



THIRD NATIONAL  
ACTION PLAN ON  
**WOMEN, PEACE  
AND SECURITY**  
2025–2030



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# Foreword

Twenty-five years have passed since the Security Council of the United Nations adopted resolution 1325. In that time, Spain has integrated all Women, Peace and Security Agenda resolutions into our foreign policy and security policy.

In a global context of an upsurge in armed conflict, questioning of multilateralism and serious violations of international humanitarian law, our country is reaffirming its conviction that without gender equality there can be no lasting peace, and that without human rights there can be no sustainable security. Peace, security and the defence of international law are cornerstones of our foreign action.

The adoption of this Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2025–2030) reflects Spain's unwavering commitment to a comprehensive and feminist understanding of peace: peace that is built through prevention, dialogue, inclusive participation and effective protection of civilians, and especially women and girls, who continue to disproportionately suffer the effects of armed conflict, sexual violence and forced displacement.

Spain upholds respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, as the foundation of the international order. We

do so out of the firm conviction that the rules to protect civilians, ensure accountability and protect human dignity are not discretionary, but rather legal and moral obligations that must be fulfilled, at all times in all places. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda supports this perspective, putting protection of human rights and meaningful participation by women at the heart of responses to conflicts and of peacebuilding efforts.

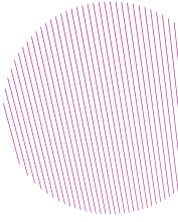
This Third Plan cements the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as a long-term public policy of Spain, which is aligned with Spain's Feminist Foreign Policy and our steadfast commitment to effective multilateralism. It reflects a collective effort from the entire Government, in constant dialogue with civil society, aligning our domestic action and foreign action. Through this Plan, Spain is renewing its commitment and dedication to peace, justice, and respect for international law. We will fulfil that commitment with determination, in the belief that investment in equality, rights and leadership by women is investment in a safer, fairer and more humane world for everyone.

**José Manuel Albares Bueno**

Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain



# 1



## Introduction

Resolution 1325, approved by the UN Security Council in 2000, was a milestone in the international peace and security agenda. For the first time, the fundamental role of women and the need to integrate a gender perspective into conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery were recognized. Resolution 1325 emphasizes that women's equal participation is essential for the effectiveness, legitimacy and sustainability of these processes.

This advance was achieved by the joint efforts of feminist and human rights organizations and civil society networks, whose collective action placed women's experiences and voices at the centre of the global debate. Since Resolution 1325, the Security Council has adopted ten further Resolutions in this context, which together constitute the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. These Resolutions can be grouped into two main categories: those that promote the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and consolidation<sup>1</sup>, and those that address the prevention and eradication of conflict-related sexual violence<sup>2</sup>.

The WPS Agenda underpins a normative framework that assigns specific responsibilities

to States, the UN system and other key actors, and which seeks to include the gender perspective in four areas: (i) the role of women in conflict prevention, (ii) their participation in peacebuilding, (iii) protection against violence during and after conflicts, in migration processes, forced displacement and requests for international protection, and (iv) addressing the specific needs of women in post-conflict recovery and humanitarian assistance.

In adopting the Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2025–2030), Spain reaffirms its commitment to real and effective equality between women and men, and to human rights, peace and democracy, in the year that marks the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Furthermore, this year's celebration of the tenth anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2242 provides the opportunity to incorporate the positive contributions of young people into the implementation of this Action Plan.

The overarching objective of the Plan is to develop and implement a feminist approach to peace and security that guarantees women's rights in contexts of conflict, strengthens their

<sup>1</sup> UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1889 (2009), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015) and 2493 (2019).

<sup>2</sup> UN Security Council Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2467 (2019).



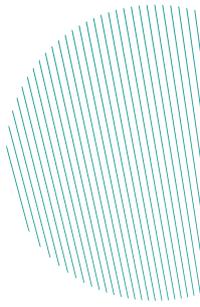
participation in peace processes and consolidates the WPS Agenda among Spain's political priorities.

To achieve this, Spain will focus on five lines of action:

1. Promote the equal participation of women and men in the prevention of crises and armed conflicts.
2. Promote the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women in decision-making related to peace and security.
3. Protect the human rights of women and girls in fragile contexts and situations of conflict and post-conflict, with zero tolerance of sexual violence.
4. Incorporate a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls into recovery and response missions and into humanitarian action.
5. Institutionalize the WPS Agenda within government policies and programmes.

The Plan establishes a strategic framework that will enable the Government of Spain to respond in a coordinated manner, over the next five years, together with other national and international actors, to any global challenges that might deepen inequality and threaten international security, such as armed conflicts, rising global military spending, climate emergencies, disinformation, hate speech, technology-facilitated gender violence, racism or violent extremism.

# 2



## Context

Current political and security crises have provoked the largest number of active armed conflicts worldwide since World War II<sup>3</sup>. These situations, coupled with systematic violations of international humanitarian law by both state and non-state actors, have exacerbated human rights abuses against the civilian population, affecting women and children in particular<sup>4</sup>. In 2024, at least 37 armed conflicts were recorded, more than half of which were high intensity, reflecting an increasingly complex and risky international context that has led to a 40% increase in civilian deaths<sup>5</sup>.

In fragile political contexts, risks and insecurity are also aggravated by climate change, which exacerbates social, economic and political tensions. Moreover, its effects disproportionately impact on the most vulnerable populations, such as refugees and internally displaced persons—and it is estimated that four out of five people displaced by the im-

pacts of climate change are women and girls<sup>6</sup>. This impact is also felt in host communities, highlighting the interconnectedness of environmental, social and security crises.

In parallel, the rise of ultraconservative movements and antifeminist groups is a growing threat to women's rights and freedoms in liberal democracies. Female politicians, journalists, communicators, human rights defenders, feminists and civil society organizations have become targets of misogynistic attacks that are amplified by social media, blogs and other digital platforms. Incitement to sexist hatred, the denial of gender-based violence and the perpetuation of discriminatory stereotypes have become commonplace<sup>7</sup>. The anonymity afforded by the internet is also used to undermine the functioning of democratic institutions through hate speech and disinformation campaigns.

<sup>3</sup> Institute for Economics & Peace, **Global Peace Index 2024: Measuring Peace in a Complex World**, Sydney, junio de 2024. Recovered from: <https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/GPI-2024>.

<sup>4</sup> Escola de Cultura de Pau, *Alerta 2025! Informe sobre conflictos armados, derechos humanos y construcción de paz*. Icaria Editorial, 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Human rights matter. Providing information with data from the UN Human Rights Council*, June 2025

<sup>6</sup> United Nations (undated). *Climate action: Why women are key to climate action*. From <https://www.un.org/es/climatechange/science/climate-issues/women>.

<sup>7</sup> European Parliament Research Service. *Cyberviolence against women in the EU, 2024*. From [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\\_BRI\(2024\)767146](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2024)767146)



On 16 September 2025, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, presented a report to the UN Human Rights Council which concluded that Israeli authorities and security forces were committing acts of genocide in Gaza. The document included evidence of deliberate violations, particularly affecting women and girls, including attacks on evacuation corridors and areas previously designated as safe zones. According to verified figures, the conflict has resulted in more than 60,000 direct deaths, of which more than 28,000 are women and children. These victims are in addition to those who have died from lack of healthcare and malnutrition, factors that disproportionately impact on the most vulnerable groups<sup>8</sup>.

This complex international geopolitical scenario has been exacerbated by cuts in official development assistance from some major donors, which have disrupted essential programmes to combat AIDS and malaria, promote sexual and reproductive health, and prevent sexual and gender-based violence in low- and

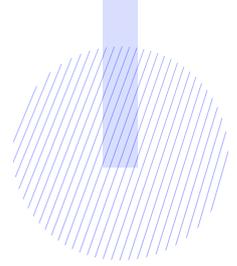
middle-income countries. These cuts endanger the lives of thousands of people (especially women and girls), compromise global security and force displacement at a time when crises are multiplying and are intensified by the climate emergency.

To address these challenges, Spain aims to strengthen its leadership in multilateral forums and within the European Union, incorporate gender equality concerns into peace and sustainable development agendas, and increase investment in the WPS Agenda as an imperative of effectiveness and legitimacy. International commitment to the Agenda will be reinforced through strategic alliances, political leadership and a more efficient use of available resources.

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<sup>8</sup> Human Rights Council, *Legal Analysis of the Conduct of Israel in Gaza Pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, Sixtieth session, 16 September 2025.

# 3



## Spain and the WPS Agenda

In 2007, Spain was one of the first countries in the world to adopt a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Since then, the WPS Agenda has evolved and become consolidated through the adoption of nine complementary resolutions and its alignment with major international instruments, such as General Recommendation No. 30 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2013), which establishes standards for the full integration of women's rights and their safe participation in all phases of conflict and post-conflict, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015). These advances laid the groundwork for the development of the Second National Action Plan (2017–2023), aimed at strategically integrating gender equality with peace and security objectives.

During its term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (2015-2016), Spain played an active role in promoting the Agenda, driving the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2242, supporting the creation of the Informal Group of Experts on Women, Peace and Security, and establishing the Network of Focal Points on Women, Peace and Security. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus, at Spain's proposal, the resolution "Protect and promote the human

rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations."

Over the past five years, Spain has established a robust legal and political framework to accelerate progress toward gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to eliminate all forms of violence. Evidence of this is Spain's decision in 2021 to promote a feminist foreign policy and strengthen its political commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, making gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls a cross-cutting and central pillar of its foreign policy. Spain's feminist foreign policy incorporates the WPS Agenda among its five priorities, based on the conviction that global peace and security cannot be achieved without the integration of a gender perspective and the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women and girls.

Reflecting this political will, Spain has adopted a set of instruments that consolidate its commitment to gender equality and which are coherently aligned with the objectives set out in the action lines of the Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. These include: (i) the Spanish Cooperation Humanitarian Strategy (2019–2026), which establishes gender equality as a guiding principle for its actions and incorporates a specific outcome



aimed at strengthening gender equality in humanitarian action; (ii) the Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity (2023), which incorporates a feminist approach and establishes a commitment to achieving 0.7% of gross national income allocated to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2030, reserving at least 10% of ODA resources for humanitarian action; (iii) the Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy (2023), which prioritizes prevention, mediation, women's participation and gender equality; and (iv) the Foreign Action Strategy 2025–2028, which enshrines the defence of the multilateral order, international law and human rights as priorities for Spain.

In this respect, too, the Spain-Africa Strategy 2025–2028 reflects Spain's commitment to continue supporting the WPS Agenda in collaboration with regional partners, such as ECOWAS and the African Union Development

Agency-NEPAD; with multilateral partners, such as UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and with national governments and local women's organizations.

Furthermore, the Feminist Cooperation Strategy integrates a cross-cutting approach to peacebuilding and maintenance, consistent with the WPS Agenda, and a specific peacebuilding strategy is expected to be formulated during the term of this Plan. Along the same lines, Spain recognizes that global health is a fundamental component for achieving sustainable peace, preventing conflicts and promoting resilience in fragile and crisis-affected political contexts.

In line with the principles that inspire Spain's foreign policy and with its commitment to human rights and gender equality, efforts to eradicate discrimination have been strengthe-

ned in recent years with the approval of three Action Plans to combat hate crimes and with new regulations in this area; these include the Comprehensive Law for Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination (2022), the Organic Law for the Comprehensive Guarantee of Sexual Freedom (2022), the Law for the Real and Effective Equality of Trans Persons and the Guarantee of the Rights of LGBTIQ Persons (2023), and the Organic Law on Parity Representation and the Balanced Presence of Women and Men (2024).

Within the European Union, Spain continues to be one of the most active countries in defending women's rights and gender equality. In addition to supporting the Gender Action Plan (GAP III) and the EU Roadmap on Women's Rights, it has promoted important initiatives, such as the Bi-regional Care Pact between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union. During Spain's rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2023, the Ministry of Equality organized a high-level meeting in Madrid, at the end of which the ministers of 16 Member States signed the declaration "Advancing LGBTIQ+ Rights in Europe."<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, within the framework of the Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, held in Zaragoza and also promoted by the Ministry of Equality, another 16 European ministers signed the declaration "Guaranteeing Sexual Health and Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the European Union."<sup>10</sup> With these actions, Spain reaffirmed its commitment to the defence and promotion of gender equality and positioned itself as a European benchmark in the face of setbacks that threaten progress both within and outside the Union.

Spain's contribution to the OSCE Consolidated Budget directly strengthens the Secretariat's

Gender Affairs Programme, which plays a key role in implementing the WPS Agenda within the organization. In addition, Spain makes voluntary contributions to the Scholarship for Peace and Security programme, which supports the participation and leadership of young women in the formulation, planning and implementation of policies on conflict prevention and resolution, including arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as to the WIN and CHANGE projects, which promote gender equality and the mainstreaming of the WPS Agenda across the organization's various areas of activity.

During the negotiation of NATO's new Strategic Concept, adopted in Madrid in 2022, Spain played a key role by supporting the inclusion of both the WPS Agenda and the Human Security Agenda in all of the Alliance's core tasks, promoting a security approach that transcends the traditional military dimension and incorporates the protection of civilians. Spain also participated, through civil society, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, and the Ministry of Defence, in the review process of the new WPS Policy, whose adoption at the 2024 Washington Summit constitutes one of the Alliance's recent milestones in this area.

In addition to the above, Spain contributes to the implementation of gender policies by UN agencies, funds and programmes, such as UN Women, UNICEF and UNDP. Furthermore, it has become one of the leading donors to UNFPA's regular budget, promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health, protecting the rights of women and girls, and eradicating harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation. In parallel, Spain actively participates in intergovernmental nego-

<sup>9</sup> Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden.

<sup>10</sup> Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Greece, Germany, Finland, France, Slovenia, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Czech Republic, Sweden and Ireland.

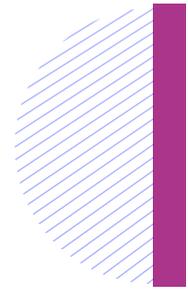
tiations to integrate a gender perspective and the priorities of the WPS Agenda into the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This commitment was reinforced in 2024 with Spain's adherence to the Global Compact for the Future, adopted by the UN General Assembly, which includes explicit commitments to achieve gender equality, empower women and girls, and promote the Agenda.

Spain has joined the Common Commitment to the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in Peace Processes, launched by the UN Secretary-General during the Security Council's annual open debate on Women, Peace and Security in 2024, and has resolved to adopt concrete measures to express the effective participation of women in peace processes in which Spain is involved, as well as to support countries that facilitate mediation initiatives in conflict contexts.

As a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2025–2027, Spain will play an active role in promoting coexistence and peace, gender equality and the international protection of the human rights of all people, especially women and girls.

Spanish civil society has played a fundamental role in promoting and developing the WPS Agenda, calling for compliance with international commitments, promoting feminist peacebuilding, defending the rights of women and girls affected by armed conflict, and supporting peacebuilders and human rights defenders. Thus, Spanish civil society organizations are an essential pillar for achieving the objectives set out in this Plan.

# 4



## Methodology

The Third National Action Plan has been developed jointly with contributions from many key actors, considering both the national and the international contexts in terms of gender equality, peace, security and development.

During this process, due account was taken of the recommendations of the Civil Society Advisory Group during the final review of the Second National Action Plan, formulated with the purpose of consolidating the WPS Agenda as an effective and coherent feminist state policy. These recommendations include:

- Express specific budget allocations from each ministry for the different lines of work.
- Promote internal training in all ministries to mainstream the Agenda and strengthen institutional capacities from a gender perspective.
- Encourage the active participation of civil society organizations in political dialogue and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan.
- Support local women's organizations working to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and to achieve equal participation, gender economic justice and peace and security.
- Improve the monitoring and evaluation system.

The Third National Action Plan is coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEUEC) and has involved the participation of twelve other ministries through the Interministerial Group created for this purpose:

- Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (MICIU)
- Ministry of Defence (MDE)
- Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and the 2030 Agenda (MDSCA)
- Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sport (MEFPD)
- Ministry of Finance (MINHAP)
- Ministry of Equality (MIGU)
- Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration (MISSM)
- Ministry of Youth and Childhood (MJI)
- Ministry of the Interior (MINT)
- Ministry of Territorial Policy and Democratic Memory (MPTMD)
- Ministry of Digital Transformation and Public Administration (MTDFP)
- Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO)

The work carried out with the Interministerial Group included informational meetings on Resolution 1325 and the national action plans, structured surveys, in-person and online individual interviews, as well as coordination and



validation meetings. In parallel, drafts were shared and reviewed via email, incorporating input from all ministries until the final document was consolidated.

In addition, the Civil Society Advisory Group has played a key role in drafting the Third National Action Plan, providing a permanent forum for dialogue with the Government regarding the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan. This Group comprises organizations within the fields of feminist scholarship and of international solidarity, with extensive experience in the fields of gender, peace, human rights and international cooperation.

Among the entities that comprise the Advisory Group are the Alliance for Solidarity-Action Aid, the Centre for Education and Research for Peace (CEIPAZ), the Centre for Studies and Research on Women (CEIM), the Spanish Youth

Council, the UAB School of Peace Culture (ECP), the Federation of Young Women, the Feminist Policy Forum, the Baketik Foundation, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-WILPF, Women in Conflict Zones, the CEDAW-Istanbul-Beijing Shadow Platform Spain (PCEB) and the Elcano Royal Institute.

# 5

## Guided principles

The Third National Action Plan encapsulates Spain's efforts to promote peace, security and equality for all people in Spain and worldwide, in accordance with the provisions of international human rights treaties and international humanitarian law. The following principles underlie and will guide the implementation of the Plan.

### 1. Focus on human rights

The Third National Action Plan will contribute to ensuring the equal and inclusive representation of women as rights holders in all decision-making systems and will promote the eradication of all forms of violence against women and girls. It will also address gender inequalities at their structural root causes and prioritize actions with a transformative feminist approach.

These efforts will be guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and by the commitments arising from the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 2. Committed government leadership

The Government of Spain has adopted a comprehensive, top-down approach to improve the efficiency and impact of the Plan's implementation. Thirteen ministries, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, have collaborated in a coordinated manner through the Interministerial Group, under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.

### 3. Policy coherence

Spain will align its national policies with its foreign policy on gender equality, human rights, security, defence, foreign trade, ecological transition and development cooperation, ensuring coherence between the objectives of the Third National Action Plan and Spain's interests and operations that affect the development and consolidation of peace in partner countries.

### 4. Intersectional and intergenerational approach

In accordance with the Feminist Foreign Policy and the Law on Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity, the Third National Action Plan will address, in an intersectional manner, the multiple and interrelated

forms of violence, discrimination and inequality that affect women and girls. This approach will foster understanding of the effects of conflicts based on factors such as birth, racial or ethnic origin, sex, religion, belief or opinion, age, disability, sexual orientation or identity, illness, language, socioeconomic status, or any other personal or social condition or circumstance, and enable us to identify transformative responses and changes to achieve equality, peace, and security. Special attention will be paid to the realities of women belonging to Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and to migrants, women with disabilities, women from rural areas and women in LGBTQ+ communities.

## **5. Localization**

The Third National Action Plan will be implemented in a decentralized manner, with appropriate adaptations to each territorial and community context, and will express the right of women and their local organizations to actively participate in all its phases.

## **6. Promote alliances**

Spain will work closely with Spanish civil society organizations and local women's organizations, fostering the active participation of men, boys, young people, the LGBTQ+ community, and political, community, religious and social leaders as strategic allies in eradicating all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence. Coordination among ministries, regional organizations and the multilateral system will be a fundamental pillar for achieving common goals and promoting coherent, effective and transformative action. In this respect, Spain will collaborate specifically with the UN, EU, NATO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Ibero-American System, the African Union and the Organization of American States.

## **7. Transparency and accountability**

Following the practice established in the Second National Action Plan, the Government will periodically evaluate the achievement of the objectives of the Third Plan and report on progress and results to Parliament, adhering to criteria of efficiency, transparency and legality. To this end, a monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be established, including a medium-term report to track progress and adapt measures according to emerging needs. Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out by the Joint Working Group, composed of the Interministerial Group and the Civil Society Advisory Group. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation will submit the corresponding progress and final reports for the Plan to the Congress of Deputies.

# 6

## Lines of action

To promote a feminist approach to peace and security that consolidates the WPS Agenda, Spain has prioritized five lines of action with specific objectives and actions.

### → 1

#### **Promote the equal participation of women and men in the prevention of crises and armed conflicts.**

Preventing crises and armed conflicts requires decisive interventions addressing the root causes of violence, such as poverty, social and gender inequalities, sociopolitical instability and the effects of climate change. These interventions must be geared toward building more peaceful, democratic and inclusive societies. Gender equality is not only a principle of social justice but also a strategic component of sustainable development and a determining factor for stability and security<sup>11</sup>.

Spain supports the UN Secretary-General's New Peace Agenda, viewing it as a fundamental tool for the prevention of armed conflicts.

Especially in the current context of political fragility, Spain will promote universal access to inclusive high-quality education, the stren-

gthening of social and health services, the exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, access to sexual and reproductive health services, and the empowerment and leadership of women, including economic autonomy, as key elements in creating safe and cohesive environments.

Conflict prevention cannot be effective if women, half the population, are excluded and if their capacity for dialogue and their contributions to resolving the complex challenges of peace and security are not recognized. Therefore, both the Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy (2023–2026) and the Humanitarian Action Strategy (2019–2026) are aimed at promoting women's participation in conflict prevention and mediation, in fostering a culture of peace and in protecting the humanitarian space.

Preventive diplomacy comprises a body of measures aimed at preventing new conflicts from arising, at preventing existing conflicts from escalating and at limiting their spread. These measures include mediation, seeking the implication of the UN Secretary-General, implementing peace agreements, rehabilitating and reintegrating people involved in conflicts, strengthening civil society, consolidating the rule of law and guaranteeing tran-

<sup>11</sup> Crespo Sancho, Catalina. *Can gender equality prevent violent conflict?* World Bank, 2018.

sitional justice, accountability and reparations for women and girls who are victims and survivors.

To foster intercultural dialogue and tolerance as precursors of peacebuilding, Spain will promote the participation of women from all areas of society in the initiatives and groupings in which it participates, including human rights defenders and peacebuilders, young people, religious leaders and representatives of the business sector and of the media. This commitment will be channelled through multilateral forums such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the UN Gender, Peace and Security Mediation and Dependency Support Unit. Moreover, Spain will play an active role in the EU and UN Groups of Friends of Mediation.

Within these frameworks, Spain will continue to support training programmes for women leaders in the Mediterranean basin and Africa, organized by the UN Alliance of Civilizations, seeking to promote conflict prevention and resolution through intercultural and interreligious dialogue and the use of diplomacy. Spain will also support the training, mediation and facilitation activities promoted by the Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax), whose inclusivity-focused initiatives contribute significantly to strengthening Spanish foreign policy.

Spain will also promote the creation and implementation of platforms for dialogue and of local and regional networks led by women's organizations involved in the defence of human rights and peacebuilding in countries and regions experiencing conflict or where peace processes are ongoing. Examples of this commitment include the Mediterranean Network of Women Mediators and the Ibero-American Network of Women Mediators, which are taking an increasingly active role in peacebuilding processes. These efforts have been consolidated through Spanish Cooperation's Democracy Programme, which promotes inclusive spaces

for social dialogue, strengthens political participation and protects human rights and fundamental freedoms in Latin America and the Caribbean.

For effective conflict prevention, it is essential to recognize the role of women in early warning and response systems, incorporating gender indicators to detect risk factors, such as increased violence against women human rights defenders, setbacks in sexual and reproductive rights, and the exclusion of women from political dialogues. Within this framework, Spain will propose the inclusion of an intersectional gender analysis in the alert reports and recommendations of the United Nations system and will apply these criteria in its own early warning systems within the Spanish diplomatic network. At the bilateral level, Spain will promote the strengthening of national early warning systems in partner countries in Latin America, Africa and the Mediterranean through gender perspective training and support for local women's networks for community monitoring.

Education and awareness-raising in society regarding a culture of peace, conflict management, and civic and ethical values are essential in learning to prevent conflicts or resolve them through non-violent methods. The involvement of men and boys in these endeavours generates a better understanding of the repercussions of conflicts from a gender perspective, and also contributes to challenging the social norms that perpetuate inequalities and gender stereotypes.

The Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sport has incorporated human rights, co-education, gender equality, sustainability and global citizenship into the mandatory curriculum. It also leads national strategies to improve coexistence in schools, including the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the prevention of bullying, gender-based violence and discrimination, and coordinates the State Observa-



With the project “Inter-institutional Route toward comprehensive protection in northeastern Colombia” (2022–2030), AECID is contributing to improving the collective and individual protection of rural communities and ex-combatants in Antioquia, Bolívar and Norte de Santander, and to supporting existing peace consolidation processes.

In addition to recognizing the victims of the conflict and implementing measures to enable reparations, efforts have focused on strengthening the capacities of the rural women represented by the Catatumbo Women's

Coordinating Committee, in order to continue promoting the defence of their rights. This goal was highlighted at the International Forum on the Experiences of Rural Women, which addressed the social and economic recognition of women in the region.

A significant feature of this process is that of closer involvement with those living in the region, including rural women, to continue working to achieve a real and effective peace. In this context, strategies for political advocacy, visibility and communication have been developed to continue defending human rights and respect for international

humanitarian law, and to strengthen the Route as a mechanism for inter-institutional protection.

One of the results achieved by this project has been the provision of awareness-raising initiatives among communities about new types of masculinity and the need to prevent all types of violence, including gender-based violence. Those who have taken part in these initiatives are now well placed to replicate this approach in their families and communities, strengthening support and dialogue networks, and promoting equality in all areas of life.

tory for Coexistence in Schools, which collects data and promotes best practices.

Furthermore, the Ministry of the Interior, through its Master Plan for Coexistence and Improved Security in Schools and their Surroundings, collaborates in the prevention of security and coexistence problems affecting young people, including bullying, drug and alcohol use, violent gangs, racism, intolerance, violence against women, discrimination and the risks associated with the internet and social media. In addition, it has published The specialized guide on the aggravating circumstance of gender in hate crimes, in order to facilitate a more efficient police response and prevent impunity in acts motivated by gender discrimination.

The Spanish Cooperation Agency promotes a culture of peace and the building of inclusive societies, both in the field of humanitarian action, using the Triple Nexus approach, and in education for global citizenship. In collaboration with civil society organizations and the media, awareness campaigns will be conducted to highlight the negative impacts of gender-based violence both in Spain and abroad.

## ▶ SPAIN UNDERTAKES

- I.** To promote real and effective equality, freedom, full, equal, safe and meaningful participation, personal and economic autonomy and security for all women..
- II.** To support social and economic development programmes that reduce tensions and prevent violence, prioritizing empowerment and livelihoods for women.
- III.** To promote the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women, especially young women, in national, regional and international mechanisms of preventive diplomacy, mediation, and early warning and reaction systems.
- IV.** To incorporate the principle of equal treatment and opportunities between women and men in the planning and execution of activities for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as the specialized training of all personnel involved in these processes.
- V.** To promote education and social awareness about peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, in Spain and worldwide, from an intersectional gender perspective.

LINE OF ACTION 1 → PROMOTE THE EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND MEN IN PREVENTING ARMED CONFLICTS

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS	
<p><b>To promote real and effective equality, freedom, full, equal, safe and meaningful participation, personal and economic autonomy and security for all women.</b></p>	<p>Spanish foreign policy contributes to real equality for women, increasing their presence in decision-making spaces and providing financial support for initiatives with a gender focus.</p>	<p>Incorporate the transformative gender approach into foreign policy instruments to consolidate a feminist foreign policy.</p>	<p>Number and percentage of foreign action instruments that incorporate the gender approach, broken down by type (strategies, plans, programmes, budgets and cooperation documents), approved annually.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID/DAH MIGU MICIU International organizations Think tanks Foundations Development NGOs</b></p>	
		<p>Continue incorporating the gender dimension into Spain's international cooperation in science, technology and innovation, promoting gender balance in participation; moreover, include gender analysis in the content of programmes, projects and actions.</p>	<p>Number of specialized training courses in policy analysis with a gender and human rights perspective designed and implemented for the different professional profiles of foreign action personnel (diplomatic, technical, consular and cooperation staff), broken down by type of profile and by year.</p>		<p>Number of practical guides developed and adopted to mainstream the gender approach in public interventions, speeches, verbal notes, diplomatic notes and multilateral declarations, and degree of use by the departments responsible.</p>
		<p></p>	<p>Percentage of women's organizations and civil society organizations that express approval of the coherence and effectiveness of Spanish feminist foreign policy, through formal consultation and accountability mechanisms.</p>		<p>Number of agreements and/or international cooperation actions in the fields of science, technology and innovation in which Spain has incorporated the gender dimension.</p>
		<p>Build global partnerships to express gender equality and the rights of women and girls.</p>	<p>Number of multilateral and regional forums in which Spain presents, leads or negotiates initiatives with a gender focus, broken down by international organization and by region.</p>		<p>Number of countries with which Spain incorporates the gender dimension in political dialogues and/or bilateral agreements, broken down by region and type of instrument (memoranda of understanding, declarations, cooperation agreements, political consultations).</p>
		<p>Include the question of gender equality in bilateral dialogues with third countries.</p>	<p>Number of memoranda of understanding signed by Spain on gender equality or feminist foreign policy, broken down by region and type of collaboration (technical cooperation, exchange of good practices, funding, strategic alliances, etc.).</p>		<p>Percentage of funding for Spanish foreign action and cooperation allocated to programmes that incorporate a gender perspective and include the participation of women's organizations as implementing partners or direct recipients of funds.</p>
		<p>Prioritize projects with an intersectional gender perspective and women's rights organizations, in voluntary financial contributions, grant calls and cooperation programmes aimed at conflict prevention and peacebuilding.</p>	<p>Number and type of projects led by women or women's organizations supported with funds from Spanish foreign action and cooperation, broken down by region, area of intervention and funding volume.</p>		<p>Percentage of programmes funded by Spain in which women's and youth organizations participate in the design, implementation, monitoring or evaluation, indicating the degree of ownership and leadership in decision-making.</p>
		<p></p>	<p>Percentage of bilateral and multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to programmes and projects in which gender equality is the main objective (OECD-DAC GG2 marker).</p>		<p>Percentage of ODA allocated to feminist and women's rights organizations, including those led by women and those working in countries affected by conflict and crisis.</p>

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<p><b>To support social and economic development programmes that reduce tensions and prevent violence, prioritizing the empowerment and livelihoods of women and young people.</b></p>	<p>Spain finances development projects that improve education, livelihoods and access to health and sexual and reproductive rights for women, young people and girls, promoting social cohesion in partner countries.</p>	<p>Integrate the pillars of the WPS Agenda into cooperation programmes aimed at strengthening the rule of law, democracy and socio-economic development.</p>	<p>Number and percentage of cooperation programmes and projects that incorporate at least one of the axes of the WPS Agenda and that have a specific budget allocated for their implementation.</p> <p>Number of WPS National Action Plans whose implementation has been supported by Spanish Cooperation, and number of beneficiary countries.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID FIAP Think tanks Foundations NGOs</b></p>
		<p>Include universal health coverage and sexual and reproductive rights — with special attention to women and girls with disabilities and those living with a rare disease — in human rights agendas and development cooperation programmes.</p>	<p>International forums in which Spain has defended universal health coverage and sexual and reproductive rights.</p> <p>Number of cooperation programmes — identifying the partner countries involved — that include sexual and reproductive rights and universal health coverage.</p>	
		<p>Improve participation and permanence in education, literacy, digital skills and vocational training programmes for women and girls in fragile contexts, with special attention to those in vulnerable situations, including those belonging to indigenous and rural communities.</p>	<p>Number of women and girls benefiting from educational programmes associated with the Third National Action Plan.</p> <p>Percentage increase in school enrolment of girls and adolescents in fragile or conflict-affected contexts.</p>	
		<p>Fund and support productive initiatives managed by women.</p>	<p>Number of networks of women mediators, human rights defenders or peacebuilders supported, and volume of funding granted for their operation and consolidation.</p>	
<p><b>To promote the meaningful participation of women — especially young women — in preventive diplomacy, mediation and early warning systems to prevent the escalation of conflicts.</b></p>	<p>Spain has strengthened the capabilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEUEC) in preventive diplomacy and promotes the participation and leadership of women — especially young women — in mediation processes and in early warning systems at the national, regional and international levels.</p>	<p>Train personnel at MAEUEC, embassies and international cooperation agencies in preventive diplomacy, mediation and conflict management with a gender perspective.</p>	<p>Number of officials trained with respect to the WPS Agenda and/or the gender approach, broken down by professional category.</p> <p>Percentage of training actions that incorporate a gender approach, with explicit identification of content related to equality, women's human rights and the WPS Agenda.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID/DAH International organisations Think tanks Networks of women mediators NGOs</b></p>
		<p>Support the creation, operation and expansion of networks of women mediators in coordination with international and regional organizations.</p>	<p>Number of women mediator networks supported, and number of activities in which they participate (mediation processes, dialogues, training, political advocacy, etc.).</p> <p>Number of women mediators participating in forums, dialogue processes, technical meetings and international activities supported by Spain.</p>	
		<p>Promote collaborative projects between networks of women mediators from the Global North and South, with the participation of the United Nations, the OECD and specialized centres, promoting the exchange of good practices.</p>	<p>Number of North-South joint cooperation projects supported by Spain within the framework of the WPS Agenda.</p> <p>Number of good practices exchanged between networks of women mediators from the Global North and South, in spaces of learning, technical cooperation, training or advocacy supported by Spain.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		<p>Implement periodic consultation mechanisms between Spanish embassies and women's peacebuilding and human rights organizations in countries affected by conflicts and political crises.</p> <p>Include gender indicators in the early warning systems of the Spanish diplomatic network.</p>	<p>Number of consultations carried out with women's organizations, civil society, experts, youth workers and other relevant actors, and main results obtained.</p> <p>Number of women's organizations participating in the consultation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of the Third National Action Plan for WPS.</p> <p>Changes in institutional and media narratives about the role of women in early warning and conflict prevention systems, reflected in strategic documents, speeches, reports and communication products..</p>	
<p><b>To incorporate the principle of equal treatment and opportunities between women and men in processes of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), and guarantee specialized training for personnel participating in these processes.</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes to ensuring that DDR processes provide support tailored to the differentiated needs of ex-combatant women and men, facilitating their social and economic reintegration.</p>	<p>Argue, together with international partners, that DDR and Security Sector Reform (SSR) processes should incorporate a gender perspective, and ensure the meaningful equal participation of women in these processes.</p>	<p>Number of DDR and/or SSR processes that include the participation of women in their design, implementation or monitoring.</p> <p>Percentage of women included in the different phases of DDR processes.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID/DAH MDE NGOs</b></p>
		<p>Promote the inclusion of local women and youth — including women leaders and former members of armed groups — in the planning and execution of DDR operations.</p>	<p>Number of multilateral initiatives, processes or spaces in which Spain has promoted the participation of women in conflict prevention, mediation, DDR or SSR.</p> <p>Number of local women leaders and of women ex-combatants included in DDR/SSR planning.</p> <p>Opinion of local leaders on the effective inclusion of women in the planning of DDR/SSR processes (determined via surveys or interviews).</p>	
		<p>Commemorate 24 May, "International Day of Women for Peace and Disarmament", through outreach and awareness-raising activities that highlight the role of women in international disarmament and peace, including nuclear disarmament.</p>	<p>Number of annual events held to promote the WPS Agenda, and degree of public participation.</p>	
<p><b>To promote education and social awareness about peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, in Spain and worldwide, from an intersectional gender perspective.</b></p>	<p>Spain is strengthening education in schools for a culture of peace with a gender perspective, and is raising social awareness about the peaceful resolution of conflicts.</p>	<p>Convene annual awards that promote respect for human rights, peace, peaceful conflict resolution and gender equality in educational centres, and support meetings — conferences and congresses — to address projects on equality and peacebuilding.</p>	<p>Number of educational centres participating in activities related to the Agenda.</p> <p>Number of projects related to the WPS Agenda that have been awarded and publicized.</p>	<p><b>MEFPD MINT-FCSE MAEUEC AECID Decentralized educational authorities Foundations NGOs Think tanks Mass media</b></p>
		<p>Promote ongoing training for teachers in human rights, equality between women and men, the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, the culture of peace, mediation and peaceful conflict resolution, digital violence and the role of women in the face of the climate crisis, through participatory approaches and the exchange of good practices.</p>	<p>Number of teachers trained in areas related to the WPS Agenda and gender equality.</p> <p>Teachers' level of satisfaction with the training received, ascertained through an evaluation survey.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		Promote the implementation of early warning systems in publicly funded educational centres to detect, identify and report on possible situations of violence, including sexual violence, within the educational community, taking into account the coexistence plans for educational centres set out in the Spanish Education Law (LOE).	<p>Number of educational centres that have implemented systems to prevent, identify and respond to gender violence.</p> <p>Number of cases identified and addressed through these systems.</p>	
		Conduct awareness-raising campaigns, with special attention to rural and peripheral areas of Spain.	<p>Number of awareness-raising campaigns conducted to promote equality and the WPS Agenda.</p> <p>Number of persons attending related campaigns, conferences or events. Total number of digital interactions (clicks, comments, shares, views and participation in online activities). Media reach, measured by estimated audience across print, radio, TV and digital media..</p> <p>Evaluation of the educational impact of the campaigns, through surveys or qualitative analysis.</p>	
		Develop communication actions for the Plan, nationwide and in multilateral forums, including online resources for the dissemination of materials and content on the Agenda.	<p>Communication strategy designed and approved to promote the Agenda. (Yes/No - indicator of existence).</p> <p>Number of events carried out to promote the Agenda, detailed by national and international level.</p> <p>Number of national events, by format (seminars, digital materials, workshops, etc.).</p> <p>Number of dissemination events conducted in international forums (UN, EU, OSCE, NATO, AU, OAS).</p>	

## → 2

### Full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women in decision-making related to peace and security

To achieve the real and effective participation of women they must have the same opportunities and capabilities as men to influence decision making on issues that affect their lives, their communities and their countries. Their presence in peace processes is directly linked to the parties' greater compliance with agreements and the building of a more sustainable peace. Studies indicate that this participation increases the likelihood of an agreement lasting at least two years by 20% and the likelihood of it lasting 15 years by 35%. It is also associated with better protection of the civilian population and with the possibility that the institutions that emerge during the political transition will be more inclusive<sup>12</sup>. In any case, the full and meaningful participation of women in public life is a matter of human rights.

Women do not constitute a homogeneous group. Their diversity takes multiple forms, in areas such as class, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and cultural context. In conflict situations, moreover, women often perform a variety of roles reflecting their differing experiences and responsibilities. Some women oppose war, support reconciliation and contribute to peacebuilding through local and international organizations. Others are part of armed groups and participate in military operations, training, logistics, propaganda, recruitment or intelligence gathering. Furthermore, within their own communities, women often bear the brunt of caregiving responsibilities, including the social and psychological

reintegration of ex-combatants and the war wounded<sup>13</sup>.

In situations of conflict, women and girls are also the first to lose their homes and be deprived of essential services; they form the majority of internally displaced persons and refugees, and are the most affected by conflict-related sexual violence.

However, 25 years after the adoption of Resolution 1325, the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding, and in the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and of security sector reform (SSR) initiatives, remains far from being a reality.

According to the 2025 UN Secretary-General's Report on WPS, women's participation in UN-supported peace processes and constitution-making stood at 18% in 2024, down from 19% in 2023 and 23% in 2020. Globally, only 7% of negotiators were women, and nearly 90% of processes lacked female representation. In mediation processes, their presence reached 14%. Of the 36 agreements signed in 2024, only 11 included specific provisions on women, girls or gender-based violence<sup>14</sup>.

On the other hand, the representation of women in delegations participating in multilateral disarmament forums has improved, albeit unevenly. In some forums, a participation of 37% has been reached, but this level is rarely exceeded; in certain regions or countries, it can fall to 20% or even lower. Work related to arms control and disarmament — including humanitarian demining and the management of weapons and ammunition — continues to be primarily associated with security forces and

<sup>12</sup> O'Reilly, M., Ó Súilleabháin, A., & Paffenholz, T. *Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes*. International Peace Institute, New York, 2015.

<sup>13</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2013). *General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations*.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations. *Report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security*, 2025.



the armed forces, sectors where men remain predominant<sup>15</sup>.

Among the factors limiting women's participation in decision-making spaces are social norms and discriminatory gender patterns, which are often normalized and largely invisible. These barriers are exacerbated by gender-based violence, which is the most extreme form of discrimination and a serious violation of human rights; moreover, it perpetuates structural inequalities and further restricts women's full participation in spheres of political, social and economic influence<sup>16</sup>.

In this context, digital platforms offer opportunities for women to become informed, express themselves and participate in public affairs,

always provided that safe environments are promoted to prevent the perpetuation or intensification of gender-based violence. Otherwise, the risks present in traditional spaces could also be present in the digital environment, manifesting in forms such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, non-consensual sharing of intimate content, sextortion, cyberbullying and hate speech, disproportionately affecting those in the most vulnerable situations.

These new challenges to women's safety and security justify the incorporation of the digital dimension with a gender focus in the Third National Action Plan for WPS, in line with the commitment of the Government of Spain to strengthen the prevention of digital violence, to deploy awareness-raising and training pro-

<sup>15</sup> UNIDIR. (2020). *Connecting the Dots*. Geneva.

<sup>16</sup> UN Women (2020). *Beyond the numbers: For women's political participation free from violence*. <https://www.unwomen.org/>.

grammes, to promote innovative public policies in this regard and to ensure the effective prosecution of online criminal conduct that violates women's rights, whether it takes place in Spain or elsewhere.

Within its inclusive and gender-sensitive approach, Spain is advancing in various areas: the training of girls and young women in advanced digital skills; the integration of mixed teams in the fields of cybersecurity and digital intelligence; the training of competent authorities and professionals, such as the State Security Forces and the Public Prosecutor's Office, in the early detection and prosecution of gender-based digital crimes; the development of research programmes to identify new forms of digital violence; and the rapid updating of relevant legal frameworks. Furthermore, the availability of services, tools, information and awareness-raising resources to facilitate a safe online experience for women, such as the 017 Helpline of the National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE), is being promoted.

The updated State Pact against Gender Violence (2025) strengthens the institutional response to digital violence through 22 strategic measures, notably the transposition of the European Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence (2024). This legislation expressly criminalizes digital conduct such as cyberbullying, the non-consensual dissemination of intimate material, cyberstalking and incitement to hatred or violence through digital means. Furthermore, it establishes an effective framework for coordination between national authorities, European bodies and civil society.

In line with these objectives, Spain, through the Global Alliance for Action against Online Gender-Based Harassment and Abuse, will continue working with Alliance member states, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the United Nations system and the private sector to promote a safe, responsible

and inclusive digital space as a fundamental part of eradicating gender-based violence. In its 2023 Roadmap, the Alliance committed to increasing the meaningful participation of women and girls in public life and combating online gender-based violence and disinformation, while promoting the participation of young people.

As a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term, Spain will promote the effective integration of the WPS Agenda into the Council's debates, resolutions and mechanisms and the protection of women's human rights, and will support their role in peacebuilding. Furthermore, it will continue to strengthen the mandates of the Special Rapporteurs on various issues related to women's rights and foster the meaningful participation of women's organizations in the Council's dialogue, consultation and decision-making spaces.

From its position on the Gender Advisory Board, Spain will promote the implementation of General Recommendation No. 40 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2024), driving initiatives to strengthen the protection of women's rights and their role in peacebuilding, in line with its feminist foreign policy. This commitment will extend to other multilateral forums, such as the UN General Assembly and the ECOSOC Commission on the Status of Women.

Spain will continue to promote, in multilateral forums, the integration of formal and informal peace decision-making processes, in accordance with General Recommendation No. 40. This activity will be complemented by active support for the NGO Working Group on WPS, whose work has been fundamental in amplifying the voice of civil society before the UN Security Council and ensuring the substantive integration of a gender perspective into international peace mechanisms and negotiations. Similarly, support will be intensified for multilateral initiatives that promote the active parti-

icipation of women's organizations — both local and international — in peace negotiation processes and in the stages of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), ensuring a significant female presence in all phases of peacebuilding.

Within the framework of NATO's 2024 Southern Neighbourhood Action Plan, Spain will strengthen ties with women's organizations in Southern partner countries interested in cooperating on the WPS Agenda with the African Union.

Spain recognizes that lasting peace can only be built from the ground up, and appreciates the strategic role played by local women's organizations — defenders of human rights, international humanitarian law, the environment and of those involved in DDR processes — in conflict prevention and in rebuilding the social fabric. Accordingly, and in line with its feminist and human rights approach, Spain will continue to provide political, technical and financial support to these organizations, in order to secure their protection against any form of violence or reprisal.

Through the **Ellas+** programme, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) will promote the full participation of women, their active, effective leadership and equal opportunities at all decision-making levels in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. The programme will foster an ethic of mutual care as an essential condition for women and men to live and develop in full equality.

Spanish civil society organizations will be of crucial importance in the implementation of this Plan, given their experience in the humanitarian field and their ability to engage with Spanish citizens, international feminist networks and local women's organizations in partner countries. To facilitate this dialogue, the new regulations governing grants for sus-

tainable development cooperation and global solidarity provide greater flexibility in project funding, as well as a significant simplification of the administrative burden and application and justification procedures. Furthermore, Spain has committed to ensuring that funds allocated to realizing women's rights will reach grassroots and local organizations in partner countries — primarily women involved in peace processes and those working with victims of human rights violations and gender-based violence — by undertaking the necessary reforms to make project management more accessible.

Recognizing the need for a coordinated response to address the factors that aggravate inequalities and compromise peace and security, Spain will support the integration of the WPS Agenda into responses to climate crises and will promote the full participation and leadership of women and girls — as well as other marginalized groups — in adaptation, mitigation and response measures, energy justice, nature protection and peacebuilding. Taking into account CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, Spain will promote initiatives aimed at strengthening women's leadership in environmental governance, fostering inclusive political dialogue and promoting gender-responsive adaptation and resilience measures. This commitment will materialize in multilateral forums such as the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, as well as through the European Union's EUROCLIMA+ programme, in which Spain is playing an active role in promoting fair and gender-sensitive climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the multilateral arena, Spain will reaffirm its commitment to gender equality by advocating for a woman to be the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, which would constitute



In 2022, Spain launched the **HearUs** initiative, aimed at promoting the meaningful inclusion of Afghan women in all political processes related to Afghanistan. This initiative includes regular support for women-led dialogue activities and processes running parallel to the Doha process, as well as holding the de facto Afghan authorities accountable before international justice.

The initiative will also amplify the voices of Afghan women in international and regional forums, in collaboration with other countries, ensuring that the defence of the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, as well as the needs of Afghan women in exile, remain on the international agenda.

In 2024, Spain organized the **Second HearUs Conference** to continue supporting the voices of Afghan women in exile and to enable their participation in processes related to Afghanistan.

In December 2025, the **Third HearUs Summit** brought Afghan women together in Madrid to ensure their active participation in judicial processes and to explore the possibility of using international legal mechanisms to hold perpetrators of women's rights violations accountable.



a historic milestone for the Organization. Similarly, it will continue to support the initiative for gender rotation in the Presidency of the UN General Assembly, seeking to ensure more equitable representation at the highest levels of international political leadership. Indeed, Spain will continue to support the candidacies of women for senior leadership positions in all international organizations.

Spain will ensure that its foreign policy commitments advance from national progress toward achieving a fully gender-equal society. To this end, it will vigorously seek the balanced representation of women and men in all areas of public decision-making, consolidating the progress achieved to date. Accordingly, Spain will continue to promote women's access to leadership positions in the spheres of foreign

policy, defence, security, demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR), and justice, fostering their participation in peacekeeping delegations, international missions and DDR processes, as well as in missions for the restoration of the rule of law and in security and justice services.

At present, women hold 47.8% of ministerial portfolios and comprise 44% of the Congress of Deputies, 43.3% of the Senate and 46.9% of the regional parliaments. In the European Parliament, 44% of Spanish MEPs are women. In the area of foreign policy, 26% of heads of diplomatic missions are women, while in senior positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, their representation reaches 50% in the State Secretariats and 53% in the Directorates General.

Moreover, women make up 57.2% of the judiciary overall, an increase of nearly 10% in the last decade. In the collegiate bodies (Supreme Court, National Court, High Courts of Justice and Provincial Courts), they now represent 42.3% of the total membership. In the field of defence and security, women account for 13.1% of the personnel in the Armed Forces — one point above the NATO average. However, their representation in the State Security Forces is lower: thus, 18.32% of the members of the National Police and 9.73% of the Civil Guard are women.

On the other hand, women are underrepresented in the international missions in which Spain participates under mandates from the UN, the European Union, the OSCE and NATO. During the term of this Plan, the factors hindering their participation and retention will be reviewed, and measures will be adopted to ensure a presence closer to gender parity in these deployments, in accordance with the principles of gender equality and operational effectiveness.

Furthermore, training for all deployed personnel — both women and men — will be strengthened in terms of gender equality and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. This training, already integrated into the pre-deployment preparation of the Armed Forces and the State Security Forces, ensures that the integration of women takes place within a safe, inclusive operational environment, in which equality is applied as a cross-cutting principle. The training includes the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, sexual violence in armed conflict and human trafficking, as well as the identification of hate crimes motivated by gender, age, ethnicity or other factors, from an intersectional perspective.

Since 2016, the Spanish Ministry of Defence has conducted gender training for the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) military missions and opera-

tions. Within its remit, the Ministry of Defence will continue to promote the updating of training content, expand the network of accredited experts and ensure the systematic integration of a gender perspective into the planning, execution and evaluation of all CSDP missions and operations.

In line with Spain's commitment to lifelong education, the Third National Action Plan strengthens the training of public administration personnel working in the international arena, ensuring the effective integration of a gender perspective at all levels and phases of missions, including evaluation. To this end, each ministry will conduct a needs assessment related to the Gender Equality Agenda within its area of responsibility, develop specific protocols where necessary, and promote the acquisition of knowledge about the impact of gender inequality on the lives of women and girls in conflict contexts and climate emergencies. In this regard, research and analysis of the interrelationships between security, diplomacy, climate change and development, and human rights will be promoted from a gender perspective, thus strengthening the design of evidence-based public policies geared toward building a sustainable and inclusive peace.

## SPAIN UNDERTAKES

- I. To strengthen the WPS Agenda by actively supporting and collaborating with international actors, promoting the integration of a gender perspective into global peace and security processes.
- II. To lead and promote national and international partnerships to prevent and combat gender-based political violence — including cyberviolence — both domestically and in foreign policy and international cooperation.
- III. To actively foster the participation of youth, women's rights organizations, feminist move-

ments and networks of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders in peace and security decision-making processes — including disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) — at the national and international levels, as well as in the implementation of this Plan.

**IV.** To integrate the WPS Agenda into actions to combat climate change and its effects in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, recognizing the roles women can play in mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change.

**V.** To increase the presence of women in leadership positions in all areas of Spain's foreign policy and security, as well as their participation in UN, EU, OSCE and NATO civilian and military missions, and support their candidacies for senior management positions in international organizations.

**VI.** To ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the planning, implementation and evaluation of peacekeeping missions and operations, guaranteeing that all deployed personnel receive specific training on the WPS Agenda.

LINE OF ACTION → THE FULL, EQUAL, SAFE AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING RELATED TO PEACE AND SECURITY

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<p><b>To strengthen the WPS Agenda, through active support and collaboration with international actors, promoting the incorporation of the gender perspective into global peace and security processes.</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes to ensuring that the WPS Agenda is present in multilateral resolutions and declarations, actively participates in international networks, and promotes common standards in National Action Plans, strengthening coordination with partners and shared leadership with countries of the Global South.</p>	<p>Include provisions relating to the WPS Agenda in resolutions, joint declarations and other diplomatic initiatives on gender equality, security and feminist foreign policy that Spain promotes in the UN, the EU, the OSCE, the OECD and other major forums.</p>	<p>Number of resolutions and declarations adopted in multilateral forums (UN, EU, OSCE, NATO, AU, CELAC) in whose drafting or negotiation Spain participates and which incorporate explicit references to the WPS Agenda.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC</b> <b>AECID</b> <b>MDE</b> <b>EU</b> <b>NATO</b> <b>OSCE</b> <b>CE</b> <b>OAS</b> <b>UN Women</b> <b>EEAS</b> <b>NGOs</b></p>
			<p>Number of annual reports submitted to the OSCE on the implementation of the WPS Agenda in compliance with the military information exchange requirements of the Code of Conduct on Political-Military Aspects of Security.</p>	
			<p>Number of contributions and formal participations by Spain in the drafting of joint EU declarations on the WPS Agenda presented in OSCE forums.</p>	
		<p>Lead and contribute to the EU Task Force on WPS, the Network of Focal Points on WPS, the Network of Ambassadors for Gender and Feminist Foreign Policy, and related multilateral and regional coordination mechanisms.</p>	<p>Number of multilateral and regional forums (UN, EU, CELAC, AU, NATO, etc.) in which Spain presents proposals, initiatives or contributions with a gender focus or references to the WPS Agenda.</p>	
			<p>Number of institutional interventions by representatives of the MAEUEC in debates, seminars and multilateral events that include specific items on Spain's progress in implementing the WPS Agenda.</p>	
			<p>Number of meetings, communications or consultations carried out by the MAEUEC with the Civil Society Advisory Group on WPS to inform about the agenda of the EU Task Force and to gather input.</p>	
		<p>Support the adoption of policies or action plans for the implementation of the WPS Agenda in regional forums or bodies, in coordination with their member states and with women's organizations.</p>	<p>Number of regional and thematic initiatives on the WPS Agenda supported politically, technically or financially by Spain.</p>	
			<p>Number of coordination and consultation spaces created or facilitated by Spain between government institutions and women's organizations on the implementation of the WPS Agenda.</p>	
			<p>Degree of effective participation and diversity of actors involved (institutions, civil society, academia, private sector) in the formulation and implementation of the actions of the WPS Agenda.</p>	
		<p>Include the WPS Agenda in bilateral dialogues with third countries.</p>	<p>Number of countries with which Spain has incorporated commitments or references to the WPS Agenda in its bilateral political dialogues or framework cooperation agreements.</p>	
			<p>Number of consultations organized with women's peace organizations from third countries before and after bilateral political dialogues between Spain and those countries.</p>	
		<p>Co-organize side activities and events during high-level UN sessions and multilateral summits that include items referring to the WPS Agenda, in partnership with countries of the Global South, supporting the participation of women's organizations.</p>	<p>Number of multilateral or regional events co-organized by Spain on the WPS Agenda and number of final documents adopted or submitted as a result.</p>	
<p>Annual number of women's organizations from the Global North and South that participate in activities, programmes or consultations supported by Spain.</p>				
<p>In conjunction with other States, conduct a critical review of National Action Plans to reach a consensus on common minimum standards, as a follow-up to the Commitment 2025 Initiative.</p>	<p>Degree of implementation of the recommendations and actions derived from the Spain-Finland-GIWPS event and the three final reports.</p>			

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<p><b>To lead and promote alliances, both at the national level and in foreign action and international cooperation, to prevent and combat gender-based political violence, including cyberviolence.W</b></p>	<p>Spain is promoting a safer and fairer national and international environment, and combating gender-based political violence, especially in the digital sphere, by strengthening cooperation and regulatory frameworks, and seeking the balanced participation of men and women in prevention and response mechanisms.</p>	<p>Promote research into gender-based violence in digital environments, incorporating a human rights-based cybersecurity perspective in order to foster safe digital environments for women and girls.</p>	<p>Number of studies or research projects supported by Spain that incorporate a gender and human rights perspective to cybersecurity.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID FIAP MINT MDE MIGU MPJRC MTDFP INCIBE Think tanks Private sector</b></p>
		<p>Actively participate in the Global Alliance for Action against Online Harassment and Abuse based on Gender and promote joint measures to prevent and combat gender misinformation.</p>	<p>Number of initiatives designed and implemented annually with the Global Alliance.</p>	
		<p>Implement training, mentoring and professional development programmes to foster the inclusion of women in cybercrime investigation areas (security forces, prosecutors and judicial bodies).</p>	<p>Percentage and number of women who participate each year in programmes supported by Spain.</p>	
		<p>Support partner countries in the formulation and implementation of laws on sexual and gender-based violence, in both digital and physical environments.</p>	<p>Number of regulatory instruments approved or updated by partner countries with Spanish technical assistance.</p>	
		<p>Facilitate spaces for dialogue and training for national and international personnel, with the participation of women, promoting the harmonization of standards and good practices in human rights and digital security.</p>	<p>Number of events organized or co-organized by Spain related to the WPS Agenda.</p>	
			<p>Number of participants per event and annual total in activities related to the WPS Agenda.</p>	
<p><b>To promote the participation of young people, women's rights organizations, feminist movements and networks of women peacebuilders and human rights defenders in peace and security decision-making processes, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), at the national and international levels, as well as in the implementation of this Plan.</b></p>	<p>The peace and security processes and initiatives in which Spain participates include feminist perspectives.</p>	<p>Conduct regular consultations with women's organizations in the negotiation processes in which Spain participates to ensure that the positions it adopts reflect their priorities.</p>	<p>Number of consultations made by Spain with women's networks within the framework of negotiation processes.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID MJI/INJUVE CJE MDE Think tanks NGOs</b></p>
			<p>Number of embassy meetings, contacts or exchanges with mediators/facilitators.</p>	
		<p>Promote the inclusion of a youth-oriented gender perspective through the Young Delegates of Spain Programme at the United Nations.</p>	<p>Percentage and number of official documents that incorporate elements related to the WPS Agenda.</p>	
			<p>Number of courses held and of delegates attending.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		Support the integration of women in the fields of peace, security and DDR, via the Junior Professional Officer programme, volunteering and scholarships in international organizations, as well as scholarships for diplomats in training in the European Union.	Number of young women trained in preventive diplomacy, mediation and early warning.	
		Strengthen the capacities of women peacebuilding organizations to influence decision-making processes related to peace, security, democracy and environmental justice.	Number of women's organizations receiving technical/ training support, per year.	
		Include gender experts in international delegations and negotiation teams, and support the inclusion of their contributions within peace documents, decisions and agreements.	Percentage and number of Spanish delegations incorporating a designated gender expert.	
			Number of technical recommendations produced by experts and reflected in final reports.	
		Promote collaboration with other countries to incorporate the proposals made by women in informal spaces into formal peace processes, through official reports, their participation in delegations, and the creation of communication and monitoring channels.	Number of meetings in which Spain has submitted proposals related to the WPS Agenda.	
		Ensure the participation of Spanish civil society in the implementation of the Third National Action Plan, as well that of women's organizations from countries in conflict and post-conflict situations where Spain's foreign action is deployed.	Number of women's organizations participating in consultations or processes led by Spain.	
<b>Incorporate the WPS Agenda into actions to combat climate change and its effects in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, recognizing the roles that women can play in mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change.</b>	Spain contributes to greater acceptance of the gender perspective and to the equal participation of women and men in forums related to climate, peace and security.	Promote studies and analyses that document the differential impact of climate change on women and girls and its association with peace and security.	Studies funded by Spain, total number and categorization by theme (gender-climate, gender-peace, etc.).	<b>MAEUEC AECID FIAP MITECO International organizations Think tanks NGOs</b>
			Number of formal collaborations (MoU, projects, research, joint activities) with academic institutions specializing in gender and environment topics.	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		Support the efforts of the international community to address the WPS Agenda as part of climate security issues.	Annual number of Spanish interventions in climate-security debates with a gender focus. Number of international documents (resolutions, declarations, reports) that include gender-inclusive language promoted by Spain.	
		Promote the equal representation of men and women in forums related to climate, peace and security.	Proportion of women and men in national delegations to climate-security forums. Number of gender experts included in Spanish delegations.	
		Lead diplomatic and cooperation initiatives on gender, peace and climate to generate international commitments in fragile contexts with the participation of women's organizations from the Global South.	Number of international commitments (declarations, pledges, actions) adopted by Spain in forums on climate-peace-gender issues. Number of individual outcomes (language, measures, commitments) with a gender focus achieved by Spain.	
		Incorporate criteria for the prevention of violence against women and girls into all climate cooperation programmes, with special attention to the impacts of the fossil fuel industry in the Global South.	Proportion of climate projects funded by Spain that include gender analysis and gender violence prevention. Number of inter-ministerial meetings, working groups and coordination documents regarding this approach.	
<b>To increase the presence of women in leadership positions in all areas of Spain's foreign policy and security, including civil and military missions, and support their candidacies for senior management positions in international organizations.</b>	Spain is enhancing women's access to leadership positions and international candidacies in foreign action and security, through gender-equitable policies and monitoring mechanisms.	Raise the number of women appointed to Ambassadorships in G7/ G20/OECD countries, and heading Permanent Representations to the UN and the EU, and holding positions of authority at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEUEC).	Number of barriers to advancement identified and number/ percentage of corrective measures implemented. Number and percentage of women in Ambassadorship or equivalent positions, especially in G7/G20/OECD countries, and holding positions of authority at the MAEUEC. Number of selection or promotion processes that apply gender equality criteria. Number of Spanish women appointed to strategic positions in EU CSDP civilian missions. Number of Spanish women participating as speakers and/ or trainers in OSCE panels, seminars, courses or workshops on cross-border security, human trafficking, arms and drug trafficking, crimes against cultural heritage, corruption and monetary-fiscal crimes. Number of Spanish women participating in OSCE work in peace processes, interposition of forces and monitoring of ceasefires, election observation, OSCE field missions and peace processes, and in the OSCE General Secretariat. Qualitative and quantitative evidence (internal surveys, percentage of women in leadership, work-life balance measures).	<b>MAEUEC MDE MINT-FCSE UEUE UN NATO OSCE</b>
		Increase the participation and professional advancement of women in the State Security Forces and in the Armed Forces, and that of women experts in other fields, in civil and military missions of peace and security consolidation initiatives, with special attention to decision-making and leadership positions.	Proportion of women in command and management positions in State Security Forces and Armed Forces. Number of women participants and program completion rate. Number of women in the State Security Forces and Armed Forces who participate in professional development and mentoring programmes, and programme completion rate.	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
			<p>Number of women in the State Security Forces and Armed Forces who hold strategic and leadership positions in peace and security operations.</p> <p>Annual variation in the percentage of women in such missions.</p>	
		Enhance the recruitment, training and retention of women in the Armed Forces for deployment abroad, especially in UN peacekeeping operations.	<p>Rate of permanence by women in such operations, after 1/3/5 years.</p> <p>Average rating awarded in post-deployment surveys.</p>	
		Implement internal measures that promote inclusive and co-responsible work environments, appropriate for the situation in question, facilitating the active and sustained participation of women at all levels.	<p>Annual number of institutional improvements (teleworking, adapted schedules, childcare facilities, etc.).</p> <p>Average score awarded in the workplace climate survey on diversity, fairness and inclusion.</p>	
		Support initiatives to increase the participation of women in leadership positions at the United Nations, such as initiatives for gender rotation in the Presidency of the General Assembly and the election of a woman as the new UN Secretary-General.	<p>Number of women candidates put forward by Spain for international positions.</p> <p>Number of initiatives (declarations, coalitions, events) supported per year.</p>	
<b>To integrate the gender perspective into the planning, execution and evaluation of peace missions and operations, ensuring specific training for deployed personnel.</b>	The international missions in which Spain participates have trained personnel, operational protocols and technical advice that ensure the effective application of the gender perspective and the protection of human rights.	<p>Support initiatives to promote the participation of women in UN peacekeeping operations and in those of other regional organizations.</p> <p>Strengthen the capabilities of Spanish personnel deployed in international operations (UN, EU, NATO, OSCE and others) through mandatory training on gender and conflict, displacement, trafficking, sexual violence and other specific risks, in accordance with the context.</p> <p>Strengthen the content of the digital training platform for the State Security Forces and the Armed Forces regarding the WPS Agenda.</p> <p>Incorporate the gender approach into field research and operational plans of missions in which Spain participates.</p>	<p>Number of international initiatives on equality supported by Spain, and their progress status.</p> <p>Number of sectoral diagnoses completed by each ministry.</p> <p>Annual number of studies, reports or analyses produced or funded by Spain that incorporate a gender perspective on security, diplomacy and development issues.</p> <p>Annual number of pre-deployment courses taught and classification by subject matter (gender, protection, conflict-related sexual violence, human rights, etc.).</p> <p>Number and percentage of men and women who complete pre-deployment training.</p> <p>Annual number of training activities offered by Spain that include foreign participants.</p> <p>Number of foreign participants, by sex, in the training courses provided.</p> <p>Total number of agents (Armed Forces, State Security Forces, others) trained in the WPS Agenda per year.</p> <p>Average satisfaction rating awarded in post-training surveys.</p> <p>Number of documented cases in which trained personnel apply gender and WPS Agenda knowledge on missions.</p> <p>Proportion of operational plans that incorporate gender analysis.</p>	<b>MAEUEC MDE MINT-FCSE</b>

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		Develop and implement gender-sensitive protocols in the preparation and deployment of Spanish contingents, as a complement to those of the international organization leading the mission.	Number of institutional protocols with a gender focus (operational or action) adopted.  Average rating awarded by personnel to the applicability and usefulness of the protocols.	
		Ensure the presence of Spanish advisors with specific training on gender issues in the international peacekeeping missions in which Spain participates.	Number of people trained as Gender Advisors (GENAD) or Gender Focal Points (GFP).  Number of GENAD/GFP effectively deployed on international missions.	



## → 3

### Protect the human rights of women and girls in fragile contexts and situations of conflict and post-conflict, with zero tolerance of sexual violence

The term “conflict-related sexual violence” (CRSV) refers to acts of rape, sexual slavery, prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilization and forced marriage, and any other act of sexual violence directly or indirectly linked to a conflict and inflicted upon women, men, girls or boys. It constitutes an especially grave violation of international law and may be classified as a war crime, a crime against humanity or an act of genocide, depending on the context in which it is committed<sup>17</sup>.

Girls and women are the primary victims of this type of violence, although it also affects boys and young men, especially for reasons related to their sexual orientation and gender identity. These acts of violence may be perpetrated by state and non-state armed groups, and even by personnel from humanitarian, development aid and peacekeeping organizations and missions. Human trafficking – especially the trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation – is exacerbated and increased in conflict contexts due to the disintegration of political, economic and social structures, high levels of violence and increased militarization.

According to the UN Secretary-General’s latest report on CRSV, more than 4,600 cases were documented in 2024, including those in which this violence was used as a tactic of war, torture, terrorism or political repression. This figure is 25% higher than the corresponding statistic for 2023, a year that had already seen a 50% increase on the year before. Women and girls ac-

count for 92% of the confirmed cases; in addition, sexual violence against children increased by 35% during the period analysed. Between 70% and 90% of the recorded incidents involved the use of small arms and light weapons<sup>18</sup>.

According to this report, which analyses 21 conflict situations verified by the UN, the highest number of cases were recorded in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Somalia and South Sudan. However, these figures do not reflect the true extent of the problem. On the one hand, stigma, fear of reprisals, and shame often prevent victims from reporting. In other cases, such as Ukraine, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, it has been difficult to determine the patterns and systematic nature of sexual violence due to the authorities’ consistent refusal to grant access to UN observers<sup>19</sup>.

Access to health services – especially sexual and reproductive health services – and psychosocial support, and the availability of safe mechanisms for reporting, investigating and protecting women and girls who are victims is essential to providing justice, obtaining reparations for survivors and preventing the recurrence of this type of violence. However, in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, institutional weakness and the persistence of restrictive cultural patterns hinder these processes. This structural fragility has been exacerbated by recent cuts in international cooperation, the reduction of which jeopardizes the sustainability of services for women and girls who are survivors. As the Secretary-General’s report highlights, this has led to shortages of medical supplies and the closure of shelters, clinics and specialized programmes, with particularly severe effects in Sudan, Ukraine, Ethiopia and Gaza<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> **UN Women.** (undated). *Justice now: Ending impunity for sexual and gender-based violence as international crimes.* Recovered from: <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/infostory/justicenow/es/index.html>

<sup>18</sup> **United Nations.** (2025). *Conflict-related sexual violence-Report of the Secretary-General.*

<sup>19</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *ibid.*

Spain has incorporated the prevention of and response to CRSV as a cross-cutting priority in its foreign policy. This is reflected in the Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy, the Feminist Foreign Policy, the Humanitarian Action Strategy and the Sixth Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity 2024-2027, ensuring a coherent, coordinated and human rights-based approach.

The Government of Spain provides financial support for the research and victim protection work carried out by the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Additionally, through the UK-led Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative, Spain collaborates in strengthening justice systems, ensuring accountability and providing comprehensive support to victims, guaranteeing a coordinated approach in all actions.

Spanish development cooperation and humanitarian action will respond, with an intersectional approach, to the assistance and protection needs of women and girls who are victims of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. To this end, Spanish Cooperation's humanitarian action contributes to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Special Appeal against Sexual Violence in Conflict and funds the Humanitarian Thematic Fund of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), instruments that provide comprehensive responses. As an additional measure, multidisciplinary teams of gender experts will be made available to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to gather evidence, conduct interviews and support investigations of sexual offences and gender-based violence, as has recently been done in Ukraine.

Spain's commitment is not limited to addressing the immediate consequences of this sexual violence, but also tackles its structural causes, such as gender inequality, discrimination and patriarchal social structures that reproduce unequal power relations between women and men. In this regard, Spain will continue to collaborate to achieve the abolition of harmful practices, such as child marriage and female genital mutilation, and will further support grassroots organizations that provide care to women and girls who are survivors and those at risk, through sustainable funding and technical support that facilitates the development of services bolstering the dignity of these individuals and meeting their needs.

Sexual violence is just one of the ways women and girls suffer the consequences of armed conflict. In 2023 and 2024, the number of women and children killed in armed conflict was four times higher than in the previous two-year period, and 70% of the women killed in conflict worldwide died in Gaza<sup>21</sup>.

The global escalation of conflicts has been accompanied by increased military spending, which heightens the need to strengthen international efforts on arms control, disarmament and the prevention of gender-based violence associated with the use of small arms and light weapons. While most users of these weapons are men and boys, their use has specific impacts on violence against women and girls.

Although combating the proliferation of weapons does not address the structural causes of gender-based violence, it can play a significant role in reducing the commission of violent acts. Therefore, Spain will integrate a gender perspective into policies and programmes aimed at preventing the misuse and illicit trafficking of such weapons, promoting, among other measures, the incorporation of criteria

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<sup>21</sup> **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.** (2025). *New UN data shows surge in civilian deaths in conflicts globally and highlights pervasive challenges.* Recovered from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/06/un-data-shows-surge-civilian-deaths-conflict-globally-highlights-pervasive>



Within the implementation of the Second National Action Plan for WPS (2017–2023), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), in partnership with the Alliance for Solidarity Foundation (APS), supported a project aimed at strengthening existing protection mechanisms and increasing the resilience of women and girls who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Gaza City, Al Bureij and Beit Hanoun (Gaza Strip).

Through this intervention, and in collaboration with the local organizations Al Awda Health and Community Association and Culture and Free Thought Association, access to specialized, multi-sectoral services for gender-based violence was enabled for more than **14,000 women survivors**, including **500 women with disabilities**. These services were provided through individual and group sessions, as well as home visits, and were supplemented with equipment, human resources and medical supplies for the comprehensive healthcare centres in Gaza City and Beit Hanoun.

As an innovative element, the project incorporated a **multipurpose cash transfer programme and food and hygiene vouchers**, for 120 women survivors, both helping to meet their immediate practical needs and also addressing longer-term strategic needs, thus promoting autonomy and empowerment.

The intervention also included a specialized training component for 40 workers from local organizations, aimed at strengthening protection and response capacities to cases of sexual violence, and at the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation.

related to the risk of gender-based violence into arms export processes, in accordance with the Arms Trade Treaty, and the inclusion of these same criteria in international initiatives focused on the marking, registration and destruction of illegal weapons, while ensuring the protection and active participation of women in these processes.

Spain reaffirms its commitment to the independence, impartiality and integrity of the International Criminal Court, recognizing it as an essential pillar of the international justice system for ensuring accountability, protecting victims and preventing serious crimes. This commitment is reflected in a steady increase in annual financial support for the Office of the Prosecutor, victim assistance programmes and cooperation with national authorities.

A través de la iniciativa **“Llamado a la acción para la protección contra la violencia de género en situaciones de emergencia”**, España colabora con socios internacionales para impulsar políticas, sistemas y mecanismos de prevención, brindar servicios seguros e integrales y promover la rendición de cuentas dentro de la esfera humanitaria.

Through the initiative **“Call to action for protection against gender violence in emergen-**

**cy situations”**, Spain is collaborating with international partners to promote policies, systems and prevention mechanisms, to provide safe and comprehensive services and to promote accountability within the humanitarian sphere.

At all levels of government, Spain maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual and gender-based harassment. In accordance with its Protocol for Action in this respect, all ministries and associated agencies have adopted internal protocols, according to their specific structure and operations. These instruments guarantee accessible, confidential and effective mechanisms for prevention, detection, protection and response to situations of harassment, ensuring appropriate staff training, awareness-raising and institutional accountability. In line with these considerations, the fight against impunity for personnel deployed on international missions will be strengthened through the application of national monitoring and sanctioning mechanisms, which complement the investigative systems of multilateral organizations, guaranteeing accountability and effective cooperation in all cases of potential offences, including those of sexual or gender-based violence.

Spain's political support for the accountability initiative adopted by Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands, which have taken formal steps to ask Afghanistan to cease its violations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), could lead to the International Court of Justice taking action against that country.

In 2024, Spain, with Chile, Costa Rica, France, Luxembourg and Mexico, submitted a referral of the situation in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), requesting its inclusion in the investigation into the situation in Afghanistan of crimes against women and girls committed since the Taliban took power in 2021.

In 2025, the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC issued arrest warrants against the Supreme Leader of the Taliban, Haibatullah Akhunzada, and against the Chief Justice, Abdul Hakkim Haqqani, for gender-based persecution in Afghanistan, in violation of art. 7(h) of the Rome Statute.

Spain's own development cooperation programmes and those delegated by the European Union will incorporate a gender perspective into institutional strengthening and reform of the security and justice sectors, as well as into transitional justice processes. This includes, among other measures, specialized training for justice and security system personnel on human rights and gender-based violence, and the development of gender-sensitive policies, protocols and institutional practices.

Spain will continue to prioritize the protection of women who defend human rights and the environment, who are frequently exposed to violence, threats and misogynistic and hate speech when they denounce injustices or human rights violations or when they defend sustainable access to natural resources<sup>22</sup>.

Furthermore, through complementary programmes Spain supports women human rights defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on journalists and environmental defenders. This support includes financial assistance, physical security measures and legal counsel within Spain, as well as relocation, when necessary, to other countries in the region or temporary accommodation in Spain as part of study programmes, in coordination with universities and Spanish civil society. This work is especially urgent in contexts of conflict, global crises or climate emergencies, which increase the risks of forced displacement.

Women and girls represent about 50% of the refugee, internally displaced or stateless population, with the most vulnerable being women who are unaccompanied, pregnant, heads of household, with disabilities, or older<sup>23</sup>.

Discrimination, violence and abuse expose women to exploitation by trafficking networks. According to a 2024 report by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, women and girls represent the majority of victims detected worldwide (61% in 2022), among whom 60% of the girls and 66% of the women were victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Women also face specific persecution based on sex, gender or sexual orientation, including forced marriage, genital mutilation or honour killings, as well as violence directed at lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex women, who suffer double vulnerability due to gender and sexual diversity.

Spain provides protection to women and girls who have fled their countries of origin due to conflict and seek asylum in Spanish territory. Refugee status is also granted to women and girls who have been persecuted, either by the authorities of their country or by third parties, without having received protection from those authorities. The grounds for asylum under the Law Regulating the Right to Asylum and Subsidiary Protection (2009) include violence perpetrated by a partner or ex-partner, forced sterilization or abortion, female genital mutilation or the risk thereof, forced marriage, and trafficking in women and girls.

The International Reception and Protection System, within the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, provides basic necessities to applicants for and beneficiaries of international and temporary protection who lack economic resources, supporting them in their process of achieving autonomy and integration into Spanish society. The system has specific protection protocols for victims of gender-based violence and trafficking, as well as for the care of refugee women fleeing armed conflicts

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<sup>22</sup> **Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation.** (2023). *The State of Women Human Rights Defenders*. Recuperado de: <https://kvinnatillkvinna.org/publications/the-state-of-women-human-rights-defenders>

<sup>23</sup> **UNHCR** (Undated). *Protecting persons: women*. Recovered from: <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/safeguarding-individuals/women>



in which sexual violence is used as a weapon of war. Once accepted into the system, these women are included in a socio-labour integration pathway tailored to their individual circumstances, which includes, among other actions, diagnostic assessments, pre-training (digital literacy, social skills, etc.), support in acquiring language and educational skills, socio-labour guidance, vocational training, accompaniment and financial support.

In addition to the above, the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia (OBEXE), which also operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, contributes to the protection of refugees and immigrants, especially women, within its broader mandate of preventing discrimination and violence. The Observatory monitors social media to identify and request the removal of racist, xenophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-Roma or Islamophobic hate speech that may constitute a crime or administrative offence, or that violates platform rules. It also

collects and analyses information to design public awareness campaigns.

In 2025, the Ministry of the Interior updated the Instruction on requests for international protection, unifying criteria to guarantee the legal security of applicants and making the procedure more transparent, streamlined and straightforwardly administered.

The Ministry of the Interior is preparing the draft of a new Asylum Law and its implementing regulations, in line with the expected entry into force of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum (June 2026). These legal instruments, together with the planned reform of the Organic Law on Immigration, establish a new legal framework that incorporates a more streamlined procedure for the accurate assessment of asylum seekers' needs. The new procedure will give effective guidance for humanitarian assistance and appropriate referral to the reception system, guaranteeing enhanced protection of human rights, with particular attention to the

situation of women and girls seeking international protection. In addition, the draft Comprehensive Organic Law against Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Beings adopts a multidisciplinary and human rights-based approach, incorporating a gender perspective and comprehensively addressing the care, protection and assistance of victims. The law covers all forms of trafficking and exploitation, including sexual and labour exploitation, servitude, forced begging, organ trafficking and forced marriages.

Spain maintains its voluntary contributions to UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration and will continue to strengthen protection and education programmes for refugee, internally displaced, stateless and migrant women and children. It also supports the Comprehensive Regional Framework for Protection and Solutions, focusing on Central America and the Caribbean, and other interventions in various humanitarian contexts, including Afghanistan, the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria (Tindouf), Colombia, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Mali, Venezuela, Niger and Ukraine.

## ▶ SPAIN UNDERTAKES

- I.** To strengthen the protection of the human rights of women and girls in the multilateral arena, through denunciation and concerted action.
- II.** To promote international action to prevent, respond to and prosecute conflict-related sexual violence, making use of international accountability mechanisms and facilitating access to international tribunals.
- III.** To implement Spain's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.
- IV.** To prioritize women and girl survivors in prevention and response actions against conflict-related sexual violence, by supporting organizations that provide health, medical and psychosocial care services and access to sustainable livelihoods.
- V.** To promote transitional justice systems that facilitate reparations, protection and security for women and girls, and ensure accountability.
- VI.** To promote the control of the misuse and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, especially as regards their impact on women, including those living in conflict zones, in order to guarantee an effective system for registering and controlling weapons used in acts of violence against women.
- VII.** To protect women asylum seekers, with particular attention to victims of trafficking.

LINE OF ACTION 3 → **ROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS AND SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT, WITH ZERO TOLERANCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<p><b>To further protect the human rights of women and girls in the multilateral sphere through denunciation and concerted action.</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes to regional and multilateral forums by adopting policy measures that strengthen the protection of the human rights of women and girls.</p>	<p>At multilateral and regional forums, denounce all types of violation of the human rights of women and girls, via reports, interventions and position statements.</p>	<p>Annual number of reports, oral interventions and written positions presented by Spain at multilateral and regional forums that address violations of the human rights of women and girls.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC</b> <b>MINT</b> <b>MPJRC</b> <b>Judiciary</b> <b>Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court</b> <b>International Court of Justice</b></p>
			<p>Level of recognition and impact of Spain's denunciations and positions, measured by the number of citations, mentions or substantive inclusions in resolutions, final declarations or reports of other States, UN bodies or international organizations.</p>	
		<p>Support the work of the UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights, in particular the mandates related to violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>Annual number of reports, thematic consultations, official visits or meetings of UN Special Rapporteurs on the human rights of women and girls that receive political, technical or financial support from Spain.</p>	
			<p>Percentage of recommendations for mandates by Special Procedures and UN Treaty Bodies related to the rights of women and girls on which Spain has carried out specific follow-up actions (formal responses, regulatory measures, cooperation programmes or diplomatic advocacy).</p>	
		<p>Support and promote before international courts of justice the denunciation of serious violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law that particularly affect women and girls, including the direct participation of the State in or support for relevant litigation.</p>	<p>Annual number of relevant litigation cases brought before national, regional or international courts related to violations of the rights of women and girls and in which Spain provided technical, legal or diplomatic assistance.</p>	
			<p>Number of cases, denunciations, referrals or procedural interventions brought before international courts or international justice mechanisms (e.g., ICC, ICJ, regional systems) in which Spain participates directly or provides support, when they refer to violations of the rights of women and girls.</p>	
		<p>Promote the establishment by the Human Rights Council of a specific mechanism to monitor the human rights situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.</p>	<p>Spain's level of political and diplomatic leadership, measured by the number of multilateral processes in which Spain acts as a main promoter, lead co-sponsor or core group member for the creation or strengthening of international accountability mechanisms for the rights of women and girls.</p>	
			<p>Number of initiatives, joint declarations, working groups or diplomatic activities in which Spain acts in explicit coordination with other States and with feminist organizations of the Global South to promote accountability for violations of the rights of women and girls.</p>	
<p>Monitor and implement the recommendations of treaty bodies on the rights of women and girls referring to Spain, and collaborate in compliance with those directed to other countries, through international cooperation for development.</p>	<p>In response to violations of the rights of women and girls, percentage of Spanish actions considered "strongly aligned" with international human rights standards according to internal and/or external evaluations (United Nations, regional mechanisms and specialized organizations).</p>			
	<p>Annual number of international cooperation actions (programmes, projects, technical assistance, training) financed or implemented by Spain to support other countries in complying with international recommendations relating to the rights of women and girls.</p>			
<p>Protect women human rights defenders and local organizations that report these violations, through consular and humanitarian assistance and multilateral cooperation.</p>	<p>Annual number of cases of protection of women and girls documented and resolved thanks to Spanish consular, humanitarian and/or cooperation intervention.</p>			

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<p><b>To promote international action to prevent, respond to and prosecute conflict-related sexual violence, including permanent international accountability mechanisms and ad hoc criminal tribunals established by the Security Council.</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes to ensuring that international mechanisms have greater capacity and resources to prevent sexual violence in conflicts and improved support and access to justice for victims.</p>	<p>Promote and support resolutions that strengthen the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, the accountability of perpetrators and access to justice for victims, in the UN Security Council, the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly, Alliance 1325 and other multilateral platforms.</p>	<p>Number of resolutions per year in whose negotiation Spain participates as a promoter, co-sponsor or advocate, which include specific measures on conflict-related sexual violence.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID/DAH</b></p>
		<p>Increase political, technical and financial support to the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict for the investigation of such crimes, to the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for victims of such crimes, and to the relevant Fund of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.</p>	<p>Number of international mechanisms (ICC, independent mechanisms, fact-finding missions, UN bodies, etc.) that receive technical, political or financial support from Spain to investigate sexual violence or violations of the rights of women and girls.</p> <p>Annual funding provided by Spain to international mechanisms related to sexual violence in conflict and accountability.</p>	
<p><b>To implement Spain's zero-tolerance policy toward sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.</b></p>	<p>Spain ensures that its personnel and companies operating in fragile contexts do so according to high standards of ethical conduct, with effective mechanisms for the prevention, reporting and punishment of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.</p>	<p>Continue implementing internal protocols in all ministries, agencies, companies and government-dependent bodies for the prevention, intervention and channelling of complaints of sexual harassment or harassment based on sex, in accordance with the Protocol for the General State Administration and associated agencies on action against sexual harassment and harassment based on sex (Royal Decree 247/2024).</p>	<p>Among General State Administration (AGE) personnel, levels of trust and perceptions of effectiveness (measured through surveys) regarding the prevention and response protocols against harassment, abuse and sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Annual number of training or awareness sessions for General State Administration personnel on the prevention of and response to harassment, abuse and sexual exploitation.</p>	<p><b>GSA MAEUEC MDE MINT</b></p>
		<p>Provide training courses on ethical conduct for civilian, military and cooperation personnel in international missions on the zero tolerance policy against exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment or harassment based on sex.</p>	<p>Annual number of courses given to Armed Forces personnel specifically on the prevention of SEAH.</p> <p>Total annual number of military personnel trained in SEAH prevention, differentiating between male and female trainees.</p>	
		<p>Establish a confidential and accessible digital system for reporting, advising and referring cases of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) in all foreign action interventions financed or coordinated by Spain.</p>	<p>Annual total of complaints submitted to the AGE digital system regarding cases of SEAH, including complaints from missions abroad.</p> <p>Verification of the existence, currency and accessibility of formal procedures in the Spanish system of foreign action and cooperation for monitoring and referring cases of sexual and gender violence.</p> <p>Level of satisfaction among users of the digital system for reporting SEAH, measured through systematic surveys.</p>	
		<p>Strengthen national prevention and sanction mechanisms, ensuring coordination with courts, control agencies and multilateral bodies to investigate and punish acts of harassment and sexual exploitation committed by deployed Spanish personnel.</p>	<p>Total annual number of formal coordination and cooperation protocols established with national and international bodies and women's organizations for the care of victims of sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>Degree of coordination between institutions and level of transparency in disciplinary procedures related to SEAH in the context of foreign action.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<p><b>To prioritize women and girl survivors in prevention and response actions against conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), by supporting organizations that provide health, medical and psychosocial care services and access to sustainable livelihoods.</b></p>	<p>Spain is strengthening the comprehensive care provided for women and girls who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict contexts, ensuring access to health services, psychosocial support, protection, justice and livelihoods.</p>	<p>Provide more support and financial resources to specialized local organizations and international agencies that care for women and girls who are survivors of CRSV and gender-based violence, prioritizing the organizations and agencies that provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, psychosocial support, protection and access to justice and livelihoods.</p>	<p>Annual funds allocated by Spain to organizations that provide comprehensive services to victims (health, psychosocial support, legal assistance, protection, etc.).</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID (DAH) MINT UN Women UNHCR UNFPA UNICEF ICRC IOM WHO GSF NGOs</b></p>
			<p>Annual number of organizations (women's, local, Spanish and international) that receive financial or technical support from Spain to assist victims of sexual and gender violence.</p>	
			<p>Documented improvements in the quality, accessibility, coverage and effectiveness of services for victims provided by organizations supported by Spain.</p>	
		<p>Support the technical training of health, legal, police and humanitarian personnel during and after conflict, with a gender focus and centred on the rights of victims of sexual and gender-based violence, trauma-sensitive care and respect for informed consent.</p>	<p>Annual number of reports prepared by Spain or implementing partners on CRSV, discrimination and the protection of victims, or of the human rights of women and girls, with details of the subject matter and geographical context.</p>	
			<p>Degree to which information generated by reports, evaluations, monitoring and alerts is effectively integrated into public policies, plans, strategies and response programmes.</p>	
		<p>Support the generation of disaggregated data and evidence on CRSV, in partnership with international organizations and local NGOs.</p>	<p>Annual number of reports prepared by Spain or implementing partners on CRSV, discrimination and the protection of victims, or of the human rights of women and girls, with details of the subject matter and geographical context.</p>	
			<p>Degree to which information generated by reports, evaluations, monitoring and alerts is effectively integrated into public policies, plans, strategies and response programmes.</p>	
		<p>Collaborate in awareness-raising campaigns in crisis and conflict zones on the importance of reparation and comprehensive recovery for women and girls who are victims of human rights violations, especially sexual and gender-based violence, as a fundamental condition for the establishment and consolidation of peaceful societies.</p>	<p>Annual number of awareness-raising campaigns conducted on sexual violence and the protection of women and girls and of human rights, supported or financed by Spain.</p>	
			<p>The degree of participation of local communities and women's organizations in the design, implementation and evaluation of such campaigns supported by Spain.</p>	
		<p>Create a Gender and Security Observatory</p>	<p>Annual number of thematic, research, advocacy and monitoring reports published by Spain or partners with Spanish support in the field of women's and girls' rights.</p>	
			<p>Specific actions taken by Spain or partners based on recommendations made in UN reports, rapporteurships, civil society or evaluation processes.</p>	
			<p>Number of cases of violations of the rights of women and girls documented and attended to with consular, humanitarian, cooperation or diplomatic assistance by Spain.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<p><b>To promote transitional justice systems that facilitate accountability, reparation and the protection and security of women and girls.</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes to strengthening justice and security in crisis and post-conflict contexts, ensuring that reformed systems incorporate a gender perspective and guarantee effective access for women and girl survivors.</p>	<p>Foster the presence of female magistrates and judges in international prosecutors' offices and courts.</p>	<p>Annual number of women officially nominated by Spain to fill positions in international courts.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID MPJRC MINT MPTMD</b></p>
			<p>Annual number of women's candidacies – proposed by Spain or by third countries – that receive express diplomatic support from Spain.</p>	
			<p>Level of perception of institutional, cultural or structural barriers identified by women nominated or supported for international positions.</p>	
		<p>Support the implementation and operation of truth commissions with a gender perspective.</p>	<p>Economic and technical value of the support provided by Spain to female candidates for international positions, including technical assistance, diplomatic management and logistical support.</p>	
		<p>Collaborate in the reform of security and justice systems in crisis and post-conflict countries, incorporating a gender approach and promoting mechanisms that guarantee effective access to justice for women and girls who are survivors of violence.</p>	<p>Proportion of cooperation projects financed by Spain in the security and justice sectors that explicitly integrate a gender approach.</p>	
			<p>Availability and currency of specific institutional protocols for the care, referral and protection of victims of sexual and gender violence.</p>	
			<p>Proportion of justice and security personnel (police, prosecutors, judges, prison staff, etc.) who receive specific training in gender and women's rights.</p>	
		<p>Promote Democratic Memory and transitional justice procedures in post-conflict societies as optimal methods for protecting human rights and peacefully resolving conflicts.</p>	<p>Initiatives focused on historical memory, transitional justice or symbolic reparation that effectively incorporate the participation of women and their specific narrative.</p>	
			<p>The explicit and systematic mention of gender-based violence in reports, memorials, studies and transitional justice documents.</p>	
		<p>Promote the participation of women, address their needs and/or incorporate the gender perspective in the planning and execution of activities for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in the field of security.</p>	<p>Proportion of female ex-combatants enrolled and active in DDR programmes.</p>	
<p><b>Support control of the misuse and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, especially as regards their impact on women and girls, including those living in conflict zones, and establish an effective system for registering and controlling weapons used in acts of violence against women and girls.</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes to ensuring that the processes by which small arms and light weapons are controlled and regulated incorporate a gender perspective, strengthening the participation of women and reducing the impact of armed violence on women and girls.</p>	<p>Support the implementation of the Arms Control Treaty - art. 7.4 - with special emphasis on the provisions on sexual and gender-based violence.</p>	<p>Number and proportion of Spanish reports on compliance with the Arms Trade Treaty that incorporate a specific assessment of the risk of gender violence (art. 7.4).</p>	<p><b>MINCOTUR MAEUEC MDE MINT</b></p>
			<p>Qualitative and quantitative perception of local and international feminist organizations on the effectiveness of Spain's measures in this respect.</p>	

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		<p>Improve the participation and capabilities of women in processes related to combating illicit arms trafficking, including the legislative framework in this respect.</p> <p>Integrate the gender perspective into the analysis and control of small and light weapons, disarmament initiatives, and the monitoring and regulation of exports.</p>	<p>Percentage of women in official Spanish delegations in international forums related to small arms and light weapons, arms control and the fight against illicit trafficking (UN, OSCE, EU, etc.)</p> <p>Total number of international cooperation initiatives financed or supported by Spain in which there is a significant participation of women in their design, implementation or evaluation.</p> <p>Gender-focused projects applied to the control of small arms and light weapons, risk assessment, arsenal management or Arms Trade Treaty measures.</p> <p>Degree to which community disarmament processes supported by Spain incorporate consultations with women, invite their participation and pay attention to their specific needs.</p>	
<b>Protect women asylum seekers, especially victims of trafficking.</b>	Spain guarantees that women asylum seekers, including victims of trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence, have access to international protection and comprehensive reception services, legal assistance, medical care and psychosocial support without undue delay.	<p>Implement a protocol with a gender and human rights approach for processing applications for international protection and recognition of stateless status for potential victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>Include in the strategic planning for combating human trafficking specific measures for the protection of particularly vulnerable victims, such as asylum seekers.</p> <p>Ensure accessibility to international protection application mechanisms for all women who require it, through an agile and transparent system for accessing appointments to formalize the asylum application.</p> <p>Improve funding for reception programmes with specialized comprehensive care for women asylum seekers who are victims of trafficking and gender-based violence, providing psychosocial support, legal assistance and medical care and enabling access to decent livelihoods.</p>	<p>Status of the development, adoption and implementation of the specific protocol (e.g., referral, care, prevention or coordination).</p> <p>Qualitative evaluation of the protocol's effectiveness, by women's organizations, human rights experts and specialized entities.</p> <p>Percentage of staff at the General Directorate of International Protection and among police forces, among other agencies, who are trained in identification and referral with a gender perspective.</p> <p>Number of favourable resolutions related to persecution of the specified social group: "Victim of human trafficking".</p> <p>Degree of material and procedural accessibility for women applicants for international protection (i.e. availability of interpreters and translators, including sign language interpreters; clarity of language; legal assistance, etc.).</p> <p>Average waiting time to obtain an appointment to formalize the asylum application (days).</p> <p>Annual budget allocated to reception programmes with specialized care for women victims of trafficking or sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>Number of formal agreements or conventions signed between Spanish institutions (MAEUEC, MINT, MISSM, AECID) and civil society organizations specializing in assisting victims of trafficking or sexual violence, and asylum seekers. In general, offering international protection and defending the rights of women and girls.</p> <p>Number of places available in reception centres with differentiated services for women asylum seekers who are victims of trafficking or sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>Degree of suitability of services to the specific needs of women in situations of multiple vulnerability (such as single mothers, LGBTIQ+ women or those with disabilities).</p>	<b>MAEUEC MINT MISSM MIG ACs NGOs</b>

## → 4

### **Incorporate a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls into recovery and response missions and into humanitarian action**

Armed conflicts often trigger severe humanitarian emergencies and protracted crises. In such cases, women and girls, regardless of their background, are among the most affected, and disproportionately suffer all forms of gender-based and sexual violence. They also shoulder a greater burden of care work, including tending to the wounded or sick and providing food and water, which increases their exposure to risk. Furthermore, the absence of men from the household and the loss of livelihoods force many women to become primary providers in highly dangerous environments and to assume roles traditionally held by men in both the formal and informal economies.

Despite their essential role in the survival and resilience of families and communities, women are often excluded from the planning and implementation of humanitarian aid. This exclusion, stemming from discriminatory gender patterns, means their specific needs are not considered and they have less access to essential aid services. Particularly concerning is the difficulty of menstrual hygiene management, which is often addressed as a secondary issue during crisis response. The lack of access to menstrual products, both disposable and reusable, forces many refugee women and girls to resort to unhygienic alternatives that can lead to health problems. This is compounded by the lack of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, which limits the availability of safe and private spaces for managing menstruation, jeopardizing their physical integrity and dignity. These difficulties are exacerbated for women and girls with disabilities, older women and those belonging to other particularly vulnerable groups.

However, emergencies can offer opportunities to challenge traditional gender roles and confront discrimination and injustice. Creating safe and meaningful spaces for women's leadership, local women's organizations and feminist organizations can empower them and promote the transformation of traditional societies. Within the humanitarian architecture, greater participation of women not only improves the effectiveness of interventions but also strengthens the understanding of community needs, recognizes local capacities, and leverages them to bolster resilience in the face of crises<sup>24</sup>.

Within Spanish humanitarian action, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls form part of a cross-cutting approach that guides effective action in emergency prevention, preparedness and response, and fosters early recovery. This approach, which is expressly linked to the implementation of Resolution 1325, includes improving the positioning, procedures and technical capacities of the humanitarian sector to address the needs of women, adolescents and younger girls, as well as those of other vulnerable groups, especially children, adolescents and people with disabilities. Spanish humanitarian action addresses all these issues from an intersectional perspective aimed at developing people's autonomy and skillsets to ensure their needs are met and to enable them to play an active role in society.

With a comprehensive approach addressing gender, age and diversity issues, and in accordance with the 2019-2026 Humanitarian Action Strategy, Spain promotes the participation of local women in decision-making and humanitarian response. The annual funding call for Spanish NGOs to participate in humanitarian actions includes a 25% allocation for projects specifically aimed at gender equality and stipulates that the participation of local women's

<sup>24</sup> UN Women. (2014). *Closing the gender gap in humanitarian action*. Recovered from: <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/infographic/humanitarianaction/es/index.html>



In response to the humanitarian emergency in Ukraine, the AECID's Humanitarian Action Directorate has consistently supported the interventions of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) since 2022, aimed at ensuring women's access to essential sexual and reproductive health services, as well as enabling care and response to gender-based violence, in a context marked by armed conflict.

Since 2022, and through four consecutive interventions, UNFPA has channelled 7.4 million euros to strengthen the Ukrainian national health system, as a sustained and

coordinated humanitarian action.

Thanks to this collaboration, 30 ambulances were funded in 2022, enabling the deployment of 24 mobile gynaecological and reproductive health clinics providing prenatal and postnatal care, family planning, and maternal and neonatal care, seeing 69,000 women and adolescents, many of them in hard-to-reach areas, and totalling over 115,000 consultations.

Subsequently, 30 mobile neonatal incubators were deployed to protect the lives of mothers and newborns in

war-hit regions. In addition, funds were provided for the establishment of two Mobile Survivor Support Centres, in Kharkiv and Kherson, offering psychosocial support, legal assistance and medical care to victims of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.

These actions have strengthened the protection of the rights of Ukrainian women and helped ensure their access to health and protection services, even in areas close to the front line.

organizations in the implementation of these actions is a positive criterion for evaluation. The gender, age, disability and diversity approach is also considered in the development of early warning systems, in protection and humanitarian actions, in transitional justice processes, in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) plans, and in other actions considered under the Triple Nexus approach—humanitarian, development and peace—in which Spain participates. The economic empowerment of women and local women's organizations is integrated into all such response programmes, both within the humanitarian architecture and in development cooperation<sup>25</sup>.

In accordance with Spain's commitments made in international forums and with the 2030 Agenda, Spanish Cooperation projects for sustainable development and Spain's humanitarian actions integrate ecofeminist and life sustainability contributions and care policies into their responses to climate change, seeking alliances with local entities and with rural and environmental organizations, with special attention to indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations and human rights defenders, promoting their systematic incorporation within international cooperation<sup>26</sup>.

Spanish Cooperation is committed to exploring synergies between the WPS Agenda and the implementation of the Triple Nexus approach between humanitarian action, development and peace<sup>27</sup> as part of Spain's commitment to feminist development cooperation.

## ▶ SPAIN UNDERTAKES

- I. To strengthen the capabilities of Spanish development cooperation and humanitarian action by incorporating the WPS Agenda into crisis analysis and response..
- II. To foster international dialogue and partnerships to ensure that the humanitarian system guarantees assistance and protection for women and girls, with an intersectional and intergenerational approach.
- III. To consolidate the mainstreaming of a gender perspective within humanitarian actions in conflict and crisis contexts, by analysing sex- and age-disaggregated data that reflect the impact made by these actions and identify the specific needs of women and girls, including those related to health and sexual and reproductive rights..
- IV. To ensure the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women, local women's organizations and feminist organizations in decision-making related to humanitarian action and crisis response.

<sup>25</sup> **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation** (2024). *Spanish Cooperation Development Master Plan for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity (2024-2027)* -Government of Spain..

<sup>26</sup> **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation**. (2024). *Master Plan 2024-2027*.

<sup>27</sup> **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation**. (2024). *Master Plan 2024-2027*.

LINE OF ACTION 4 → INCORPORATE A GENDER PERSPECTIVE AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS INTO RECOVERY AND RESPONSE MISSIONS AND INTO HUMANITARIAN ACTION.

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS			
<p><b>To increase the capacity of Spanish development cooperation and of humanitarian action to incorporate the WPS Agenda into crisis analyses and responses.</b></p>	<p>Spanish Cooperation has specialized personnel, extended training systems and mechanisms for interaction with local actors that facilitate the effective integration of the WPS perspective into the design and implementation of humanitarian and development responses.</p>	<p>Within AECID, consolidate available human resources specialized in humanitarian action and gender equality, and in the WPS Agenda, to enable and promote an effective, high-quality gender response to humanitarian crises.</p>	<p>Number of AECID training courses for specialized humanitarian staff with a gender focus and taking account of the WPS Agenda.</p> <p>Number of humanitarian personnel who have participated in these courses.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID (DAH) MDE Think tanks NGOs</b></p>			
		<p>Expand the content of current training on the MPS Agenda provided within MAEUEC, AECID (headquarters and cooperation offices) and humanitarian and development NGOs, to include training on gender violence and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse.</p>	<p>Number of training activities offered by AECID and training partners, including workshops, seminars and virtual modules.</p> <p>Number of participants, classified by sex, in humanitarian training with a gender focus.</p>				
		<p>Organize annual courses and seminars on the WPS Agenda, open to MAEUEC, AECID and NGO staff.</p>	<p>Proportion of women and men in gender-focused humanitarian training.</p> <p>The inclusion of an updated module on gender and the WPS agenda in the annual training catalogue.</p> <p>The annual publication of a consolidated report on training in gender issues and in the WPS Agenda.</p>				
		<p>Conduct a study on compliance by Spanish Cooperation with good practices in applying the WPS Agenda.</p>	<p>Activities carried out by units of Spanish Armed Forces deployed abroad (such as training, protection, logistical support, community liaisons and roundtable events) aimed at strengthening local women's and youth organizations.</p> <p>Number of local women's organizations participating in humanitarian actions supported by Spain, and of women who are direct beneficiaries, in both cases classified by age.</p>				
		<p>As and when the security situation allows, promote interaction between the gender advisors or focal points of the Spanish Armed Forces deployed on peacekeeping missions and local women's and youth organizations, to support their participation in projects such as teaching and reconstruction.</p>	<p>Activities carried out by units of Spanish Armed Forces deployed abroad (such as training, protection, logistical support, community liaisons and roundtable events) aimed at strengthening local women's and youth organizations.</p> <p>Number of local women's organizations participating in humanitarian actions supported by Spain, and of women who are direct beneficiaries, in both cases classified by age.</p>				
		<p><b>To promote dialogue and international partnerships to ensure that the humanitarian system provides assistance and protection for women and girls, under an intersectional and intergenerational approach.</b></p>	<p>Spain contributes to strengthening global responses to the specific needs of women and girls in crisis situations, by implementing the collective frameworks and shared commitments agreed by humanitarian and multilateral actors.</p>		<p>Maintain and consolidate Spain's active presence in the Call to Action initiative, promoting international cooperation and contributing to the development of joint strategies for preventing and responding to gender violence in crisis situations.</p>	<p>Number of meetings, forums, working groups and humanitarian coordination spaces – international, regional or national – in which Spain formally participates.</p> <p>Number of priority actions in which Spain has intervened by providing funding, political support, technical assistance or coordination.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID (DAH) Think tanks NGOs</b></p>

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		In the United Nations, the Red Cross Movement, the European Commission and other relevant forums, promote and support resolutions, joint declarations and other international initiatives in favour of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the framework of humanitarian action.	<p>Listing and volume of joint declarations, political initiatives and multilateral statements promoted or supported by Spain focused on gender issues and humanitarian action.</p> <p>The preparation and publication of a biannual report on Spain's actions, financial contributions and political leadership in the humanitarian system.</p>	
<p><b>To consolidate the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in humanitarian actions in conflict and crisis contexts, based on the analysis of data disaggregated by sex and age that reflect the impact made and the differentiated needs of women and girls, including health matters and sexual and reproductive rights.</b></p>	<p>Spain is strengthening the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian assistance in conflict and crisis contexts by channelling resources to specialized organizations and mechanisms enabling them to provide the necessary protection and comprehensive care of women and girls.</p>	<p>Prioritize funding for humanitarian intervention projects with DAC-OECD level 2 or higher gender equality markers (in contexts in which such markers are evaluated).</p>	<p>Proportion of humanitarian projects funded by Spain with a level 2 or 3 DAC-OECD gender marker that exceed 25% of the total amount funded.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID (DAH) MINT-FCSE NGOs UN Women UNFPA UNICEF ICRC</b></p>
		<p>Financially support humanitarian interventions, through UN agencies and international organizations with mandates to advance gender equality and combat gender-based violence, especially by addressing conflict-related sexual violence, and through UN agencies that provide sexual and reproductive health services, including menstrual hygiene and health management, and which provide/enhance drinking water and sanitation resources.</p>	<p>Annual increase in funds allocated to agencies with a gender mandate (UNFPA, UN Women, etc.) up to the 5% of the humanitarian budget allocated to international organizations.</p>	
		<p>Assign multi-year financial contributions to support global humanitarian funds with a gender and peace mandate, such as the UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund, the ICRC Special Appeal against Sexual Violence in Conflict, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Action Fund and the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims.</p>		
		<p>Strengthen the capabilities of the Rapid Response Unit in cases of gender-based violence during humanitarian crises.</p>	<p>Number of humanitarian interventions carried out by AECID, partner NGOs or international organizations with Spanish funding.</p> <p>Perceived quality of services received by women and girls in such interventions, measured through surveys or interviews.</p> <p>Average time between the activation of an emergency alert and the effective start of the intervention financed by Spain.</p>	
<p><b>Ensure the full, equal, safe and meaningful participation of women, local women's organizations and feminist organizations in decision-making related to humanitarian action and crisis response.</b></p>	<p>Spain is increasing the capacity and visibility of women-led and feminist organizations as local partners in humanitarian action, ensuring their effective influence in the planning, implementation and coordination of interventions, and the recognition of their contribution by national and international actors.</p>	<p>Increase funding for humanitarian interventions that incorporate women-led organizations and women's rights organizations (WLO/WRO) as local partners, and promote direct funding to WLO/WRO.</p>	<p>Annual increase in the number of WLO/WRO receiving direct funding or participating as implementing partners.</p>	<p><b>MAEUEC AECID (DAH) WLO/WRO</b></p>

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
		<p>Strengthen the capacities of humanitarian WLO/WRO, based on their demands and needs, and promote awareness of their role as humanitarian actors, including their collaboration with other donors and with local partners of Spanish Cooperation.</p>	<p>Number of training courses provided and their type (financial management, incident management, protection, gender-based violence, digital security, etc.).</p> <p>Number of local women's organizations participating in humanitarian training, projects or processes supported by Spain.</p> <p>Number of events, campaigns and communication activities co-organized to raise the international visibility of local women's networks and organizations.</p>	
		<p>Propose and support international and national proposals and declarations that promote WLO/WRO participation at all levels and in all phases of humanitarian action.</p>	<p>Number of policy proposals and official declarations promoted by Spain that foster the participation of women's organizations in humanitarian action, listing the forums in which these proposals and declarations were made.</p>	



Source: EMAD

## → 5 Institutionalize the WPS Agenda within government policies and programmes

The Government of Spain has adopted a coordinated approach to institutionalize the WPS Agenda, through the implementation of the Third National Action Plan, seeking positive and sustained long-term results.

The principles of this Agenda have been incorporated into policies, plans and strategies in areas such as gender equality, human rights, education, preventive diplomacy, security, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and defence, development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Over the next five years, their integration into other key policies is planned, including the green transition, healthcare, inclusion and digital transformation. This coordinated approach will strengthen Spain's leadership in promoting international commitments to gender equality and will make the Plan more robust and coherent.

The main coordination mechanism for this process is the Interministerial Group, chaired by

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation and composed of technical focal points from the thirteen ministries responsible for implementing the Plan.

During the five-year term of the Plan, the skill and knowledge of staff within the General State Administration will be developed through specialized training, which will include content on structural inequalities, gender perspective, gender-sensitive conflict analysis and democratic memory, among other topics. Ministries will be encouraged to share their knowledge regarding gender equality and the Lines of Action set out in this Third National Action Plan with each other and with partner countries.

The Civil Society Advisory Group will play a key role in the implementation of the Plan. In addition to collaborating on training and awareness-raising programmes for the General State Administration, it will share relevant information on political and social issues that influence the Plan's effectiveness, enabling adjustments to strategies when necessary. Civil society will act as a bridge between communities, organizations and policymakers, ensuring that the voi-

ces of women and other vulnerable groups are heard and taken into account.

When the Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security concludes in 2030, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation will commission an independent evaluation from an expert body specializing in women, peace and security. This evaluation, conducted in close consultation with the relevant ministries, civil society organizations and international bodies, will analyse the achievements made, the challenges remaining to be addressed and the actual impact of the Plan, and make recommendations for the design of the next Action Plan.

The cross-cutting nature of the Third National Action Plan, as well as the involvement of numerous actors, requires the establishment and fulfilment of a series of conditions for the proper development of this complex exercise.

## ▣ SPAIN UNDERTAKES

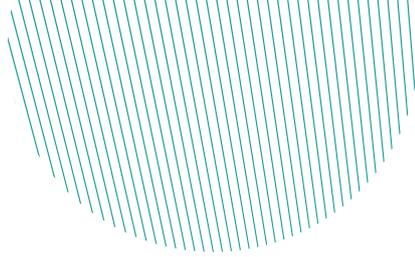
- I. Establish a Joint Working Group for the Plan to facilitate consultation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
- II. Promote and coordinate the necessary actions for the drafting, proposal and monitoring of a framework law that gives binding force to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.
- III. Design and deliver mandatory training on gender equality and the prevention of violence, harassment, abuse and sexual exploitation, including specific content on the WPS Agenda, and integrate it into the curricula of military, police, judicial, diplomatic and public administration academies.
- IV. Develop an integrated information and monitoring mechanism that records the commitments made, the progress recorded and the human, technical and financial resources allocated by each ministry, in order to facilitate informed decision-making based on verifiable data.



LINE OF ACTION 5 → INSTITUTIONALIZE THE WPS AGENDA WITHIN GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

OBJECTIVES	INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	ACTIONS	INDICATORS	AGENTS
<b>To establish a Joint Working Group for consultation, coordination and evaluation of the Plan.</b>	The Joint Working Group has been established and is operational.	Appoint representatives to the Working Group from the Ministries and the civil society consultative body and agree on the functioning of the Group.	Terms of Reference approved for the Working Group.	<b>MAEUEC</b> <b>MICIU</b> <b>MDE</b> <b>MDSCA</b> <b>MEPFD</b> <b>MINHAP</b> <b>MIGU</b> <b>MISSM</b> <b>MJI</b> <b>MINT</b> <b>MPTMD</b> <b>MTDFP</b> <b>MITECO</b> <b>Civil society advisory body</b>
			Number of entities (Ministries, civil society organizations, academic bodies, think tanks, etc.) and individuals participating in the Joint Working Group.	
			Degree of participation, measured by attendance, interventions made and written contributions to the process.	
<b>For the Joint Working Group to promote and coordinate the actions necessary for the preparation, monitoring and proposal of a framework law that gives binding character to the WPS Agenda.</b>	A coordination and consensus mechanism has been established for the development of a framework law proposal.	Develop a roadmap and work plan with institutional actors, civil society and expert knowledge centres to ensure political consensus.	Strategic roadmap for the Third National Action Plan –WPS Agenda cycle, approved by all parties.	
			Number of Joint Working Group meetings held to develop, update and monitor the roadmap.	
<b>To design and deliver mandatory training on gender equality and on the prevention of violence, harassment and sexual exploitation, including specific content on the WPS Agenda, and integrate these topics into the curricula of military, police, judicial, diplomatic and public administration academies.</b>	Official training programmes include the following mandatory components: gender equality, violence prevention, the WPS Agenda and democratic memory, the content of which is periodically updated.	Update the annual equality courses for staff of the General State Administration, incorporating content related to the WPS Agenda.	Internal training courses updated to include content from the WPS Agenda.	
			Degree of mainstreaming of WPS content in mandatory programmes of continuing education.	
			Number of students at military academies, classified by sex, who have received mandatory training on gender equality, the WPS Agenda, etc.	
		Periodically update the curricula of military academies.	Number of curricula with a gender and WPS focus reviewed and updated.	
		Include the subject of Democratic Memory and Transitional Justice in all training curricula for the State Security Forces, for applicants for public administration employment and, especially, for the Spanish diplomatic corps.	Number of training programmes that include these subjects in the mandatory curriculum.	
<b>To develop an information and monitoring mechanism to record the commitments made, the progress achieved, and the human, technical, and financial resources allocated by each ministry, thus facilitating informed decision making based on verifiable data.</b>	This monitoring mechanism is operational, with standardized registration of commitments, progress and ministerial resources, and the periodic generation of analytical reports for data-driven decision making.	Create a standardized template for each ministry to record its progress, commitments, and resources in this respect.	Existence of such standardized templates and date of approval.	
			Absolute number and percentage of ministries that use the templates to report this information.	
			Level of satisfaction among civil society organizations, academics, international organizations and ministries regarding the monitoring system.	
		Generate periodic reports with analysis of progress and resources.	Number of periodic reports prepared with the consolidated information.	
			Financial and technical resources allocated annually by each ministry to the implementation of the Plan.	
		Training for each focal point on how to use the available tools to record progress and resources, using standardized templates, and consolidate this information into periodic reports.	Number of focal points trained in the use of standardized recording instruments and templates.	
			Qualitative/quantitative assessment of the focal points, technical staff and reports produced.	

# 7



## Geographic areas

The external action contemplated in this Plan will focus on the following priority regions for Spanish Cooperation: **Latin America/Caribbean; North Africa/Middle East; West Africa/Sahel; Portuguese/Spanish-speaking African countries.**

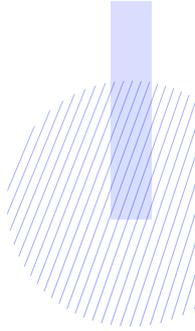
Within these regional priorities, the countries identified as specific targets for the imple-

mentation of the Plan are **Afghanistan, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.**

Given the dynamic nature of emergencies and conflicts, the inclusion of other countries may be considered during periodic follow-up reviews, depending on the evolution of international needs and priorities.



# 8



## Funding

This National Plan will be implemented within the framework of the ordinary annual budget. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda will be incorporated into the relevant policies, programmes and decisions of the General State Administration as follows:

- The actions outlined in this Plan will be incorporated into the existing budgetary mechanisms of the General State Administration, under the responsibility of the relevant ministries.
- Specific lines of action set out in this Plan will be incorporated into the grant application procedures of the relevant departments and administrative units.
- The planned training activities will be financed with the resources thus allocated in the General State Budget each year.
- Existing contributions to multilateral organizations, especially the United Nations system, will be maintained and their progressive increase will be encouraged, where possible, to strengthen the WPS Agenda.
- The WPS Agenda will be integrated into the development and humanitarian action programmes and projects of Spanish Cooperation.
- Additional specific funds will be allocated for the implementation and evaluation of the Plan.

# 9

## Management, monitoring and accountability

The Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security will be subject to the overall control and management of the Directorate General for the United Nations, International Organizations and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. To this end, the Directorate General will establish a coordination and monitoring unit, which will carry out its functions with the support of the Joint Working Group, composed of the Interministerial Group and the Civil Society Advisory Group. In this regard, and in all cases, the provisions of Articles 59 and 22 of Law 40/2015, of 1 October, on the Legal Regime applicable to the Public Sector, will be complied with.

The coordination and monitoring unit will perform the following functions:

- Chair the meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Women, Peace and Security.
- Chair the Joint Working Group.
- Promote dialogue between ministries and civil society organizations throughout the implementation cycle.
- Coordinate the implementation of the Plan among all relevant ministries.

- Convene follow-up meetings starting in the second year of implementation.
- Oversee and ensure the regular publication of progress reports.
- Commission a final independent evaluation of the Plan in 2030.

The Third National Action Plan will be valid for five years and its implementation will be monitored through the monitoring and evaluation mechanism, designed by the Joint Working Group, based on the information provided by each ministry.

The Group will draw up Terms of Reference to establish its composition, mandate and operating rules.

Between the second and third year of the Plan's implementation, the Group will prepare an interim monitoring report, identifying progress toward the stated objectives, the results obtained, the degree of compliance with the planned actions, and recommendations both for their adjustment and for the incorporation of suitable new activities in response to emerging issues.

At the end of the five-year period, an independent evaluation will be conducted to analyse



the Plan's effectiveness, the impacts made and the lessons learned.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation will report to the Congress of Deputies on the progress (monitoring report) and results (final evaluation) of the Third National Action Plan, including the assessment and recommendations of the independent review. The full text of the Third National Action Plan, together with the monitoring and evaluation reports, will be published on the websites of each participating ministry.

# Abbreviations

*(Text in italics: the abbreviation refers to the Spanish expression/institution)*

AECID	<i>Agency for International Development Cooperation</i>
AECID (DAH)	<i>AECID Directorate of Humanitarian Action</i>
AU	<i>African Union</i>
ACs	<i>Autonomous Communities</i>
CE	<i>Council of Europe</i>
CEDAW	<i>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</i>
CELAC	<i>Latin America and Caribbean summits</i>
CJE	<i>Spanish Youth Council</i>
CRSV	<i>Conflict-related sexual violence</i>
CSDP	<i>Common Security and Defence Policy</i>
DDR	<i>Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration</i>
ECOSOC	<i>Economic and Social Council</i>
EEAS	<i>European External Action Service</i>
EU	<i>European Union</i>
FIAP	<i>Foundation for the Internationalization of Public Administrations</i>
GSA	<i>General State Administration</i>
GSF	<i>Global Survivors Fund</i>
ICC	<i>International Criminal Court</i>
ICJ	<i>International Court of Justice</i>
ICRC	<i>International Committee of the Red Cross</i>
INCIBE	<i>National Cybersecurity Institute</i>
IOM	<i>International Organization for Migration</i>
MAEUEC	<i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation</i>
MDE	<i>Ministry of Defence</i>
MDSCA	<i>Ministry of Social Rights, Consumer Affairs and the 2030 Agenda</i>
MEFPD	<i>Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sport</i>
MICIU	<i>Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities</i>
MIG	<i>Mechanism for the Identification and Management of Potential Victims of Human Trafficking</i>
MIGU	<i>Ministry of Equality</i>
MINCOTUR	<i>Ministry of Industry and Tourism.</i>
MINHAP	<i>Ministry of Finance</i>
MINT	<i>Ministry of the Interior</i>
MISSM	<i>Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration</i>
MITECO	<i>Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge</i>
MJI	<i>Ministry of Youth and Childhood</i>
MJI/INJUVE	<i>MJI / Institute of Youth</i>
MPJRC	<i>Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Courts</i>
MPTMD	<i>Ministry of Territorial Policy and Democratic Memory</i>
MTDFP	<i>Ministry of Digital Transformation and Public Administration</i>
NATO	<i>North Atlantic Treaty Organization</i>
NGOs	<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>
OAS	<i>Organization of American States</i>
ODA	<i>Official Development Assistance</i>
OSCE	<i>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe</i>
SEAH	<i>Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment</i>
SSR	<i>Security Sector Reform</i>
UNFPA	<i>United Nations Population Fund</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>
WLO/WRO	<i>Women-led organizations and women's rights organizations</i>
WPS Agenda	<i>Women, Peace and Security Agenda</i>

THIRD NATIONAL  
ACTION PLAN ON  
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AND SECURITY**  
2025–2030

