SPAIN HOSTS THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SAFE SCHOOLS
Spain has made **International Humanitarian Diplomacy** one of its priority lines of action in foreign policy. We have promoted or joined many initiatives in recent years: Spain has promoted the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and the Children and Armed Conflict agenda; we are members of Responsibility to Protect’s Focal Points Network; we have signed many political agreements and commitments on protecting civilians and combating impunity for atrocity crimes; and we form part of the group of countries that most firmly support the legitimacy and independence of the International Criminal Court. In the sphere of the United Nations, Spain champions the Security Council’s efforts to alleviate the humanitarian disaster in Syria, and we have led advances in access to and protection of medical assistance in conflict situations, in combating trafficking in persons, and in combating sexual violence as a terrorism tactic. Thus, Spain achieved the Security Council’s unanimous adoption of such emblematic resolutions as UNSC Resolution 2242 (2015), UNSC Resolution 2286 (2016), and UNSC Resolution 2331 (2016).

In May 2015 Spain endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration, and we committed to the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.
2.1 As part of this commitment, Spain, in coordination with Argentina and Norway, and with the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), will host the Third International Conference on Safe Schools. The Conference focuses on internationally promoting the Safe Schools Declaration, a non-binding political instrument through which States recognize the impact of armed conflict on education, and the challenges that it causes for humanitarian assistance and the affected community.

To date, 87 countries have endorsed it, undertaking to also bear in mind the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict, a practical manual featuring advice on its implementation.

2.2 The overall goal is to consolidate—based on the experience of the Conference held in Oslo in 2015 and the Conference held in Buenos Aires in 2017—best practices at the national, regional, and international level. The Third Conference will serve as a venue for sharing experiences, and contribute to the Declaration’s universalization.

The upcoming Conference focuses on two specific issues:

- Identifying the impact that attacks on education and the use of educational infrastructures for military purposes have on children, and establishing, using a gender perspective, prevention and response measures to address their specific needs.

- Analysing the preventive role of monitoring, reporting and establishing accountability mechanisms for attacks against students, teachers and schools.

Both issues will also make it possible to advance towards achieving the Sus-
tainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. Specifically, SDG 4, Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, and SDG 16, on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

(For more information, see Concept Note)

2.3 The Conference will be held in the Palma de Mallorca Convention Center on 28 and 29 May 2019.

The event’s inauguration will be attended by the Foreign Minister of Spain, the Secretary of State of the Foreign Ministry of Norway and UN high officials and representatives of the leading civil society organizations that are carrying out important work to protect education and children in conflict situations. Conference Programme

2.4 Before the Conference, there will be at Can Balaguer both a civil society event and a welcome ceremony with a special recognition for those countries that have endorsed the Declaration after the Buenos Aires Conference, or that wish to endorse it at that moment.

2.5 Countries wishing to share their experience in implementing the Safe Schools Declaration and the Guidelines may do so in the following Questionnaire.
3 Registration and practical information

3.1 To participate in the Conference, please fill in the Registration Form and send it to 3safeschools@maec.es

3.2 For information on how to obtain a visa, please go to the following link on Visa Procedures.

3.3 Practical Information.

3.4 Sponsorship programme: To support the event, enabling broad state representation and active participation at the Third International Safe Schools Conference, UNDP will, with support of Norway, administer a limited sponsorship programme. The programme, administered on first come first serve basis, is eligible for a maximum of two delegate representatives from states listed as recipients of Official Development Assistance by the OECD DAC and will cover travel, accommodation, travel insurance and terminal expenses.

For more information and to start the sponsorship process please send an email to sponsorship.3safeschools@undp.org with a copy of the Conference Registration Form and the Note Verbale signed by a government institution in your country and containing the name and contact details of the delegate(s) who will be attending the conference and need the assistance.