

SPAIN'S PRIORITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS 69TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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Commitment to multilateralism and to the United Nations (UN) is a fundamental pillar of Spain's foreign policy. Our **solid multilateral vocation** is based on the firm belief that the global challenges faced by the international community – such as maintaining peace and security; combating poverty and fostering sustainable development; promoting, respecting and protecting human rights or countering climate change – can only be addressed effectively through multilateralism and the UN.

Spain has actively participated in the works of the United Nations for several decades. We are currently the **world's sixth-largest contributor to the UN system** (considering assessed and voluntary contributions) and the **ninth-largest contributor to the UN regular budget**.

Spain **defends a strong and effective UN system in its three pillars (peace and security, development and human rights), which are closely interconnected.** We are also committed to the **process of reform of the UN** aimed at making the organisation more effective in achieving its purposes and more efficient in the use of its resources.

With a view to the forthcoming 69th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), due to commence in September 2014, **Spain's priorities** for the different areas in which the UN operates **are set out below.** These priorities are fully consistent with those of the EU.

1. PEACE AND SECURITY

During UNGA 69, Spain will:

- **Contribute with commitment and determination to the maintenance of international peace and security.** Closely follow the works of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and participate actively and constructively in its debates. Defend the principle that the views of the directly affected actors (States and regional organisations) should be taken into account in the Security Council's decision-making processes.
- Continue to actively promote **preventive diplomacy**. Uphold the notion that due attention must be given to the **deep-rooted and structural causes of conflicts** in order to work on their prevention and ensure the sustainability of the solutions achieved.
- Advocate the use of **mediation** as an effective instrument in preventing and resolving conflicts, as well as in building peace, on the basis of local ownership. Further develop the Initiative on Mediation in the Mediterranean Region, launched jointly by Spain and Morocco. In the field of mediation, promote the development of local and regional capacities; the strengthening of links between local capacities and those of regional and international organisations; the forging of synergies between the actors involved in mediation tasks, in order to ensure the exchange of knowledge, experience, best practices and lessons learnt; and the necessary complementarity

between the efforts of different stakeholders. Defend the importance of the involvement of civil society and women in mediation mechanisms and peacebuilding processes.

- Take part in efforts aimed at furthering the effective operationalisation of the **Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in its three pillars**. Pay particular attention to assisting countries to fulfil their responsibility to protect their citizens from atrocity crimes. Take into account the recommendations set forth in the UN Secretary-General's annual report on R2P.
- As co-sponsors of the UN **Alliance of Civilisations (AOC)**, continue to promote this initiative, maintaining contact with the High Representative for the AOC, and support the preparation and execution of programmes within the AOC's four pillars (youth, education, media, and migration).
- Promote the effectiveness of **Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs)** and **Special Political Missions (SPMs)**, which are increasing in both number and complexity. Uphold the principle that their mandates should be robust, suitable, clear, precise and realistic, including the establishment of benchmarks in consultation with the host countries; and that both PKOs and SPMs should be given sufficient resources to fulfil their mandates effectively, while respecting the principles of efficiency and accountability. Advocate adequate training for troops, particularly in the areas of gender, sexual violence and support to children affected by conflicts. Defend the importance of monitoring and assessing the success of PKOs and SPMs in fulfilling their mandates, considering the resources available and the evolution of circumstances, needs and challenges on the ground. Uphold the notion that such assessment should shape decisions on the life-cycle of missions and future deployments. Support regular and meaningful dialogue with the troops and police contributing countries to PKOs. Endeavour to ensure that Spain's participation in PKOs is as solid as possible.
- Participate in efforts aimed at furthering the effective **protection of civilians** and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). Defend the principle that the UNSC should give the utmost priority to the protection of civilians, including specific groups (children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities), medical staff and facilities, as well as humanitarian staff; unrestricted humanitarian access; accountability and the fight against impunity. Uphold the need to prioritise the prevention approach and to translate early warnings into effective protection. Advocate the inclusion of the protection of civilians in PKO mandates, the training of military personnel in IHL and the provision of adequate support to victims.
- Pay particular attention to the processes of **disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR)**, as well as **security sector reform (SSR)** in fragile and post-conflict countries. Participate in the efforts of the international community to assist these countries in making effective progress in DDR and SSR.
- Continue to defend the importance of the work of the **Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)**, of which Spain is a member, in countries undergoing conflict and post-conflict situations. Uphold the notion that the PBC should occupy a prominent position in the UN peacebuilding architecture, taking into account its added value, related to its presence in the field and

knowledge of the local context, as well as its capacity to promote local ownership of the process, closely monitor its development and draw attention to obstacles, risks, opportunities and areas in which more efforts are needed. Defend the idea that countries in the PBC agenda should have a prominent role in its debates and work, and that the PBC and the UNSC should develop a relationship of continuous collaboration in order to increase the effectiveness and consistency of their complementary actions.

- Promote the effective implementation of UNSC Resolutions on **Women, Peace and Security** – Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 2106 and 2122 (2013) in particular. Support the active participation of women in peacebuilding processes, as well as the fight against impunity for crimes of sexual violence in conflict, addressing the conditions necessary for the due protection of victims and witnesses. Advocate the inclusion of WPS issues in PKO and SPM mandates.
- Support the efforts of the international community and the UN system to combat the violation of the rights of **children in armed conflict**, and in particular the “2016: Children, Not Soldiers” campaign launched by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General. Advocate the inclusion of this issue in PKO and SPM mandates.
- Support the strengthening of the **Rule of Law**, in all its dimensions, as a key factor in maintaining international peace and security.
- Promote **water diplomacy** as an instrument for resolving disputes and preventing conflicts related to water at the local, national, regional and international level, through mechanisms of dialogue and collaboration aimed at a common management of water resources by the parties involved. Further develop the Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean, jointly launched by Spain and Algeria.
- Continue to support the work of the **International Criminal Court**, which seeks to fight impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, on the basis of the principle of complementarity with national jurisdictions.
- Promote the early entry into force, universality, as well as full and effective implementation of the **Arms Trade Treaty**. Support the effective implementation of, and full compliance with, Security Council **Resolution 1540** (2004), as well as the efforts of international cooperation aimed at combating the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their delivery systems and related materials, within the framework of the 1540 Committee. Strive to achieve a successful outcome of the **Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** set to take place in 2015. Support the universality of the NPT and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Promote the effective implementation of, and full compliance with, **Security Council Resolution 2117** (2013) on the non-proliferation of **small arms and light weapons**.
- Promote the development of an institutional debate on **cybersecurity** within the framework of the UN, which encourages the participation of States and international cooperation, in order to contribute to the process aimed at

attaining an international consensus on this matter. Participate actively in the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, which seeks to establish global standards, best practices and an international regulation that ensures peace and security in the use of information and communication technologies.

- In an international context where the globalisation of the terrorist threat can only be tackled effectively through enhanced cooperation, support UN's efforts to prevent terrorism, as well as the activities of the UN system in the areas of training and technical assistance for the implementation of UN Counter-terrorism Conventions. Promote the effective implementation of the **UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy** in its four pillars, particularly addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and respecting human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism must be fought on multiple fronts and this fight must be both effective and legal: we must delegitimise terrorism, address the climate of radicalisation from which it arises, combat its materialisation and pursue its perpetrators to ensure that they are held accountable for their actions before justice. Support the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in helping States implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and coordinating the UN system in this area, as well as the efforts of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee to strengthen States' capacity to prevent and combat this scourge effectively. Maintain Spain's firm commitment to the **international recognition and protection of the rights of the victims of terrorism**.
- Reassert Spain's commitment to international cooperation aimed at tackling the global threats of **transnational organised crime**, particularly drugs trafficking, trafficking of human beings, illegal trafficking of migrants and gun-running. Support UN policies in the fight against **corruption** and mechanisms within the framework of the UN for assessing the States' implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Defend the existing international legal framework on **drugs** and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in preparation for the UN General Assembly Special Session on drugs planned for 2016.
- Contribute to the efforts of the international community to respond to the growing **threats to maritime security**, while upholding a comprehensive approach that addresses the deep-rooted causes of these threats and the link between security and development. Encourage the strengthening of maritime, judicial and penitentiary capacities, as well as regional collaboration.

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Participate actively and constructively in the configuration of the **post-2015 development agenda**, including the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), as a continuation of the process that commenced with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), on the basis of a profound reflection on the lessons learnt from the MDGs and the challenges still to overcome. Work within the framework of the Open Working Group on SDGs, of which Spain is a member, as part of the process which seeks to

establish the new development agenda. Defend the inclusion in the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs of the concept of poverty eradication; the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental); a human approach based on rights, the guarantee of basic living standards, justice, equity, equality, democratic governance and the rule of law; the empowerment of women and gender equality; the rights of people with disabilities; and the mutually reinforcing nature of the inter-linkage between peace, stability and development, related to the impossibility of achieving sustainable development in contexts of fragility, violence and armed conflict.

- Within the framework of the post-2015 agenda, defend the importance of establishing **progress review mechanisms**, defined through a constructive and positive interaction with all UN Member States.
- Closely follow the work of the **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**, which, through its political leadership and recommendations, will play a crucial role in the application, monitoring and evaluation of the post-2015 agenda. Within the framework of this Forum, contribute to the forging of synergies between the three dimensions of sustainable development.
- Promote the application of the principles of **effectiveness** of development cooperation agreed at the High-Level Forums of **Paris, Accra and Busan**, as well as at the **first High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation** held in Mexico in April 2014.
- Strive to ensure that the results of the **Climate Summit** called by the UN Secretary-General in **September 2014** lead to ambitious initiatives in the field of climate change. Participate in efforts aimed at establishing conditions enabling the **2015 Paris Conference** to adopt an instrument with binding legal force under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, applicable to all parties. Advocate **consistency and synergy between climate-related negotiations and those linked to the post-2015 agenda** and work to ensure that this new agenda addresses the challenges presented by climate change for poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- Defend the idea that particular attention should be given to the challenges faced by the **Least Developed Countries**, in particular land-locked States, **Fragile Countries, Small Island Developing States** and **Middle-Income Countries**, where over 70% of the world's poor live.
- Promote a comprehensive and shared approach to **financing for development** beyond 2015, taking into account the roles of different sources of financing, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other innovative sources. Closely follow the works related to the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and its links with the post-2015 agenda.
- Pay close attention to initiatives relating to **sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security** and **energy**, including the UN Secretary-General initiative "Sustainable Energy for All" launched in 2011.

- Share Spain's experience and lessons learnt in the field of efficient and sustainable **water** management, as well as within the framework of the initiatives of the Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean and the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean (FCAS).
- Closely follow the resolutions presented at the UNGA on the issues of **the fight against desertification, the protection of forests, sustainable growth, sustainable management of marine resources and oceans**.
- Continue to deepen Spain's partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) within the corresponding Strategic Association Framework, as well as with UN-Habitat. Drive the implementation of the new Spain-UNDP Fund aimed at supporting the transition process from the MDGs to the SDGs, which builds on the work of the Spain-UNDP MDG Achievement Fund.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

- Maintain Spain's **firm commitment to a strong and effective multilateral human rights system**, as well as to the **promotion and protection of the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all Human Rights**.
- Comply with Spain's human rights international obligations and encourage and help other countries to fulfil theirs, within the instrumental framework created to this end (reports to the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, Universal Periodic Review, regional mechanisms, etc.). Continue to support the strengthening of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, so that they are positioned to respond quickly and effectively to the challenges arising from the growing number of ratifications and reports.
- Continue to support **human rights defenders** around the world, in line with the EU.
- Continue to uphold the **abolition of the death penalty**, working with countries throughout all regions towards a global moratorium on capital punishment.
- Continue to promote the full enjoyment and exercise of rights by **girls and women** in conditions of **equality and non-discrimination on the basis of gender**, including sexual and reproductive health rights, as well as the **combating of all forms of violence** suffered by women and girls (including gender-motivated killings, female genital mutilation, forced and early marriage and sexual violence during conflicts).
- Continue to promote the full enjoyment and exercise of rights by **lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people** and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against them.
- Promote the realisation of the rights of **persons with disabilities**.

- Support the realisation of all economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the **right to safe drinking water and sanitation** once international recognition for this right – an initiative driven by Spain and Germany – has been obtained.
- Promote the effective implementation of the UN guiding principles on **Business and Human Rights**.
- Continue to promote the respect and universal protection of the **freedoms of expression, religion, belief, association, assembly and demonstration**; support efforts aimed at combating **torture** and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment; promote the realisation of the rights of the **child**; encourage the realisation of the rights of **indigenous peoples**; promote the **elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**, paying close attention to the follow-up of the Durban process; and foster religious tolerance and intercultural understanding.

4. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Closely monitor the work of UN main bodies (General Assembly, ECOSOC and Security Council) in the field of **humanitarian assistance**. Participate proactively in the discussion of resolutions presented within the UN framework on humanitarian issues (particularly internally displaced persons, refugees, safety and security of humanitarian personnel, humanitarian access and the fight against impunity for violations of international humanitarian law).
- Continue to back efforts to **strengthen coordination of humanitarian agents**, supporting UN's leadership in the coordination and provision of humanitarian assistance, and to further **compliance with International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law and Refugee Law**. Support the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Participate in the preparatory work for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), advocating a prominent role for civil society.
- Defend the importance of **addressing the chronic and structural vulnerability of people affected by humanitarian disasters, reinforcing the links between humanitarian and development assistance and strengthening community resilience** in the face of such disasters in the medium and long term.

5. REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- Participate actively and constructively in the process of reform of the UN, with the aim of making the organisation **more effective in the achievement of its purposes and more efficient in the use of its resources**, including a comprehensive Security Council reform, the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) via the effective implementation of UNGA Resolution 68/1 and the review of UN development activities in the

field, which seeks to improve their coherence, coordination, effectiveness and efficiency.

- Support efforts to **revitalise the General Assembly** by improving its working methods, with the aim of achieving maximum efficiency.
- Uphold the principle that **Security Council reform** should be achieved through **an agreement backed by a large majority of Member States**, which strengthens the legitimacy and effectiveness of this essential body in the fulfilment of its mandate to safeguard international peace and security. Defend the principle that Security Council reform must be **comprehensive** and resolve all its five key issues jointly (categories of membership, veto, regional representation, size of an enlarged Security Council, working methods of the Council and relationship between the Council and the General Assembly).
- In this process, advocate for a **Security Council which is more representative, balanced and accessible**, by increasing the number of non-permanent seats, with the possibility of re-election, with an equitable geographical distribution and allowing for longer-term mandates; **responsible**, by preserving the principle of accountability through periodic elections; **efficient**, by limiting the use of the veto by permanent members; and **transparent**, through a review of its working methods and a closer relationship with the UNGA, based on the principles of collaboration and accountability, with the aim of giving greater legitimacy and support to the Security Council's work.
- Stand for a **more intense dialogue and interaction between the Security Council and civil society**, making use of the existing instruments, as well as **better coordination between the Security Council and Regional Organisations**, especially those with similar bodies (such as the EU and the AU).

6. OTHER ISSUES

- Participate actively and constructively in the efforts of UNGA's Fifth Committee to reach consensus on the **organisation's budgets**, while defending the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, responsibility, transparency, accountability and the **financial and budgetary sustainability of the UN system**.
- Continue to work towards the full and effective implementation of UNGA's unequivocal doctrine on **Gibraltar**, which establishes that the colonial situation of Gibraltar is incompatible with Resolution 1514 of 1960 on the right to self-determination; that the principle that must underpin the decolonisation process is that of restoring the territorial integrity of Spain; that this question can only be resolved through bilateral negotiations between Spain and the United Kingdom, which must take into account the interests of the colony's residents but not their wishes; and that only the UN can decide when the decolonisation process is complete (until that moment, Gibraltar will continue to be included on the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories).

- Continue to work to ensure that **Spain is suitably represented on the UN bodies, Commissions, Committees and Executive Boards** and increase the presence of Spaniards in management positions within the UN Secretariat and the rest of the UN system.
- Pay particular attention to **outreach activities** towards Member States and Spanish citizens, aimed at raising awareness on Spain's work in the different fields of activity of the UN, as well as Spain's role as one of the largest contributors to the UN system.
- Enhance Spain's presence in forums and debates organised by the UN on the issue of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sport (as a factor that contributes to peace and the reduction of exclusion).