

# FOCUS **AFRICA** 2023





*The President of the Government, Pedro Sánchez, during his visit in December 2018 to the Spanish military contingent deployed in Mali.*

Africa and Spain are close neighbours and strategic partners. Together we can face common challenges, such as economic development and employment, decarbonisation, fight against poverty, women's empowerment, migration management or peace and stability, in better way.

The Spanish Government approved in 2019 the Third Plan Africa "Spain and Africa, challenges and opportunities", a strategic framework of Spain's foreign action in and with Africa.

Focus Africa 2023 implements the Third Plan Africa for the current parliamentary period, until 2023. Focus Africa 2023 defines Spanish foreign action in Africa until 2023 and forms part of the Spanish Foreign Action Strategy 2021-2024. In line with the principle of unity in foreign action, it includes the specific actions of government and other key Spanish stakeholders in Africa. Moreover, it is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's 2063 Agenda.

The strategic objectives of the Third Plan Africa - Peace and security; Sustainable development, inclusive and resilient economic growth; Institutional strengthening; and Safe, orderly and regular movement-are reflected in seven priorities in Focus Africa 2023:

# 1.



## Partners for Peace and Security.

Without peace and security, no effort will succeed. Development initiatives can only be effective in safe and secure environment. Security and development are inextricably linked and must be strengthened with humanitarian efforts. Key measures include: i) strengthening the nexus between peace, security and development in the Sahel, and State presence in fragile areas; ii) developing the military capacities of countries on the West African coast and the Gulf of Guinea; iii) strengthening Spain's participation in EU initiatives in the Sahel, in particular by leading projects such as GAR SI Rapid Action Groups -that strengthen the ties between security forces and civil society-, and by providing training in intelligence and Joint Investigation Teams to combat terrorism and human trafficking; iv) supporting the mediation capacity of African stakeholders and specific African mediation initiatives in conflict situations; v) and supporting strategies to prevent and combat radicalization.



*The Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, with the President of Burkina Faso.*





*Solar panels of the mega solar plant of Ouarzazate, in southern Morocco, built by a Spanish consortium.*

## 2.



### **Partners for sustainable, fair and inclusive economic development, African regional integration, and the fight against climate change.**

This is crucial to achieving economic growth that leaves no one behind. Key measures include: i) contributing to regional integration processes, in particular to the African Continental Free Trade Area, and to the Economic Community of West African States; ii) promoting debt relief measures; iii) supporting African countries' capacity to mobilize domestic resources; iv) supporting initiatives involving rural development, sustainable energy, resilient infrastructure; v) organizing a Spain-Africa forum on sustainable cities and an international conference on entrepreneurship and innovation in Africa.

## 3.



### **Partners for fostering trade and Spanish investment and business presence in Africa**

Focus Africa 2023 pays strategic attention to this aim, identifying the following priority sectors: agrifood, and in particular, by developing the agro-industry; water, sanitation and waste management; engineering and consulting; energy, with particular emphasis on renewable energies; transport infrastructure; the chemical and pharmaceutical industry; and digital transformation. Specific measures will be implemented: i) to boost financial mechanisms supporting Spanish companies' investment in Africa, including to leverage multilateral, EU and European Investment Bank resources; ii) to provide institutional support to Spanish economic operators; and iii) to mobilise the private sector.



*The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism of Spain, Reyes Maroto, during a meeting with the Minister of Tourism of Morocco.*



Woman working in a Sub-Saharan Africa farm

# 4.



## Partners for strengthening public global services - health and water and sanitation. Resilience.

The pandemic has shown that health is a global public good. Key measures include: i) supporting national health plans and specialized medical training programmes; ii) collaborating to ensure equitable access to medicines for the continent, in particular to vaccines against Covid-19; iii) enhancing and extending, in an efficient and equitable manner, water and sanitation services; iv) incorporating, as a priority line of action, women's participation in water resource policymaking; v) and promoting the efficient use of water resources in agriculture.

# 5.



## Partners for humanitarian action

Key measures include: i) focusing on food security and nutrition, and on protection and education in emergencies, favouring coordination and complementarity between humanitarian and development actors; ii) in emergencies, the response may be multidimensional, including water, sanitation and hygiene; iii) focusing also on protecting girls and women in conflict situations, as well as on their participation in decision-making processes, paying special attention to their greater vulnerability to sexual violence.



AECID humanitarian aid warehouse in the Torrejón de Ardoz Air Base.

# 6.



## Partners for gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment

Spain has adopted a feminist foreign policy with the commitment of supporting Women's and girl's empowerment in all of its foreign action. Key measures include: i) promoting women's access to economic resources; ii) fostering actions that strengthen their leadership and their participation in decision-making processes in the public sphere; iii) implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; iv) reinforcing interventions against female genital mutilation.



Cooperative of women in Casamance, Senegal.



The Secretary of State, Cristina Gallach, during her visit to the Civil Guard detachment in The Gambia in December 2020.

# 7.



## Partners for migration and human mobility management. Collaborating in the fight against irregular migration and human trafficking networks, and fostering safe, orderly and regular migration.

Key measures include: i) contributing to improve the border control and migration management capacities of countries of origin and of transit; ii) preventing human trafficking and combating the criminal networks trafficking in human beings, in particular women and girls; iii) setting up mechanisms for regular migration; iv) fostering participation in the Erasmus+ Programme and other programmes that boost mobility at the higher education level; v) contributing to refugees protection.

## GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES

Focus Africa 2023 includes the priority countries set forth in the Third Plan Africa. Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa are considered “anchor” countries due to their large populations, their economic and political projection, and their influence on the stability of their sub-regions — as well as Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola, considered priority countries.

In addition, Focus Africa 2023 identifies specific priority countries in different strategic spheres.

In the economic sphere, Focus Africa 2023 considers Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana.

Regarding peace and security, priority is given to the sub-regions of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the maritime area of the Gulf of Guinea.

As for development cooperation, the programme will focus especially on the priority countries of the Fifth Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation: Mali, Niger, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia and Egypt.

**Working modalities for improving Spanish foreign action efficiency.** Focus Africa 2023 includes Spanish actions in the continent and internal coordination measures and reform initiatives to improve Spain’s foreign action and presence in Africa.

In order to optimize complementarity between Spanish and international resources, several coordination measures have been proposed by the Spanish ministries that represent Spain



*Banjul, The Gambia*

in most of the multilateral forums involving Africa. Focus Africa 2023 also intends leading EU external action in Africa, leveraging and finding synergies between Spanish, EU and multilateral resources for Africa, both in the economic and business development and in development cooperation.

Focus Africa 2023 proposes a better public private coordination in those sectors where Spanish companies have an added value.

Increasing and strengthening the human and material resources available for implementing Spanish foreign action in Africa is a priority. Focus Africa 2023 proposes to strengthen and expand the networks of Economic and Trade Offices and of Technical Cooperation Offices in the sub-Saharan region, and to increase the capacity of Embassies to ensure that the opportunities offered by this strategic partnership with the continent are truly maximized.

All of these efforts will be promoted, accompanied and reinforced by Spain’s political commitment to a closer and enhanced relationship with Africa. This political commitment will lead to a calendar of reciprocal visits by Spanish and African political decision-makers and senior officials,



*View of the city of Lagos, Nigeria.*

to foster fluid and constant dialogue, and an intensification of exchanges.

It is necessary to improve coordination and complementarity between political agreements, public technical cooperation, financial cooperation and instruments supporting the private sector, reinforcing public-private cooperation. An evaluation and follow up mechanism of the implementation of Foco Africa, will be designed.

A set of platforms of diverse nature and composition will enable Spain to foster and

give coherence to its actions, contributing to their impact and effectiveness. Some of these are already in place, and others are scheduled to be set up. These platforms include: i) the Inter-ministerial Committee for Africa, comprising the ministries implementing foreign policy in Africa; ii) the Africa Round Table, the main forum for dialogue with Spanish civil society (NGOs, the private business sector and academia); iii) the Annual Meeting of Spanish Ambassadors to Africa; iv) coordination mechanisms to uphold Spain's strategy and interests in the EU; v) processes for drafting Spanish Cooperation's Country Partnership Frameworks; vi) Group of African Ambassadors in Spain; vii) Casa África; viii) Spain-Africa Sustainable Cities Forum; ix) periodic bilateral political consultations; and x) dialogue mechanisms with the AU, ECOWAS and priority countries.

Focus Africa 2023 includes the following Appendices (online): i) comprehensive list of actions planned for 2020-2023; ii) Pilot countries for strengthening the coordination of instruments (details on the specific phases and measures); iii) Spain's principal financing instruments; iv) EU and multilateral financing sources.