Spain announced its candidature to the Security Council in 2005. This is a national commitment consistent with our historical engagement with the United Nations. Spain has served world’s peace and security in the Council once every decade for more than 40 years. The last time that my country seated at the Security Council as a non-permanent member was in 2003-2004. Ten years later, we stand ready to serve once more at this main body of the United Nations.

Over the past decade, Spain has steadily proven its commitment to multilateralism. We have allocated an increasing amount of resources to peacekeeping and to safeguarding international security. We have fought terrorism in all its forms. We have promoted disarmament and non-proliferation at all levels. Besides, we have built and handed over a modern support base for UN peacekeeping and related operations, located in Quart de Poblet (Valencia).

Spain has also carried out significant efforts on UN conflict prevention, by taking part in initiatives on mediation – particularly in the Mediterranean region. Furthermore, my country has sponsored numerous initiatives in the field of intercultural dialogue and preventive diplomacy.

Spain is fully committed to work for a more just, prosperous, and liveable world, not only for our generation but also for those to come. Our primary goal is to fight poverty. We strongly believe that the best way to achieve that goal is through the promotion of sustainable development.

Spain has invested generous efforts on cooperation for development over the last decade, mostly to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In spite of the current international economic crisis, solidarity is high in our priorities and we have actively engaged in the definition of the Post-2015 development agenda.

Our political commitment remains firm, an example of which are our initiatives promoting food security, the human right to water and sanitation, combating desertification and climate change, as well as our strong advocacy to renewable energy sources. Moreover, during the last ten years we have consistently demonstrated that promoting human rights and gender equality is a cornerstone of our foreign policy.

Spain is a global actor. This is part of our history. The Spanish people are gifted for open dialogue. We have a genuine talent at building bridges between different cultures, regions, and interests. Combining both modern and traditional values is one of our best known features. Spain is a plural society and a country open to the world. This is why Spain knows how to listen, talk, engage in negotiations and make constructive proposals in order to forge consensus.

Therefore, we would like to request Member States to trust and support Spain to become a non permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2015-2016 in order to better serve the international community.
WHAT HAS BEEN THE CONTRIBUTION OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS?

A reliable country: keeping peace and security. Dialogue and peaceful coexistence

Solidarity to fight poverty and determination to achieve sustainable human development

Committed to defending human rights
Spain is firmly committed to international peace and security and has adopted a multilateral approach to combating the threats that are jeopardizing international stability.

Spain is not only contributing with troops to the success of UN Missions, but is actively promoting preventive diplomacy, focusing on the root causes of conflicts.

Spain is an important actor in the United Nations’ efforts to address new challenges such as terrorism, piracy and transnational organised crime.

Stabilisation work is essential in the post-conflict stage. For that reason, Spain endeavours to participate actively in and strengthen the work of the Peacebuilding Commission.

A RELIABLE COUNTRY: KEEPING PEACE AND SECURITY, DIALOGUE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

- Since 1989, more than 130,000 members of the Spanish Armed Forces have contributed to international peace and security in Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) and Humanitarian Aid Missions around the world.

- Spain is a leading contributor of military and police staff to ongoing UN operations, playing a significant role in the Missions in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and Lebanon (UNIFIL).

- Spain has built and delivered a modern Support Base for UN peacekeeping and related operations, located in Quart de Poblet (Valencia), which provides a great support for PKO telecommunications.
Spain was the first country to ratify the 16 UN multilateral conventions, currently in force, which constitute the bases of international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Spain promoted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, approved by consensus in 2006 at the General Assembly, and since then Spain has funded the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF).

Spain was designated by the Secretary-General as a member of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCTC).

Spain is at the forefront of countries providing support for victims of terrorism, and promoted the celebration of the first symposium on victims of terrorism within the framework of the United Nations in 2008.

Spain supports the United Nations in combating piracy, and actively contributes to the efforts of the international community to this end (e.g., EU NAVFOR Atalanta, EUTM Somalia) within the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.
Spain has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime of 2000, and advocates international cooperation as a mechanism to address new types of crime, including drug trafficking and human trafficking.

Spain fully applies the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and has actively participated in the negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty, with the commitment to encourage its implementation both at national and international levels.

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Spain participates actively in the field of Non-Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly in those conventions related to nuclear weapons to which it is party, enhancing their universalisation, (e.g., the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty; Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and on their destruction and in the: Chemical Weapons Convention). Moreover, Spain participates in several initiatives such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, of which it has been coordinator.

Spain pays special attention to international cooperation involving Security Council Resolution 1540, aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and plays a prominent role in security projects, such as the CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence.

Spain promotes the ban and total elimination of anti-personnel mines and other weapons with similar effects; it is party to the 1997 Ottawa Convention, and to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions; and, it supports UNMAS operations in different regions.

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Over this past decade, Spanish development cooperation policy has made a hallmark of fighting poverty and achieving sustainable human development. To this end, Spain has made great solidarity efforts, working at all levels within the United Nations system.

**SOLIDARITY TO FIGHT POVERTY AND DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

- The Spain-UNDP MDG Achievement Fund has 130 programmes in 50 countries providing help to over 20 million people, both directly and indirectly.

**FOOD SECURITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER: A PRIORITY FOR SPANISH COOPERATION**

- Spain launched an unprecedented initiative by creating the Spain-UNDP MDG Achievement Fund, to which our country has contributed more than 900 million dollars since 2006.
- Spain is among the top ten donors worldwide in supporting food production, industrial and export crops, and agricultural, livestock and fishing development.
- Our country has more than 20 years’ experience in this sector, and has achieved
advanced knowledge of the technological development of sustainable production systems, and of the methodology and implementation of the territorial rural development approach.

ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IS VITAL TO FIGHTING POVERTY

► Guaranteeing everyone’s access to water and sanitation, while ensuring the sustainability of this resource, is essential to fighting poverty.

► For this reason, Spain has launched the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation, with more than one billion dollars provided by Spanish cooperation.

GENDER EQUALITY: ONE OF OUR HALLMARKS

► Spain is firmly committed to gender equality. According to the OECD, promotion of and commitment to equality is one of the sectors in which Spain has a greater competitive advantage.

► Between 2004 and 2011, Spain has allocated more than 500 million dollars of its Official Development Assistance to the gender sector through multilateral development organisations.

► Spanish contribution to UN Women

WORLD’S 6TH LARGEST DONOR TO THE UN SYSTEM

20 MILLION PEOPLE IN 50 COUNTRIES HAVE BENEFITED BY THE SPAIN-UNDP MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND is especially noteworthy. Spain remains firmly committed to the organization as its number-one donor in accumulated figures since 2010.

► Spain has also been the leading contributor to the Fund for Gender Equality since its inception in 2009, with a contribution of 65 million dollars. To date, the Fund has launched 93 projects in 69 countries, directly benefiting 8.5 million women in every single continent.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT: AT THE CENTRE OF SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY

► Spain understands that the eradication of poverty, the configuration of the post-2015 development agenda, and new Sustainable Development Goals, together with climate change, constitute immediate challenges for global security.

► We are committed to promoting renewable energy as an instrument for addressing these challenges.
Spain over the last decade, has actively participated in responding to humanitarian crises, and has substantially increased its funds targeting humanitarian action. Between 2007 and 2012, Spain has allocated more than 1.3 billion dollars to this sector.

Spain has always borne in mind the victims’ need for assistance and protection, and has sought to respond rapidly and effectively to crises in accordance with the principles and good practice of humanitarian donorship. It has consistently supported the consolidation of the so-called resilience of affected populations.

Spain has signed an agreement with the World Food Programme to establish a Humanitarian Aid Logistics Hub in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, which has become a key location for the United Nations itself to provide supplies in the event of humanitarian crises, especially in the Sahel area.

Spain supports the progress made in the System-Wide Coherence, as well as the Delivering as One initiative, as a means to strengthen coordination among United Nations Agencies and, by doing so, achieve a more efficient use of resources.

Spain has dedicated more than 200 million dollars to this aim, resolutely supporting UN efforts to coordinate and streamline work, particularly in the field, so that UN action may effectively reach those who need it most.

Spain has also made important financial contributions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to the co-financing Fund on Climate Change and Rural Development (with the IDB), to the Adaptation Fund of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

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Defending and promoting human rights is another of the major pillars of Spain’s action in the United Nations.

- Spain has signed and ratified nearly every international treaty on human rights, regularly submitting reports to the committees of the aforementioned treaties.
- Spain has been the world’s third country to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and among the first countries to ratify the Third Optional Protocol to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.
- Spain has, despite the economic crisis, preserved and maintained its financial commitment to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and still remains among the top largest donors.
- Spain is one of the principal promoters of the recognition of the human right to water and sanitation.

- Spain has worked hard to create and consolidate UN Women as a specialised UN agency promoting effective equality between women and men and, in particular, firmly supporting the fight against gender violence.
- Spain has been especially active in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities; its efforts in favour of the full inclusion and equality of persons with disabilities have been recognised in 2012 with the Franklin D. Roosevelt International Disability Rights Award. Spain, together with the Philippines, is the facilitator of the final document of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Realization of the Millennium Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities (September 2013).
- Spain is one of the countries that more actively support the efforts made by the United Nations with regards to business and human rights. Moreover, the Spanish private sector is very committed to this end, being the Spanish Global Compact network the largest local network of this UN initiative in the world.
We will responsibly and effectively contribute to international peace and security, sustainable development, and the defence and promotion of human rights.

We will remain committed to peace, through conflict prevention, understanding between cultures, mediation, non-proliferation and disarmament.

Dialogue will be a priority for us in the Security Council, as well as in our relations with other Member States, especially with the smallest ones.

We will work for a more effective Council, emphasising transparency and coordination with the General Assembly as well as with the rest of the system and Member States of the Organization.

We will combat terrorism in all its forms, and we will give voice to their victims.

We will promote the post-2015 development agenda, the fight against poverty and sustainable development. There is no peace without *solidarity*.

We will give human rights, gender equality and full participation of women in peacebuilding the high profile they deserve as essential elements to ensure security and stability. There is no peace without respect for human dignity.

Dialogue will be a priority for us in the Security Council, as well as in our relations with other Member States, especially with the smallest ones.

We will remain committed to promoting humanitarian assistance wherever needed.

We will be faithful to our history as a crossroads country between North and South, a bridge between East and West, both plural and open; a modern society respectful of tradition.

We will combat terrorism in all its forms, and we will give voice to their victims.

In short, Spain offers the international community its commitment to work for a safer and fairer world, a world with greater solidarity.
SPAIN 2015-2016
CANDIDATE TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
http://CSNU2015-2016.maec.es