups** and those with the least capacity to address it, especially in developing countries. Women and girls, given the roles associated with gender and cultural norms, suffer the **greatest risks and burdens** associated with this environmental threat.

Therefore, the initiative seeks to step up the profile of women in the economic sectors that need to be transformed, and in which men are generally the majority, such as the energy sector, in which only 5% of the members of the executive boards of the world's leading 200 electric companies are women.

### **3.3. Development cooperation and climate change: Financial support for climate funds**

Spain is committed to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in its development cooperation policy, as set forth in the **Fifth Master Plan of Spanish Cooperation (2018-2021)**. The Spanish International Development Cooperation Agency (AECID) supports many programmes, funds and initiatives that focus on combating climate change, such as AECID's Regional Cooperation Programme with Latin America and the Caribbean on Climate Change (ARAUCLIMA), the European Union's EUROCLIMA+ Programme, and the NDC Support Programme to implement the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Moreover, Spain supports the work of different Ibero-American sectoral networks, such as the [Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices \(RIOCC\)](#), created in 2004 to serve as an instrument for ongoing dialogue between all of the countries to facilitate sharing experiences and identifying priorities for climate change action. The RIOCC is overseen by the Ibero-American Ministers of the Environment, to whom they report their conclusions. The RIOCC working

programme includes different areas, all of which are priorities for the region's countries, and which are addressed in workshops, studies and projects.

Spain's commitment at the global level is not only reflected in its initiatives and its capacity for international mobilization. It also takes the shape of a **specific financial commitment**. During the Climate Action Summit held in New York on 23 September 2019, Spain undertook to contribute **150 million euros over the next four years to the United Nations GCF**, which is the principal financial mechanism for supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries, in the context of the Convention on Climate Change.

The acting President of the Spanish Government, Pedro Sánchez, announced this figure during his speech at the United Nations Summit. Furthermore, in the framework of the Climate Convention, Spain will also contribute 2 million euros to the Adaptation Fund, which finances a wide range of measures to help developing countries to adapt to the impact of climate change; for example, by introducing new farming methods that are more resistant to extreme weather, or implementing actions to prevent flooding.

During the President of the Spanish Government's bilateral meetings at the United Nations with the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General praised Spain's commitment to the United Nations and to multilateralism on issues such as climate change and migration.

### 3.4. Spain and the 2030 Agenda

Spain's commitment to the multilateral fight against climate change is also reflected in Spain's promotion of the **2030 Agenda's SDGs**, which include action points on climate change. The 2030 Agenda has been taken as an **ethical, as well as operational, benchmark** for all governments and all citizens. A new global social contract, and the most solid foundation for building the world that we want.

As part of this commitment, on 29 June 2018 the Council of Ministers approved the **Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda**, which was drafted with the participation of all Spain's Ministries, as well as its regional and local administrations, and organizations representing the full range of social and economic stakeholders. By adopting this plan, and presenting it to the international community during the Voluntary National Review at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on 18 July 2018, the government of Spain and Spanish society undertook to make the 2030 Agenda their national blueprint.

Since then, using the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs as a reference, Spain has coordinated an **unprecedented mobilization of the public administrations, at the national, regional and local levels, of the citizens, and of social actors, companies, universities, research centres, and civil society organizations**, with a shared vision.

The government of Spain has taken decisive steps towards achieving this commitment to the SDGs, with the firm conviction that people and the planet must be put at the centre of political action. The 2030 Agenda has become the **focus of Spain's national vision, and represents the country's way of acting in the world**.

The Spanish government's action is reflected, firstly, in the advances made in transformative measures and policy levers set forth in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Secondly, in the most important measures adopted by the Council of Ministers and which have a direct impact on delivering the SDGs. Thus, the Act on Climate Change and Energy Transition, and the Spanish Circular Economy Strategy, were identified as policy levers to accelerate implementation of the SDGs, promote coherent sustainable development, and achieve more a rapid and sustained impact in key aspects for advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, revitalizing and reinstating Spanish Cooperation as a crucial public policy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is another policy lever identified in the Action Plan. And, in turn, one of the transformative measures is to place the **2030 Agenda at the centre of Spain's identity in the world**, in European and multilateral policy, which means promoting the advancement and implementation, and raising the ambition, of the 2030 Agenda in the EU and in all international forums and institutions.

As a process to monitor the efforts and actions of all stakeholders in the framework of the Action Plan, a **Progress Report** was recently drafted. This exercise has made it possible to highlight the advances made, while also identifying challenges that still remain, as well as aspects that need to be corrected. Furthermore, on 6 February, Spain's Council of Ministers published the Agenda for Change, a road map to guide government action in addressing the reforms set forth in the 2030 Agenda and in laying the foundations for sustainable development.

In December 2018, the National Statistics Institute created a section on its website dedicated to the 2030 Agenda indicators, disseminating the UN Global Indicator Framework data available for Spain.



## 4. SPAIN'S GREEN NEW DEAL

### 4.1. A cross-cutting strategic framework

Spain has adopted a cross-cutting strategy for implementing a Green New Deal at the national level. In February 2019, the Spanish government presented its **Strategic Energy and Climate Framework: An Opportunity for Modernizing the Spanish Economy and Creating Employment**, which sets forth measures for modernizing the Spanish economy, creating jobs, positioning Spain as a leader in renewable energy, developing rural areas, improving human health and the environment, and promoting social justice. This proposal lays the foundations for implementing a Spanish Green New Deal in line with the European Green New Deal proposed by the President-elect of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.

This Framework consists of:

- The **Act on Climate Change and Energy Transition**, currently at the draft bill stage, which reflects national and international consensus on this issue, and which will provide a structure for the complex legal architecture that Spain must deploy if it is to halt climate change and, above all, fulfil the commitments adopted in the Paris Agreement and as an EU Member State.
- The **integrated National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)**, a strategic document proposing lines of action and pathways for transforming the energy system, offering unambiguous reassurance to social, public, and private stakeholders. Spain's NECP, which includes an analysis of impacts on the economy and employment, is one of the most exhaustive presented by the Member States. Having been well received by the European Commission and by independent bodies, Spain's NECP is now being completed with an exhaustive environmental assessment and enhanced by input from Spanish civil society on its first draft.
- The **Just Transition Strategy**, which follows the ILO guidelines on this issue, and which the Government has already begun to implement through Just Transition Agreements in those areas affected by the closure of thermal power stations.

The priority objective of these Agreements is to sustain and generate economic activity and employment in areas undergoing transition by accompanying the sectors and groups affected, maintaining population levels in rural and deindustrialized areas, and mobilizing funds for creating and sustaining employment.

Efforts are currently underway in respect of two agreements in Asturias, four in Castilla y León, and one in Aragon.

## 4.2. Act on Climate Change and Energy Transition

Spain's Act on Climate Change and Energy Transition (Spanish acronym, LCCTE), currently at the draft bill stage, sets forth a long-term regulatory framework that will serve as a guide for decarbonizing Spain's economy by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement targets. Moreover, it is considered a key policy for **promoting coherent sustainable development and making progress on the 2030 Agenda**.

This document sets several clear objectives: **reduce GHG emissions, give fresh impetus to renewable energies, and curb energy spending by identifying efficiency measures**. The targets for 2030 are as follows: cut GHG emissions by at least 20% compared with 1990 levels; generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources, and ensure that at least 35% of final energy consumption comes from these clean technologies.

Furthermore, the LCCTE seeks to **improve energy efficiency by at least 35%**, in addition to providing for a number of efforts to ensure that Spain meets its commitment of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. By that year, GHG emissions must have been reduced by 90% compared with 1990 levels, and the electricity system must be 100% renewable.

## 4.3. Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030

Spain was one of the **EU Member States that received the most positive valuations from Brussels of its draft integrated NECP for 2021-2030**. This Plan is in line with Spain's LCCTE, which sets forth the national GHG emission reduction targets, the incorporation of renewable energies, and energy efficiency measures, among other matters.

Spain's NECP includes an analysis of impacts on the country's economy and industry, on employment, and on public health. It concludes that the modernization process to achieve a carbon-free economy will mobilize **236 billion euros between 2021 and 2030**. Of this investment, 80% will be made by the private sector, and the remaining 20%—approximately 47 billion euros—will come from public sources. This public investment will be focused, primarily, on energy saving and energy efficiency, and on actions associated with sustainable mobility.

Another of the calculations included in Spain's NECP is of the benefits of increasing the **penetration of renewable energies**: by reducing foreign energy dependence by 15%—from 74% in 2017 to 59% by 2030—it will also have a favourable impact on the country's trade balance.

Specifically, the reduction in energy imports has been quantified at nearly 75.4 billion euros over the 2021-2030 period, as compared with the baseline scenario. Moreover, as a result of the investments considered in the Plan, energy savings, and changes in the energy mix, GDP is expected to rise by between 19.3 billion and 25.1 billion per year throughout the 2021-2030 period (by 1.8% in 2030).

Following the NECP guidelines, it is calculated that **between 250,000 and 364,000 additional jobs will be generated every year** up to 2030. Investments in renewable energy will be the main



driver of job creation, generating between 102,000 and 182,000 additional net jobs annually. They will be followed by actions linked to energy saving and efficiency—especially **energy renovation of buildings**—which are expected to generate between 42,000 and 80,000 new jobs per year.

By sector, the greatest growth is expected to be concentrated in trade and repair (52,700 jobs by 2030); followed by the manufacturing industry (52,000 jobs by 2030) and construction (41,700 jobs by 2030).

In general terms, **the impacts of Spain's NECP will progressively favour lower-income homes and, in particular, vulnerable groups**. Decarbonization will lower the average price of electricity by 12%, before tax, by 2030, compared with current prices. It is also expected that, as of that year, prices will drop due to the mass entry of renewables, which are cheaper and more competitive.

That said, one of the most important impacts of these measures will be the consequent **reduction in emissions**: From the 340.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq) released in 2017, Spain's emissions will fall to 226 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq in 2030. Therefore, by the end of the decade, our country will have stopped releasing one out of every three tonnes of emissions.

The so-called diffuse sectors—residential, transport, agriculture, waste, fluorinated gases, and non-ETS (Emissions Trading System) industry—will cut their emissions by 38% compared with 2005 levels, while in the case of ETS sectors, this reduction will amount to 60% with respect to the same year.

The power generation sector will reduce its emissions levels more than any other industry—by 44 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq from 2021 to 2030. It will be followed by the transport sector—responsible for 26% of emissions in 2017—which is expected to reduce its emissions by 28 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-eq from 2021 to 2030. The drop in GHG emissions will be accompanied by a reduction in the primary pollutants affecting air quality. Specifically, PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions, which are the most damaging to health, are expected to be cut by 31%, in addition to reductions in emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)—the main pollutants forming PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles—of 44% and 29%, respectively.

## 4.4. Just Transition Strategy

Ensuring a socially just transition must be a priority, and Spain is making efforts in this regard at both the national and international levels. Specifically, the Strategic Energy and Climate Framework is supplemented by:

- The **National Strategy against Energy Poverty**. This instrument, approved in April 2019, offers Spain's first official definition of energy poverty and a diagnosis of the current situation, establishing **indicators for annual monitoring and setting reduction targets until 2025**: the aim is to cut energy poverty by 50%, and by at least 25% in each of the established indicators (percentage of households whose energy expenditure in relation

to their income is more than double the national median; hidden energy poverty, meaning the percentage of households whose absolute energy expenditure is less than half the national median; inability to maintain the home at an adequate temperature; and delays in the payment of bills).

The Strategy proposes specific actions, including the creation of a new social discount rate on energy bills. This discount rate is granted automatically and is universal, applying to all types of supply. The Strategy also prohibits the cut-off of supply in extreme weather situations. Moreover, it proposes a structural approach to energy poverty that includes short-, medium- and long-term measures for the energy renovation of buildings and for the implementation of energy efficiency systems in homes.

- The **Long-Term Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate-Neutral Spanish Economy by 2050**. The purpose of this document is to detail how Spain will meet the target of reducing GHG emissions by at least 90% by 2050 compared with 1990, the reference year. The proposed strategy is to increase the removal of emissions by sinks until achieving carbon neutrality, and to do so in an integrated manner that favours the modernization and competitiveness of the Spanish economy as much as possible. Having concluded a citizen participation process, the Government is now putting the finishing touches to this Strategy.

## 4.5. Consolidating the framework: Repealing the sun tax and promoting self-consumption

Spain has not only laid the foundations for its energy transition, with 2030 and 2050 as target years, it has also begun to **consolidate specific steps**. The first was to recognize the right to **toll- and charge-free self-consumption of electricity**. This decision led to the revocation of the so-called “sun tax”, a legal anomaly which hindered self-consumption in our country.

The measure was introduced in October 2018, in the Royal Decree-Law on urgent measures for energy transition and consumer protection, which was enacted ahead of the new European Renewable Energy Directive. In addition to eliminating the sun tax, this Royal Decree-Law paved the way for increased self-consumption and use of renewables, promoting the figure of **energy prosumers**—small consumers required to register as energy producers.

Moreover, by enabling facilities and energy to be shared at the level of homeowners’ associations, neighbourhoods, industrial estates, or even entire towns, this Royal Decree-Law provides for the constitution of **local energy communities**. Regulatory development is currently underway to extend this local energy community model to other situations, and to ensure that citizens can participate actively in the change in energy model.

This is key to taking energy generation to city centres, and to increasing citizen participation in energy. It will also enhance the competitiveness of Spanish industry, which can reap significant cost savings from these measures.

## 4.6. Mobility

Spain has also committed to changing its mobility model. The **charging of electric vehicles** has been liberalized, and **grants for purchasing electric vehicles** are now available to a wider range of applicants, including companies (employee transportation plans), integrated mobility strategies in urban areas or on islands, and innovation projects for mobility using renewable energies. Spain is also working on legislation that will enable the development of low-emission areas in all towns with more than 50,000 inhabitants, a measure that will require clean transport alternatives and incentives.

Finally, the energy agenda is being **discussed not only with the energy industry, but with business actors, trade unionists, politicians, and civil society as a whole**. It is a commitment focused not only on honouring our international obligations, but also on innovation, competitiveness, and well-being in Spain. It is essential that all agents adopt this commitment. This is why the Spanish Administration participates in debate forums and in organizing events and roundtables. This is why energy has been included in our lines of action with other sectors.

## 4.7. Adaptation to climate change

Furthermore, in parallel with its other efforts, Spain has been working on **plans and measures for adapting to climate change**—of particular relevance given that our country is especially vulnerable to its impacts. Over the past year, the Spanish Climate Change Office has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the current **National Adaptation Plan (NAP)**, approved in 2006, which was ground-breaking in Europe, as it was only the second planning document on the subject of national adaptation, following on from Finland's National Adaptation Strategy (2005).

This analysis also served to define the steps to be followed for its updating (NAP-2), as the next plan must cover the 2021-2030 horizon. Therefore, NAP-2 will focus on emergent aspects in the field of adaptation to climate change, including the influence of social and demographic factors on vulnerability to climate change; consideration of risks in Spain that originate from the effects of climate change beyond our borders; and the role of lifestyles in building resilience to climate change, among others.

## 4.8. Climate change and employment

According to the estimates of its integrated NECP, **between 250,000 and 364,000 additional jobs will be created in Spain every year up to 2030**. Investments in renewable energies are expected to be the main driver of job creation, generating between 102,000 and 182,000 additional net jobs per year. Moreover, actions linked to energy saving and efficiency—especially energy renovation of buildings—are expected to generate between 42,000 and 80,000 new jobs per year.

By sector, the greatest growth is expected to be concentrated in trade and repair (52,700 jobs in 2030); followed by the manufacturing industry (52,000 jobs in 2030) and construction (41,700 jobs in 2030).

All of this will be closely linked to the Just Transition Strategy approved by the Spanish government in February. This Strategy follows the ILO guidelines and the recommendations of the Paris Agreement for maximizing the job opportunities from transitioning towards a low-carbon development model.

This Strategy will give impetus to the design of **industrial and I+D policies, as well as policies promoting economic activity, employment and vocational training** to ensure that the shift towards a new production model is just and socially beneficial for all. To this end, the Strategy identifies and aligns with the areas of the NECP with the greatest opportunities for job creation: energy renovation of buildings, renewable energies (auctions, repowering, promotion of self-consumption) and energy storage development, electrical mobility and the development of alternative fuels, such as biomethane and hydrogen.

The Strategy also includes proposals for better **accompanying companies, adapting existing support instruments** and promoting plans for accompanying industry and other sectors throughout the transition. One such instrument is the Electro-intensive Consumer Statute, aimed at maintaining and strengthening industrial competitiveness.

In those regions in which the energy and ecological transition represents an impediment for economic activity and for companies, **Just Transition Agreements** will be signed. These Agreements will coordinate action plans aimed at generating integrated regional development projects that ensure medium and long-term employment, and dynamize the transition towards a new production scenario.

These Agreements will be used to channel the **participation of different stakeholders:** companies, trade unions, universities, schools, environmental associations and non-governmental organizations, as well as the different public administrations, and in particular, local councils. In this regard, grants totalling 130 million euros have been stipulated for implementing urgent Just Transition Agreements for 2019-2021.

In line with **Spain's National Strategy against Depopulation**, particular emphasis is placed on the creation of green jobs in rural areas. The lines of action proposed in this sphere include promoting renewable energies such as biomass and biogas, supporting the Bioeconomy Strategy designed to generate economic value by activating local markets for products and by-products, and revising the Spanish Forest Plan.

This document proposes the integration of the Ecological Transition into Spain's **Annual Employment Policy Plans**, focusing particularly on equal opportunities between women and men and on improving employment services in vulnerable regions through the State Public Employment Service (Spanish acronym, SEPE) in collaboration with Spain's regional governments and social agents.

## 5. A WORLD REFERENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY

Spain's position as a major global player as regards ecological transformation is driven by its progress in sustainable development throughout the country. In addition to having the ideal conditions and resources to be a world leader in the production and storage of renewable energies (sun, air, water, technological capacity and human capital, among others), different international indices have highly valued its environmental strategies and policies, making it one of the countries most committed to achieving the SDGs.

### 5.1. Committed to the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda



**Spain ranks 21st (out of 162 countries) in implementation of the SDGs**

Spain has a score of **77.8/100**, similar to those of Canada, Ireland and Switzerland

Its best scores are for **SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation)** and **SDG 7 (affordable, clean energy)**

*Sustainable Development Report 2019*  
Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung

#COP25

The **2030 Agenda** and its 17 SDGs, is a highly ambitious agenda that addresses multiple challenges, including improving all countries' capacity to produce clean and affordable energy as part of sustainable development (SDG 13). Given the Agenda's scope and ambition, the UN created a Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda, a multi-stakeholder, multi-donor fund created in 2017 that seeks to accelerate the achievement of national sustainable development goals aligned with the 2030 Agenda by supporting integrated and interdisciplinary policies. Spain has become the first donor country, following the statement made by the President of the Government, who pledged to donate 100 million euros to the project over the next five years. This is yet one more proof of Spain's firm commitment to the 2030 Agenda, which is central to how we see our country's role in the world and to our government action.

Spain's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to the Paris Agreement has led the [US economist and advisor to the UN Secretary-General, Jeffrey Sachs](#), to affirm that our country **is leading the green transformation** and is a strong voice at the European and global levels. The professor of Sustainable Development at Columbia University (USA), also stressed that Spain is well-placed to lead the ecological transition due to its combination of excellent technology, large green companies, and national commitment to the green agenda.

Professor Sachs is not the only person to have praised Spain's efforts in working towards sustainable transformation. [The Sustainable Development Report 2019](#), which assesses the level of compliance of each country in relation to the 17 SDGs, has also highlighted the country's efforts. Prepared by independent teams of experts from the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** and the *Bertelsmann Stiftung*, it gives Spain an overall score of **77.8 points out of 100; it ranks 21<sup>st</sup> out of the 162 UN countries** that were analysed. Spain received a score similar to that of countries such as Canada, Ireland and Switzerland, and higher than such countries as the USA, Portugal, Luxembourg, and Australia. According to this report, Spain obtained the best results on **SDG 6 (availability of clean water and sanitation)** and **SDG 7 (affordable, clean energy)**. The report also notes that Spain has significantly improved on SDG 3 (health and well-being) and SDG 4 (inclusive and quality education). Although our country still has challenges to overcome regarding SDGs 2, 9 and 13, we are determined to make every effort to achieve our goals and produce real results.

The SDSN report is based on data produced by international organizations, such as the **World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**. It also uses civil society and research centre registers, and refers to the main information gaps encountered by its authors. The report was subject to a statistical audit by the European Commission.



**ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE**

**SPAIN RANKS 12<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries in environmental performance**

**1<sup>st</sup> in water and sanitation**  
and 6<sup>th</sup> in water resources

**13<sup>th</sup> in biodiversity and habitat**

**20<sup>th</sup> in air quality**

*Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018*  
Yale and Columbia Universities, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum

**#COP25**

In another international index, the [Environmental Performance Index \(EPI\) 2018](#), produced by the prestigious universities of Yale and Columbia (USA), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum, **Spain ranks 12<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries for environmental health and ecological vitality**, with a score very similar to those of Iceland, Austria and Finland, and higher than those of Germany, Norway and Belgium, in a ranking headed by Switzerland. The study classifies the countries according to 24 performance indicators across ten different categories, producing an indicator of each country’s progress towards achieving the established environmental policy goals.

## 5.2. The EU’s best ecological transition plan

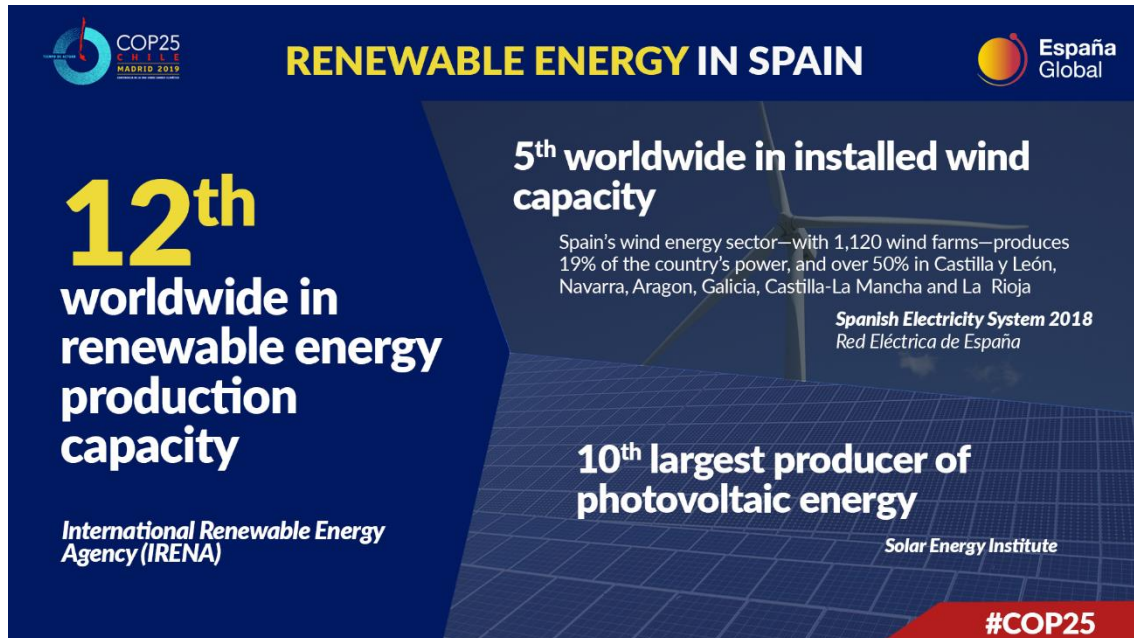
Another agency to add to the list of those that have carried out studies and evaluations is the *European Climate Foundation*, Europe's main private think-tank in the fight against global warming. This agency concluded in May 2019 that Spain’s **integrated NECP for 2021-2030 was the best of the drafts presented by the 28 EU Member States**. Moreover, Spain was the only country that passed this organization’s assessment, with a score of 52.4 points out of 100. It was followed by France with 46.9 points, Greece with 44.2, and Sweden with 42.8. However, these are only drafts, which countries must continue to improve until the end of this year—and the experts warn against complacency. Furthermore, the [European Commission has called on Member States to step up the ambition](#) of their national plans in order to meet the Paris Agreement targets.



Among other measures, the Spanish NECP—as seen above—aims to reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2030 (compared with 1990), and to generate 74% of electricity through renewable technologies and sources, with the goal of reaching 100% by 2050.

### 5.3. Ideal conditions for renewable energy

Spain has the perfect conditions to become a global renewable energy producer. Although the economic crisis of the past decade has hindered the progress of renewables, the country has succeeded in maintaining its prominent international position.



According to data from the [International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\)](#), in 2018 **Spain had the world's 12<sup>th</sup> largest renewable energy power capacity or electricity generation (with 48,277.5 MW)**. In this ranking, headed by China, the USA and Brazil, Spain achieves higher levels of renewable energy production than such countries as the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden and Australia.

Spain also ranks **fifth worldwide in terms of installed wind power**, after China, the USA, Germany and India, according to the [Spanish Wind Energy Association \(Spanish acronym, AEE\)](#). **It is also the fifth European country and 10<sup>th</sup> worldwide in photovoltaic solar energy** (according to the [Solar Energy Institute](#)). As for biomass, although it still represents a modest percentage in the national electricity generation mix, Spain has great potential: it is **the third European country in terms of absolute forest biomass resources** (only surpassed by Sweden and Finland), and the seventh in per capita terms, with a forest area of almost 28 million hectares, according to the [Socioeconomic Balance of Biomass in Spain 2017-2021](#), compiled by *Unión por la Biomasa*. Spain is also the country with **the greatest increase in forest area**, with an annual growth rate of 2.2%, much higher than the European Union average (0.51%).

The truth is that renewables have been growing steadily in Spain for four years. Only last year the sector grew by 10.7%, contributed 10.5 billion euros to national GDP, and generated savings of more than 4.7 billion euros in the electricity market, according to the [Macroeconomic Impact Study of Renewable Energies in Spain 2018 of the Association of Renewable Energy Companies](#) (Spanish acronym, APPA). These figures mean that, by 2018,

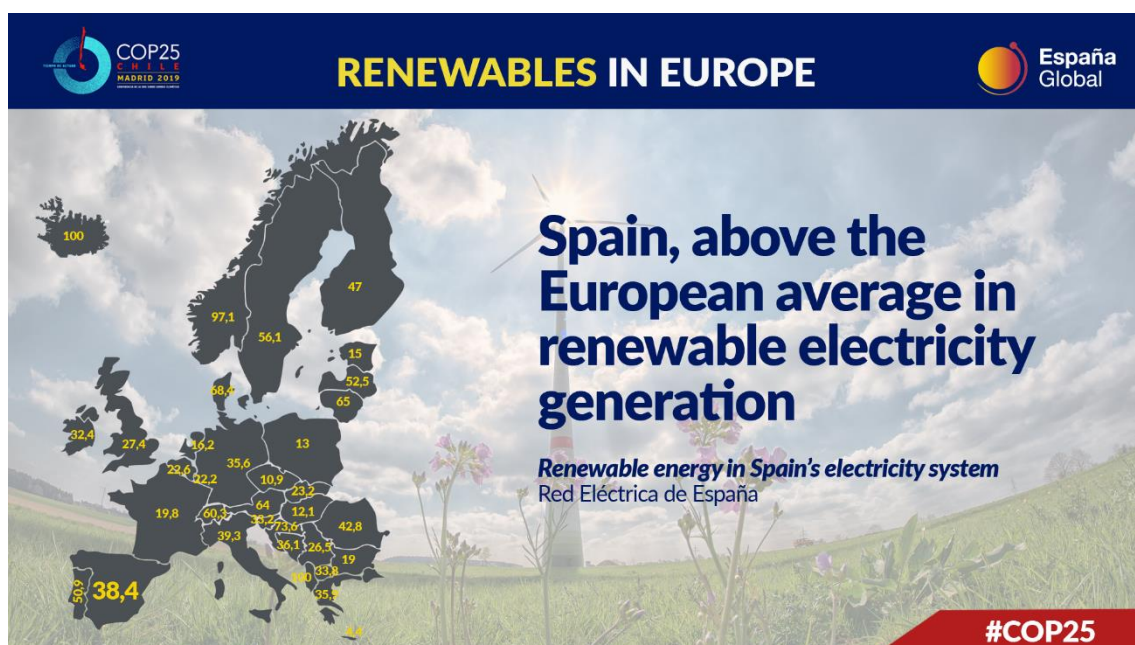


17.3% of the energy produced in Spain was renewable, although much remains to be done to meet the 20% target for 2020.

In the case of **electricity**, renewables continue to gain ground: according to the [2018 Spanish Electricity System Report](#) by *Red Eléctrica Española*, **38.4% of electricity generation in Spain already comes from these sustainable sources**, a growth of almost five points compared with 2017, largely due to the notable increase in hydroelectric power. Taking these data into account, last year CO<sub>2</sub>-free electricity generation on the Spanish mainland amounted to 62.5% of the total, compared with 57% in 2017. This represents significant progress in clean electricity generation with a 15% drop in emissions. As stated in the 2018 report on [Renewable Energy in the Spanish Electricity System](#), also published by *Red Eléctrica Española*, **wind power continues to be the leading renewable in the national generation mix**, accounting for 19% of national production, with an increase of 3.5% with respect to the previous year, trailing nuclear energy by only a few points. This is due to the more than 1,120 wind farms installed in 807 Spanish municipalities, with 207 manufacturing centres and more than 22,500 employees.

In six Spanish regions, more than 50% of electricity generation comes from renewable sources: Castilla y León, Navarra, Aragon, Galicia, Castilla-La Mancha and La Rioja. Compared with other European countries, Spain has risen from sixth to fifth position due to its volume of renewable generation.

As for the share of **renewables in total generation in Europe, Spain continues to present figures higher than the European average**. Iceland (100%) and Norway (97.1%) are the countries with the highest renewable electricity generation, a ranking in which Spain is above countries such as Germany (35.8%), Ireland (32.45), the Netherlands (22.6%) and France (19.8%).



## 5.4. GHG emissions continue to fall in Spain

The growth of renewable energy in Spain is reflected in a **3.2% drop in GHG emissions with respect to 2017**, above the EU average, which has fallen by 2.5%, according to [Eurostat](#). Spain has therefore managed to improve upon its performance in 2017— when it ranked fourth in the list of countries whose emissions had increased the most compared with the prior year—as it is now the 10<sup>th</sup> EU Member State in terms of emissions reductions.

**GHG emissions decreased in 20 out of the 28 EU Member States**, with Portugal leading (-9%), followed by Bulgaria, Ireland and Germany. Latvia (8.5%), Malta, Estonia and Luxembourg present the highest growth rates.

Spain's emissions in 2018 represented 7.7% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by all the EU countries, surpassed by Germany (22.5%), the United Kingdom (11.4%), Poland (10.3%), France (10%) and Italy (10%).

## 5.5. Increased investment in green energy

In addition to the natural conditions, and the human and technological capital needed to make a firm commitment to renewable energy, **support for and investment in green energies is on the increase in Spain**. So much so that, in recent months, Spain has emerged once again as a driving force in renewable energy in Europe.

Spain has become the **leading European country in terms of investment in renewable energy, with 3.7 billion dollars invested during the first half of 2019**. This represents a 235% increase with respect to the same period of the prior year, according to Bloomberg's [State of Clean Energy Investment](#) study. And it has happened at a time when investment in clean energy has fallen worldwide, reaching its lowest level in six years during the first half of 2019 (a total of 117.6 billion dollars, 14% less than in the same period of the prior year). Investment in this type of energy has fallen in other European countries, including France (75%); Germany (42%); Netherlands (41%); and the United Kingdom (35%).

## 5.6. Biodiversity is in Spain's DNA

The rise of renewable energy in Spain is due to the country's **ideal natural conditions**. Spain's natural heritage occupies a privileged position in terms of designations and assessments by international organizations such as UNESCO. The country's climate, hours of sunshine, optimal areas for wind currents, rivers and seas offer an endless range of possibilities.

With the three new, recently announced reserves—the Cabriel Valley, Alto Turia and La Siberia—Spain now has 52 areas that have been declared [UNESCO Biosphere Reserves](#), **making it the country with the most areas having this designation**, out of a total of 123 countries and 726 reserves worldwide. In total, the **52 reserves represent 12%** of Spanish territory (some 60,713 square kilometres, in which nearly two million people live). In these areas, the International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) has assessed aspects such as the conservation and biological diversity of these areas, the use of resources, and the coexistence and traditional customs of the people who live in them.

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## THE ENVIRONMENT IN SPAIN

España  
Global

# 1st country worldwide in Biosphere Reserves and 2nd in UNESCO Geoparks

**Biosphere Reserves**

- Water
- Islands
- Cantabrian Mountains & broadleaf forests
- Mediterranean biome, low mountain ranges
- High mountains, the highest peaks of the peninsula
- Cross-border reserves

**Geoparks**

- Geoparks

#COP25

Spain stands out not only for the size and value of its biosphere, but also for its geological wealth. With the recent inclusion of *Montañas do Courel* (Galicia), **Spain has become the European country with the most UNESCO Geoparks, and the second in the world**, only behind China. Our country has 13 world Geoparks, which have a remarkable geological heritage and carry out sustainable development and promotion projects. To be declared a Geopark by UNESCO, a site must meet three criteria: it must contain geological heritage of international value; it must implement geoconservation and promotion initiatives; and it must have a strategy for regional socio-economic and cultural development. There are 150 Geoparks in the world, and Europe is the continent with the largest number.



## 6. SPANISH SOCIETY, THE DRIVING FORCE OF OUR COMMITMENT

Global commitments can only be met with **the involvement of citizens and all stakeholders**. Spanish citizens, civil society, and multiple companies, universities, and trade unions have demonstrated their commitment to moving towards sustainable development and to achieving the 2030 Agenda. All these stakeholders, in their different spheres of action, missions, roles and areas of authority, have taken decisive steps to transform their long-term strategies and policies in order to progress towards sustainable development. Undoubtedly, their role has been key to setting in motion the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain.

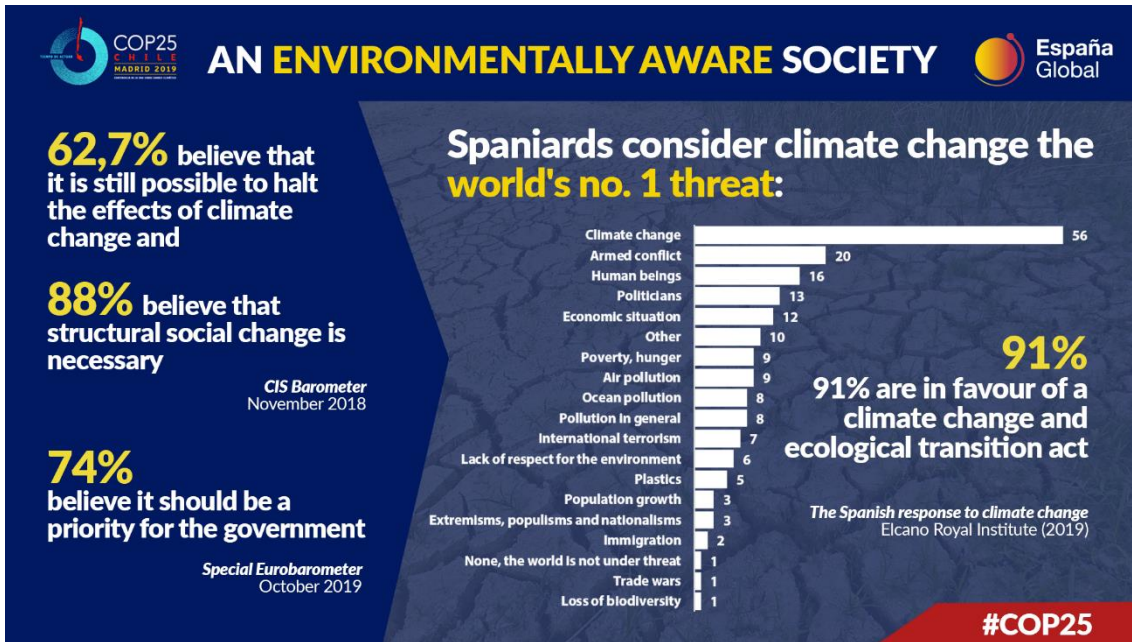
**Spain's drive as a global actor in the fight against climate change would not be possible without the commitment of society**, especially the younger generations, who are increasingly aware of the dangers of global warming and of the need to act urgently, both individually and as a society.

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda identifies education as a highly effective transformative tool for establishing sustainable development models. In this regard, it should not be forgotten that citizen participation is most important at the local level, insofar as this is the level of government in closest contact with the people.

### 6.1. Climate change—perceived by Spaniards as the main global threat

**The vast majority of Spaniards recognise that climate change is a reality. Specifically, 97% are aware that climate change exists—denial has not taken root among Spaniards—and 92% believe that humans are primarily responsible for this phenomenon.** These data are taken from the recent July 2019 study by the Elcano Royal Institute: [Los españoles ante el cambio climático \[How the Spanish View Climate Change\]](#). Spaniards not only believe that climate change exists, but more than half of those surveyed (56%) believe that global warming and its consequences are the greatest threats facing the world today, above armed conflict (20%), human beings (13%) and economic crises (12%). In addition, there are other environmental concerns (air pollution, ocean pollution, plastics, loss of biodiversity, pollution in general and lack of respect for the environment), which are ranked by 37% of those polled as the number one threat. The Spanish, therefore, are highly aware of the problems facing the planet as regards sustainability.

The report of the Elcano Royal Institute also shows that the Spanish are clear on the need for multilateral action against climate change: **84% of those surveyed believe that current global commitments on climate change are insufficient.** Such is their conviction that 90% of those interviewed agreed that part of the Spanish State Budget should be allocated to offsetting the damage caused by climate change, and 57% said they would be willing to pay more for their vehicle's road tax to prevent the climate change impacts.



## 6.2. Awareness and optimism: We are still in time

Virtually all those surveyed support Spain having an **Act on Climate Change and Energy Transition**, **91% are in favour** of Parliament adopting climate targets indicated by scientists, and 87% support the use of renewable energy sources.

Despite their concern, Spaniards remain optimistic: according to the November 2018 barometer of the [Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas](#) (Sociological Research Centre or CIS, its Spanish acronym), **62.7% think that climate change can still be halted and reversed**, although 88% believe that structural social change is necessary. Among the measures that need to be applied, 7 out of 10 believe that product recycling is fundamental; followed by the control of household energy consumption (57.6%); the use of alternative ecological public transport and the need to promote cycling (55.3%); greater control of water consumption (53.4%); the installation of solar panels in homes (35.9%) and the use of electric or hybrid vehicles (32.8%), among other alternatives. Two thirds of those surveyed also believe that an individual can contribute to help stop climate change; in fact, **81.6% are convinced that changing our way of life** would help to solve the problem.

**84.5% of those surveyed believe that those who pollute or contaminate should be faced with financial consequences**, given that, as 7 out of 10 Spaniards believe, science and technology alone cannot solve this problem.

The involvement of civil society is key to moving forward and to ensuring that Spanish citizens remain keenly aware of sustainable development issues.

### 6.3. Within the EU, Spaniards are among those most concerned about climate change

Within the European Union, Spanish citizens are among those most concerned about climate change and its consequences, according to surveys published by the [European Investment Bank](#) in November 2018, for the COP24.

According to the EIB survey, **87% of Spanish citizens** are concerned about global warming, compared with the EU average of 78%. 70% also believe that this is an immediate threat to humanity (higher than the EU average of 59%). The Portuguese are the EU citizens most concerned about climate change (93%); there is considerable awareness throughout southern Europe, due to the direct consequences that global warming could have in countries such as Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Italy.

### 6.4. Citizen awareness in Spain

Within Europe, Spanish society is the second most committed to international development and solidarity, after Cyprus. According to the results of the [Special Eurobarometer on EU citizens and development cooperation](#), **74% of Spanish citizens believe that fighting poverty in the world should be a priority for the government**. Spaniards' concern about climate change is not only reflected in surveys and opinion polls—it has also been evident in the streets, through peaceful protests and demonstrations urging governments, companies and society to start acting to halt this phenomenon.

The latest and undoubtedly the largest demonstration was that held on 27 September 2019 in cities across the country, as part of the **global climate strike**. Approximately 500 organizations supported marches **in 150 countries**, in which people of all ages, above all children and young people, took part. This was yet one more call for global action to address this problem. In Madrid alone, which became the epicentre of the protests in Spain, more than 100,000 demonstrators joined the marches, including representatives from different political parties. Citizens in Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza, Valladolid and Murcia, among many other cities, called for immediate action to be taken.

### 6.5. Spanish companies—committed to climate action

The **private business sector is highly committed to the 2030 Agenda**, especially the larger companies. It is estimated that the business opportunities offered by the SDGs could generate up to 12 trillion dollars by 2030. This is why nearly **10,000 companies worldwide have signed up to the SDGs**. In Spain, **66% of IBEX 35 companies already assess their suppliers under social criteria and 71% do so based on environmental criteria**. The integration of the SDGs and of the general objectives of the UN has been embraced by the **Spanish Global Compact Network (Spanish acronym, REPM)**.

With the aim of extending Spain's commitment to **Climate Action for Work** to the country's entire business sector, a partnership has been set up with the **Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (Spanish acronym, CEOE)**, to which 80 companies and business organisations have already signed up. The initiative has the backing of a dozen multinational companies, committed to ensuring that both staff and external workers at their new operations are accorded the labour rights established by the ILO, and offered pension entitlements and health and safety benefits.

In addition, the following Spanish companies, among others, stand out for their innovation and commitment to halting climate change:

- **BBVA** has developed the 'Commitment 2025', through which it has pledged 100 billion euros to green projects, such as sustainable infrastructure, social entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.
- **Bankia**, in 2017, was one of the nine Spanish companies rated "A" by the Carbon Disclosure Project's (CDP) Climate Change program because since 2013, 100% of the electricity consumed at its offices and central services have come from renewable sources.
- **Banco Santander** analyses the social and environmental risks of its financing operations within the framework of its Sustainability Policies.
- **CaixaBank** has a three-year Environmental Plan.
- **Bankinter** has a 'Carbon Footprint' project, through which the direct and indirect environmental impacts generated by its activity are identified and measured.
- **Endesa** and **Iberdrola** are committed to decarbonizing their energy mix by 2050.
- **Naturgy** has a Climate Change strategy.
- **Acciona** has defined the mitigation of climate change as a strategic objective, committing its investment capacity, and working towards carbon neutrality, energy efficiency, and the offsetting of its emissions.
- **Red Eléctrica**, looking towards 2020, has committed to reducing its direct emissions by 10% with respect to 2015, aiming for a 30% decrease by 2030.
- **Telefónica** has carried out 171 energy efficiency initiatives through networks and offices.
- **Ferrovial** has undertaken to reduce the emissions generated by its own activity by 32% by 2030 compared with 2009, and to decrease indirect emissions by 20% by 2030 compared with 2012.
- **OHL** was once again accorded, in 2017, the maximum "A" rating, making it a leader in the 2017 CDP Climate Change analysis for its commitment to sustainable construction, developing buildings according to reference standards such as LEED, Bream and CES.
- **IAG** was recognized in 2017 by CDP as a global leader for the initiatives it undertook to combat climate change and has engaged the airline industry in an effort to reduce net carbon emissions as of 2020 and to halve emissions by 2050.
- **Mapfre** has a Strategic Plan for Energy Efficiency and Climate Change for 2020.
- **Grupo Siro** has a Sustainability Plan based on recycling, which assesses how to reduce and reuse waste.



- **Calidad Pascual** has an Environmental Impact Plan focused on innovating packaging, reducing its ecological footprint, and promoting biodiversity and sustainable mobility in the value chain.
- **Damm** has created a model based on recovering resources, supplying renewable materials and energy, and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of production, distribution and waste management systems.
- **Inditex** has a Global Energy Strategy that outlines its commitment to climate action and the environment.
- **Repsol** has made climate change central to its Global Sustainability Plan.

SMEs have also shown their commitment to ecological transition and the 2030 Agenda through the agreement formalized by the **Spanish Global Compact Network, the General Council of Economists of Spain** and the Spanish Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (Spanish acronym, **CEPYME**) and have developed a [Guide to the SDGs for SMEs](#), to facilitate the adoption of sustainability principles and outline the multiple business opportunities offered—especially in the energy, consumer goods, technology, telecommunications, services, financial, and health sectors—in terms of new markets, cost savings (in energy, water, etc.) and improvement of the company’s reputation, among other incentives.

The guide has been distributed to over **4,500 business organisations and entities and 55,000 economists** from the General Council of Economists of Spain. It encourages SMEs to adopt the 2030 targets related to employee health, renewable energy, digitalization, reusing and recycling, and transparency.

