

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 will be better able to address the challenges facing both of us, ranging from economic development and employment to decarbonization, the fight against poverty, the empowerment of women, the management of migration, and peace and stability.

In 2019, the Spanish Government approved its Third Plan Africa “Spain and Africa, a challenge and an opportunity”, a strategic framework for Spain’s foreign policy in and with Africa.

Focus Africa 2023 is the Third Plan Africa’s action programme for this term of parliament, the blueprint for Spain’s foreign action with Africa, detailing how it is to be undertaken until 2023.

Focus Africa 2023 forms part of the 2021-2024 Foreign Action Strategy and, in line with the principle of unity in foreign action, it reflects the foreign action of all of the Spanish Government’s institutional actors in Africa, as well as that of other Spanish actors in that continent. It is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Aspirations of the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

The four strategic objectives of the Third Plan Africa (peace and security; sustainable development, inclusive and resilient economic growth; institutional strengthening; and safe,

1.



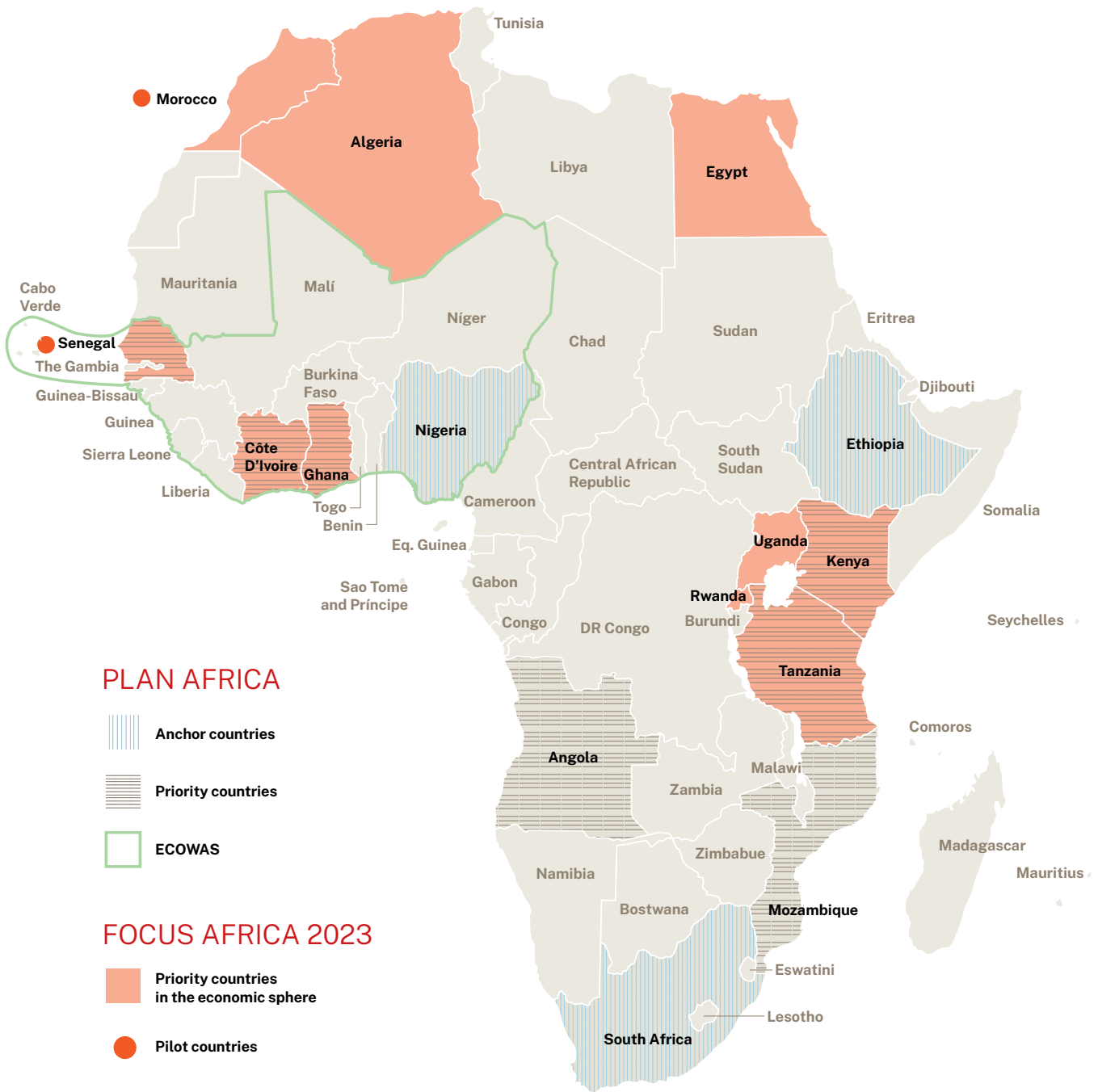
Partners for peace and security.

Without peace and security, all efforts will be in vain. Development efforts can only be effective in a secure environment. Security and development are inextricably linked, and must be strengthened with humanitarian actions.

Key measures include: i) strengthening the peace, security and development nexus in the Sahel, and the presence of the State in fragile areas; ii) developing military capabilities in 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 the Rapid Action Groups, which strengthen the link between security forces and the civilian population, and taking part in the Joint Investigation Teams, which combat terrorism and human trafficking; iv) supporting the mediation capacity of African actors and specific African mediation initiatives in conflict situations; and v) 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 the development of sustainable, just and inclusive economies, African regional integration and the fight against climate change.

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

3.



Partners to promote Spanish trade, business presence and investment in Africa.

Focus Africa 2023 pays strategic attention to this aim, identifying the following priority sectors: agri-food, and in particular, agri-business development; 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. Actions will include: i) specific measures to boost financial mechanisms supporting Spanish companies' investment in Africa, including the leverage of multilateral, EU and European Investment Bank financing sources; ii) institutional support to Spanish economic operators; and iii) mobilization of 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 in strengthening global public services - health, water and sanitation. Resilience.

The pandemic has highlighted the fact 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; and v) promoting the efficient use of water resources in agriculture.

5.



Partners in 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 on protecting women and girls in conflict situations, paying particular attention to their greater vulnerability to sexual violence; and iv) leading the Safe Schools initiative to guarantee the right to education during armed conflicts.



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

6.



Partners in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Spain has adopted a feminist foreign policy, committing to supporting the empowerment of women and girls throughout 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) promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda; and iv) reinforcing interventions to combat the practice of 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 in the management of migration and mobility. Collaboration in the fight against irregular migration and networks trafficking in human beings, and in the promotion of 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, and in particular in women and girls; iii) promoting mechanisms for regular migration; iv) fostering participation in the Erasmus+ Programme and other programmes that boost mobility in the sphere of higher education; and v) contributing to the protection of refugees.

GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES

Focus Africa 2023 pays particular attention to Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa, which are referred to in the Third Plan Africa as “anchor countries” due to their large populations, their economic and political clout, 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 identifies specific geographical priorities in different strategic spheres:

In the economic sphere, Focus Africa pays particular attention to Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana.

As regards peace and security, priority is given to the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the maritime area of the Gulf of Guinea and Mozambique.

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

Work modalities: for more effective foreign action in Africa, the Focus Africa 2023 programme includes Spanish actions in the continent, internal coordination measures for Spain’s public administration, and reform initiatives to improve Spain’s foreign action and presence in Africa.

To optimize complementarity between Spanish and international resources, Focus Africa proposes coordination measures between the Spanish ministries that represent Spain in the multilateral forums involving Africa.



Banjul, The Gambia.

Focus Africa also aims to lead the EU’s action in Africa, leveraging and seeking synergies between Spanish, EU and multilateral resources assigned to Africa, both as regards economic and business development and development cooperation.

Focus Africa proposes better public-private coordination in those priority sectors where Spanish companies can provide added value.

Increasing and strengthening the human and material resources available for implementing foreign action in Africa is a priority. Thus, Focus Africa proposes strengthening and expanding the networks of Economic and Commercial Offices and of Technical Cooperation Offices in the sub-Saharan region, and increasing the capacity of Embassies to ensure that the opportunities offered by this strategic partnership are truly maximized.

All of these efforts will be promoted, accompanied and reinforced by Spain’s political commitment to a closer relationship with and stronger ties to the continent. This political commitment will lead to a schedule of reciprocal visits by Spanish and African political leaders and senior officials, to foster fluid and constant dialogue, and an intensification of exchanges.



View of the city of Lagos, Nigeria.

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.

A mechanism including monitoring indicators will be designed to monitor and evaluate this programme.

A set of platforms, diverse in their 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. The following have been identified: i) the Inter-ministerial Committee for Africa, comprising the ministries implementing foreign action 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 in Africa; iv) coordination and defence mechanisms for 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 African Union (AU), ECOWAS and the priority countries.

The action programme includes the following **appendices (available online)**: Comprehensive list of actions planned for 2020-2023; Pilot countries for strengthening the coordination of instruments (details of the specific phases and measures); Spain's principal financing instruments.