Spain is a country that is deeply committed to human rights, both inside our country and in the State’s foreign action.

The promotion and defence of human rights and of basic freedoms constitutes one of the inspiring principles of our foreign and international cooperation policy. Therefore, we have undertaken wide-ranging obligations and we submit regularly to overview by the treaty bodies. We are party to a wide variety of international treaties and optional protocols that are fundamental in this matter, and we have issued a standing invitation for all the special procedures to visit our country. In 2015 we underwent our second Universal Periodic Review, which we consider an essential exercise, and to which we are fully committed.

Our country’s commitment is also translated into intense efforts in the multilateral system for promoting and protecting human rights. We engage in interactive debates and dialogues, we participate in negotiations for resolutions and other documents, we present initiatives, and we support the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the functioning of its mechanisms.

Five years after our first term on the Human Rights Council (2010-2013), and seizing the momentum of our recent non-permanent membership of the Security Council, Spain attaches paramount importance to becoming a member of the United Nations’ principal human rights body during the 2018-2020 period. This has been expressed not only by its institutions but also, most importantly, by the Spanish people.
**Same Goal, Different Stakeholders**

**WE WILL SPEAK UP**
- Against all forms of discrimination
- Against racism, xenophobia, intolerance and hate speech
- For gender equality and empowerment of women
- For the rights of people with disabilities

**WE WILL PURSUE AGREEMENTS**
- That are based on a firm commitment to human rights
- Taking into consideration the viewpoints of all States
- Paying heed to civil society
- That promote full enjoyment of human rights

**Diverse People - Shared Values**

**WE WILL CHAMPION**
- Freedom, justice and equity
- Democracy and the rule of law
- All civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- A better world to live in

**An Effective Council and an Integrated System**

**WE WILL FOSTER**
- The preventive role of the Human Rights Council
- The Council’s interaction with the main bodies of the United Nations and with regional organizations
- The independence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- States’ cooperation with Council mechanisms