



SPAIN'S PRIORITIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS 70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Commitment to multilateralism and to the United Nations (UN) is one of the fundamental pillars of Spain's foreign policy. Our **solid multilateral vocation** stems from 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 combating climate change – can only be addressed effectively through multilateralism and the UN.

For several decades, Spain has actively participated in the work of the United Nations. We are currently the **world's tenth-largest contributor to the UN's regular budget.**

Now that we are commemorating the **70th anniversary of the creation of the UN**, the action of a multilateral, universal organization is more relevant and necessary than ever. Spain **defends a strong and effective United Nations system in all three pillars (peace and security, development and human rights), which are tightly intertwined.** We are also committed to the **process of reforming the UN** in order to make the organization more effective in achieving its aims and more efficient in the use of its resources. Spain will defend and promote a **reaffirmation of the commitment** of the UN Member States to the Charter, and most especially to the **continuing validity of its Preamble, Purposes and Principles.**

The 70th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) will coincide with Spain's presence at the **UN Security Council (UNSC) during the 2015-2016 term.** Spain's action in the UNSC is based on a programme of priorities in line with **our priorities for the 70th session of the UNGA**, which are set out below. These priorities are also fully consistent with those of the **European Union (EU).**

1. PEACE AND SECURITY

- **We will work with commitment and determination in helping to maintain international peace and security.** In today's world, marked by a **growing number of simultaneous crises and threats** to international peace and security, and by **increasingly complex conflicts**, Spain, as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, will continue to take on **responsibility** and play a **proactive role** in all issues addressed by the Council, **seeking points in common** and helping to reach consensus so that threats to international peace and security may be addressed **promptly and effectively.** We will advocate for the views of those directly affected (States and regional organizations) to be duly taken into account in the Council's decision-making processes.
- We will continue to actively promote **preventive diplomacy.** In our view, due attention must be given to the **deep-rooted and structural causes of conflicts** so as to work on their prevention and to ensure the sustainability of the solutions achieved. We will continue working to strengthen the UNSC's **preventive role**, in order to **enhance its response capacity to emerging crises and potential threats** to peace and security, paying attention to **risk factors** involved in conflicts, so that early warning may entail early and effective action.
- We will defend the use of **mediation** as an effective instrument in preventing and resolving conflicts and in the consolidation of peace on the basis of local ownership. We will further develop the initiative that we launched jointly with Morocco: the



Initiative on Mediation in the Mediterranean. On the subject of mediation, we will promote the development of local and regional capacities; the strengthening of the connections between local capabilities and those of regional and international organizations; the forging of synergies between the parties involved in mediation tasks in order to ensure the exchange of knowledge, experience, best practices and lessons learnt; and complementarity between the efforts of different actors. We will defend the importance of the involvement of civil society and women in mediation mechanisms and peace consolidation processes.

- We will take part in the efforts aimed at bolstering the effective application of the **Responsibility to Protect (R2P) initiative in all three of its pillars**, taking into consideration the 10th anniversary of its establishment in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit. We will support other countries so that they can fulfil their duty to protect their citizens from atrocity crimes. We will focus on the potential triggers of atrocity crimes (discrimination and persecution for ethnic or religious reasons, violent extremism...) and on how States may prevent and mitigate such risks through inclusive human rights and development policies. We will pay particular attention to non-State actors, vulnerable communities and the challenges that girls and women face in situations conducive to the commission of atrocity crimes. We will bear in mind the recommendations set forth in the annual report by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) on R2P.
- Spain will support the UNSG's "Rights Up Front" initiative, gradually incorporating the early warning mechanisms developed in recent years in the UN (the "Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes" of the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and of the R2P) and in the EU (the "EU Conflict Early Warning System") into our analyses. Together with other EU Member States, we will promote the appointment of an EU Focal Point for R2P. We will support efforts aimed at limiting the use of the veto at the UNSC in situations of atrocity crimes.
- As co-sponsors of the UN **Alliance of Civilizations (AOC)**, we will continue to promote this initiative, in contact with the High Representative for the AOC. We will continue to support the preparation and execution of programmes within the AOC's four pillars (youth, education, media, and migration).
- We will support consistency, synergy and complementarity between the **reviews** of peace operations; women, peace and security; and peacebuilding architecture.
- We will promote the effectiveness of **Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) and Special Political Missions (SPMs)**, which are increasing in both number and complexity. We will uphold the principle that PKO mandates should be robust wherever necessary (in particular as regards the protection of civilians), suited to their context, clear, precise and realistic; and that PKOs should be given sufficient resources to fulfil their mandates effectively, while respecting the principles of efficiency and accountability. We will stand for adequate training for troops, as well as for the integration of the gender approach in their work, while giving particular attention to children affected by conflicts. Maximum attention should be given to monitoring and assessing PKOs and SPMs in the fulfilment of their mandates, taking into account the resources available and the circumstances, needs and challenges on the ground. This assessment should in turn shape decisions on the life-cycle of missions and future deployments. We will support regular and substantial dialogue with troop contributing countries and a broader cooperation with regional organizations. We will endorse the recommendations and conclusions of the 2015 **review of peacekeeping operations** for subsequent implementation. We will seek to ensure that Spain's participation in PKOs is as solid as possible.



- We will take part in the efforts aimed at furthering the effective **protection of civilians** and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). Our view is that the Security Council should give the utmost priority to: the protection of civilians, including specific groups (children, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities), medical staff and facilities and humanitarian workers; unrestricted humanitarian access; and accountability and the fight against impunity. We will advocate for the prioritization of the prevention approach and for early warning resulting in effective protection, but also for the inclusion of the protection of civilians in PKO mandates, when necessary, and for the effective implementation of POC tasks contained in these mandates; the training of military personnel in IHL; and the provision of adequate care to victims.
- We will pay particular attention to the **disarmament, demobilization and reintegration** (DDR) and **security sector reform** (SSR) processes in fragile countries and post-conflict situations and contribute to the efforts of the international community to help these countries to make effective progress in DDR and SSR.
- We will continue to defend the importance of the work of the **Peacebuilding Commission** (PBC) in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations. We will uphold the notion that the PBC should occupy a prominent position in the UN peacebuilding architecture, taking into account its added value: its unique make-up, since it brings the different actors involved together at the same table, its knowledge of the local context, and its capacity to promote local ownership of the process, reconcile the positions of different actors, keep attention focused on the process, closely monitor its development and point out any obstacles, risks, opportunities and areas in which greater efforts are needed. We will contend 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 regular collaboration in post-conflict countries where there are no urgent or immediate crises to address, but which are in fragile or unstable situations and could relapse into violence, thus helping to strengthen the UNSC's preventive role. We will back the efforts aimed at the effective implementation of the recommendations and conclusions of the **review of the UN's peacebuilding architecture**.
- We will champion the effective implementation of UNSC Resolutions on **Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**—Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 2106 and 2122 (2013) in particular—and of the **High-Level Review of Resolution 1325** at its 15th anniversary in October 2015, under Spain's Presidency of the UNSC, with a focus on the effective fulfilment and implementation of the commitments undertaken, and on accountability, with a practical and operational approach. We will support more solid institutional architecture and UN leadership to promote the effective implementation of WPS Resolutions on the ground. We will foster the active participation of women in peacebuilding processes, as well as the fight against impunity for crimes of sexual violence committed during conflicts, addressing the conditions necessary for the due protection of victims and witnesses. We will seek the inclusion of solid WPS language in UN —especially UNSC— documents, in particular those referring to PKO mandates and sanctions regimes.
- We will support the international community and the UN's efforts 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 Secretary-General. We will advocate for the inclusion of this matter in PKO and SPM mandates.
- We will continue to support the work of the **International Criminal Court** in combating impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, based on the



principle of complementarity with national jurisdictions. We will also continue to promote its universality.

- We will promote the universality and the full and effective implementation of the **Arms Trade Treaty**. We will support the full and effective implementation of **UNSC Resolution 1540**, as well as the endeavours of the international community in its cooperation against the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems, within the framework of the 1540 Committee. We will strive to improve the implementation of the aforementioned Resolution, helping States that have not yet done so to submit their basic compliance reports, and we will participate actively in its review, which should be completed in 2016. We will seek to achieve a successful outcome of the **Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** in 2015. We will support the universality of the NPT and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. We will promote the full and effective implementation of **UNSC Resolution 2117** on the non-proliferation of **Small Arms and Light Weapons**. We will chair UNSC's **1540 Committee**, **1718 Sanctions Committee (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)** and **1737 Sanctions Committee (Iran)**, in a spirit of responsibility, constructiveness and neutrality.
- We will pay attention to **new threats** to international peace and security, such as **climate change**, **water-related conflicts**, and **cybersecurity**. Cybersecurity should be addressed bearing in mind the conclusions and recommendations of the Report by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on "Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security", to be presented by the UNSG to the General Assembly at its 70th session.
- The terrorist threat calls for an increased international cooperation. We will support the UN's efforts to prevent terrorism, and its activities in the fields of capacity-building and technical assistance for the enforcement of Counter-terrorism Conventions. We will promote the effective implementation of all four pillars of the [United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#), particularly addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the respect for human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism must be faced on multiple fronts and this fight must be both effective and legal: we must delegitimize terrorism, address the climate of radicalization from which it arises, combat its materialization and pursue its perpetrators to ensure that they are held accountable for their actions before justice. We will work, on the basis of the GCTS, on assisting States to respond effectively to the ever-changing nature of the terrorist threat, violent extremism and the challenge of foreign terrorist fighters, in organizations such as ISIL/Daesh, Boko Haram and Al Shabaab. We will promote the full and effective implementation of **UNSC Resolutions 2170 and 2178**. We will support the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force on helping States implement the GCTS, and the coordination of the UN system in this field, as well as the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. We will uphold our firm commitment to the **international recognition and protection of the rights of victims of terrorism**.
- We will promote, together with Romania, the other Member State leading this initiative, the creation of an **International Court Against Terrorism, so that there is no impunity for terrorist crimes**.
- We will reassert our commitment towards international cooperation in tackling the global threats of **transnational organized crime**, particularly illegal drug trade, human trafficking, the trafficking of migrants, arms trafficking, and illicit trade in natural resources. We will support the UN's policies in the fight against **corruption** and the intra-UN mechanisms for



assessing the States' implementation of the Convention against Corruption. We will 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 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on drugs planned for 2016.

- Our work on Afghanistan will continue to be carried out responsibly, contributing to next year's process of adapting the resolution on the renewal of UNAMA's mandate to the new Transformation Decade, which has already begun.
- We will join in with the international community's efforts in responding to **insecurity at sea**. We will defend a comprehensive approach that considers the deep-rooted causes of these threats, the link between security and development and the need to reinforce the capacities of maritime, judicial and correctional institutions, while as encouraging regional collaboration.

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- We will take an active and constructive role in the approval and implementation of the **Post-2015 Development Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, as a continuation of the process that began with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), on the basis of a profound reflection on the lessons learnt from the MDGs and the challenges that remain. We will defend the concept of poverty eradication; the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental); a humane, rights-based approach, guaranteeing 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, owing to the impossibility of achieving sustainable development in contexts of fragility, violence and armed conflict.
- Within the framework of the post-2015 agenda, we will stand for the importance of **progress review mechanisms**, defined via a constructive and positive interaction with all UN Member States.
- We will 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 implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the post-2015 agenda. Within the framework of this Forum, we will contribute to the forging of synergies between the three dimensions of sustainable development.
- We will promote the implementation 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.
- We will take part in the efforts aimed at establishing the right conditions for the **December Paris COP 21** to adopt, within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a comprehensive, legally binding and ambitious protocol, including greenhouse gas reduction commitments by all countries, with clear and robust rules; a protocol that is dynamic, in order to adapt to changing circumstances; a protocol that is fair and that takes into account the **principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities"**; and, especially, a protocol that bears in mind the needs of the most vulnerable, so that no one is excluded. The protocol should also encompass adaptation measures, as well as appropriate implementation measures



including financing. All of this should be in line with the goal of **limiting the global temperature rise to 2°C** above pre-industrial levels **by the end of the century**. Furthermore, we will foster consistency and synergy between the climate change agenda and the post-2015 agenda and work to ensure that it addresses the challenges presented by climate change for the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.

- Particular attention should be given to the challenges that must be 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.
- We will promote a comprehensive and shared approach on the matter of **financing for development** beyond 2015, bearing in mind the roles of the different sources of financing, including Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other innovative sources. We will actively participate in the implementation and monitoring of the conclusions of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and we will ensure proper coordination with the implementation process of the post-2015 Agenda.
- We will pay close attention to initiatives in the field of **sustainable agriculture, food and nutrition security** and **energy**, including the UN Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative launched in 2011.
- We will share Spain's experience and lessons learnt in the field of efficient and sustainable **water** management, just as we are doing within the framework of our joint initiative with Algeria on the Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean, in the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean (FCAS), and in the Ibero-American Conference of Water Directors. Moreover, Spain has extensive experience in **cross-border** cooperation on water, especially in managing shared basins, in particular with Portugal, encompassed in the Albufeira Agreement, which constitutes an example of cooperation in planning and use of shared resources in regions under water stress. Such cooperation can also enable the development of strategic water-related activities, such as irrigation, hydroelectric uses, recreational uses (sailing) and the provision of environmental services relating to rivers. We will also promote Operational Action Plans, the launching of specific projects, and the search for sources of funding. We will also foster training and specialization for experts, technical visits to Spain, and the contribution of the great potential of Spanish firms to the government initiatives in areas such as engineering or desalination.
- We will closely follow the resolutions presented at the UNGA on the matters of **combating desertification, protecting forests, sustainable growth** and the **sustainable management of marine resources and oceans**.
- We will continue to deepen our cooperation 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. We will drive the implementation of the new Spain-UNDP Fund supporting countries in transition between MDGs and SDGs, as a continuation of the work performed under the Spain-UNDP MDG Achievement Fund.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

- We will maintain the firm commitment of Spain towards a strong and effective multilateral human rights system, through the promotion and protection of the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights.



- In line with this, we have presented Spain's candidature to the **Human Rights Council for the period 2018-2020**, with a view to contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights in the world.
- We will comply with our international obligations and help other countries to fulfil theirs on human rights, within the instrumental framework created to this end (reports to the bodies of the different Treaties on human rights, Special Procedures, Universal Periodic Review, regional mechanisms, etc.). We will continue to support the strengthening of the bodies of these Treaties, thus placing them in a position to respond swiftly and effectively to the challenges stemming from the growing number of ratifications and reports.
- We will continue to support **human rights advocates** around the world, in line with the EU.
- We will continue to stand for the **abolition of the death penalty**, working with countries throughout all regions towards a **global moratorium on capital punishment**.
- We will 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 murders, genital mutilation, forced and early marriage and sexual violence during conflicts).
- We will continue to promote the full enjoyment and exercise of rights by **lesbian, gay bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons** and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against them.
- We will promote the realization of the rights of **people with disabilities**.
- We will support the realization of all economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the **right to safe drinking water and sanitation**. Once international recognition for this right has been obtained, we will promote, together with Germany, a new Resolution strengthening the content of these rights and linking them to the post-2015 development goals.
- We will promote the effective implementation of the UN's guiding principles on the relationship between **businesses and human rights**. Spain's UN Global Compact network is the world's largest, with more than 2,500 signatory firms.
- We will continue to promote the respect and universal protection of **freedom of speech, religion and conscience, as well as freedom of association, assembly and demonstration**. We will continue to support efforts aimed at combating **torture** and other cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment or punishment. We will promote the realization of the rights of the **child**. We will further the realization of the rights of **indigenous peoples**. We will promote the **elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance**, paying particular attention to monitoring the Durban process. We will foster religious tolerance and inter-cultural understanding.

4. HUMANITARIAN ACTION

- We will closely monitor the **humanitarian action** work of the UN's main bodies. We will take a proactive role in discussions on resolutions of a humanitarian nature (on internally displaced persons, refugees, safety of humanitarian personnel, humanitarian access and the



fight against impunity for violations of IHL) presented within the UN framework, especially regarding Syria.

- We will continue to back efforts to **improve coordination between humanitarian agents**, supporting the **UN's leadership in the coordination and provision of humanitarian assistance**, and to further compliance with International Humanitarian Law and respect for human and refugee rights. We will support the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). We will also take part in the preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, calling for civil society to take a prominent role.
- Due attention should be given to the **chronic and structural vulnerability of people affected by humanitarian disasters**, to the **reinforcement of the links between humanitarian and development work** and to **strengthening the resilience** of communities in the face of such disasters in the medium and long term.

5. REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- We will participate actively and constructively in the UN reform process, with the objective of making the organization more effective in the achievement of its aims 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; preparations to be developed in 2016 for the new resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of the UN's operational activities, to replace the existing Resolution 67/226; and the review of UN development activities in the field, which seeks to improve their coherence, coordination, effectiveness and efficiency.
- We will support efforts to **revitalize the General Assembly** by improving its working methods, with a view to achieving maximum efficiency.
- We will contend that the **reform of the Security Council** should be achieved through an **agreement backed by a large majority of States** that strengthens the legitimacy and effectiveness of this essential body in the fulfilment of its mandate to safeguard international peace and security. The reform of the UNSC should also be comprehensive, so as to achieve all five of its aims (categories of membership, veto, regional representation, size and working methods and relations between the Security Council and the General Assembly).
- In this process, we will advocate for a Security Council that is more representative, balanced and accessible, through an increase in the number of non-permanent seats, with the possibility of re-election, with an equitable geographical distribution and allowing for **longer-term mandates; responsible, preserving the principle of accountability through periodic elections; efficient by limiting veto use by permanent members; and transparent, through a review of its working methods and a closer relation with the UNGA, based on the principles of collaboration and accountability, with the objective of giving greater legitimacy and support to the Security Council's work.**
- We will support an increased **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 organizations, especially those with similar bodies (EU and AU).



6. OTHER ISSUES

- We will defend the **principle of plurilingualism** at the UN, as an expression of its universal nature that fosters communication and tolerance between different peoples and ensures the broadest and most effective participation in the Organization's work.
- We will participate actively and constructively in the efforts of the UNGA's Fifth Committee in working towards a consensus on the **budgets of the organizations**, defending the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, responsibility, transparency, accountability and the **financial and budgetary sustainability of the UN system**.
- We will support the efforts of the international community to maintain the **territorial integrity of States** and defend the **viability of multi-ethnic and pluri-religious States**.
- We will continue to work towards the full and effective application of UNGA's unequivocal position on **Gibraltar**: 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 decolonization process is that of restoring the territorial integrity of Spain, that this matter can only be resolved through bilateral negotiations between Spain and the United Kingdom in which the interests of the colony's residents —but not their wishes— are taken into account, and that only the UN can decide when the decolonization process is complete. Until then, Gibraltar will remain on the UN's list of non-self-governing territories.
- We will 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.
- We will pay particular attention to **outreach activities** towards Member States and Spanish citizens, aimed at raising awareness and highlighting Spain's work in the UN's different fields of activity —particularly as a non-permanent member of the UNSC in 2015-2016— as well as our role as one of the largest contributors to the UN system.
- We will play a more prominent role in fora and debates organized by the UN on the issues of **sport**, as a factor that contributes to peace and the reduction of exclusion; **sustainable tourism**, as a crucial part of fostering peaceful co-existence, mutual relations and friendship between peoples; and **Corporate Social Responsibility**, as a way to obtain profits responsibly through good governance, environmental management and social action for development—areas in which Spain and Spanish businesses are recognized global standard-setters according to the most prestigious international indexes.