

## UN INTRODUCTORY SPEECH. 5 Abril 2013.

A Spanish proverb says that “it is a trait of the high-born to be grateful”. So, I would like to thank you for the fact that you have chosen Madrid as a venue for the spring meeting of the United Nations Chief Executive Board.

Madrid is the siege of the World Tourism Organisation, the main international institution in Tourism.

Valencia hosts the telecommunications hub of Quart de Poblet, which provides an outstanding support to U.N. operations.

Yesterday, we have signed a Host agreement with the FAO.

Mr. Secretary General,

### **We do indeed live in a complex world.**

Globalization is a real new phenomenon which goes far beyond economy and has important consequences in every aspect of life.

Fundamental rights and liberties are today not conceived as they once were. The relative role of individual and social responsibility has also changed. There are new forms of understanding rights of property, the ways of trading, the relative role of civil society and cultural diversity.

If we stay on economic terms, IMF defines globalization as “an ever increasing process of interdependence stemming from three factors:

A huge increase of international transactions of goods and services.

The sharp increase of international capital flows.

A dramatic expansion of new technologies.”

This expansion of the new technologies has provoked radical changes in many fields:

- International migrations: A massive influx of people fleeing from poverty, looking for a better future in developed countries.

- Disputes over agriculture: Endless discussions on tariff and non tariff barriers at the World Trade Organization.
- Competition of Emerging Nations, not only in traditional goods, but also in high-value exports.
- Fund displacements, to emerging economies allowing them to increase their weight in international trade. As the BRICS countries last claims have proven.
- Outsourcing of services.
- A dramatic increase in the weight of the so-called financial economy. Maybe the most important cause of current economic crisis.
- Fights for natural resources, specially water and energy.

These changes call for a new international order: a new monetary system, a new commercial system and a much more inclusive concept of economic development.

If we now focus on security topics, we are all aware that our planet is facing new crises and threats such as Asia, Africa, not to speak of the Middle East.

North Korea, Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia or the Sahel are now places familiar to all of us.

Spain has been involved in peace-keeping operations since 1979, in the mission which took place in Equatorial Guinea. Since then, more than 130.000 troops have taken part in 67 peace keeping missions.

Right now we are present in Haiti and Lebanon. We have liaison officers in Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. And we have just finished our mission in Timor Leste.

Spain puts forward initiatives for conflict-prevention such as the Joint Initiative for Mediation in the Mediterranean, along with Morocco.

We all know that to improve the **standards of living** of all the inhabitants on this planet is a basic condition for an everlasting peace. The task the United Nations is carrying out to mitigate hunger and disease is extraordinary. Spain offers a rock-solid support in tackling all these issues working shoulder to shoulder with the UN.

The United Nations' firm action in the realm of **human rights** is also a reference for Spain, which has set it as a guideline of its foreign policy. Spain shares this conviction and actively promotes, in the international sphere: gender-equality, fight against gender-based violence and rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, Spain works with its partners for the international recognition of the human right to water and sanitation.

In the last few years, Spain has become one of the main cooperation and development donors. Nowadays we are going through a severe economic crisis. As a consequence our effort in cooperation has declined. However, the Spanish government continues to be committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. As soon as the crisis has passed, our efforts will be intensified once again.

In short, Spain is fully committed with the United Nations and that's why we firmly believe Spain should be considered eligible to becoming a non- permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2015-16. If we were elected we will work arduously in favour of International Peace and Security.

Mr. Secretary General,

I would like to express once again my satisfaction for receiving you here in Madrid and to reiterate the firm determination of Spain to contribute to the praiseworthy goals of the UN through our active participation in its agencies, funds and programs.

I wish you a most fruitful work and a happy stay in Spain.

Thank you.