

SPAIN IN THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL:
A COMPREHENSIVE
REVIEW 2015-2016



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INTRODUCTION

Polling station in the presidential elections in the Central African Republic, held in December 2015.
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Nektarios





*United Nations
operation in Darfur.
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González Farran*

Once Spain's fifth term on the United Nations Security Council has finished, it is a must to summarize the highlights of our actions within the body that the San Francisco Charter entrusts with the fundamental responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.

This booklet is the third in a series, which began in January 2015 with the publication of the program that guided Spain's actions in the Security Council during our term. A second publication was released in January 2016, entitled Spain in the United Nations: Review of 2015 and Priorities for 2016. Both documents were published in compliance with our campaign commitment to inform the Spanish people and the international community of our goals and contributions while being in the Security Council.

This open information policy has now become a valuable accountability exercise, which will allow us to reach helpful conclusions and thus strengthen Spain's international actions. However, this report would be incomplete if it were only limited to look at the past.

Spain's term on the Security Council has required a great deal of work from our country's foreign service. Many of

these efforts were resounding successes, and left a positive impression of Spain's capabilities. We must continue to develop the assets that Spain has contributed over the past two years in such diverse fields as championing the values, purposes and principles of the United Nations; preventive diplomacy; interfaith dialogue; non-proliferation; strengthening international humanitarian law; the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda; the fight against violent extremism and terrorism, and the recognition of victims thereof; and the Security Council's working methods. It is advisable to establish appropriate guidelines to channel Spain's external actions, based on the experience accumulated at the Security Council.

In short, in this booklet we reaffirm Spain's commitment to transparency, which inspired our conception of the mandate as a project for the nation, its institutions and its citizens. The aim is to provide readers with the tools to analyze and evaluate the work carried out.

IT IS ADVISABLE TO ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES TO CHANNEL SPAIN'S EXTERNAL ACTION, BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE ACCUMULATED AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Our armed forces have participated in different UN peacekeeping operations over the last few years. © Foto Ministerio de Defensa

SECURITY COUNCIL ACTIVITY DURING THE 2015/2016 TERM

	2015	2016	Total
Resolutions	64	77	141
Draft resolutions not adopted	2	4	6
Presidential statements	26	19	45
Press statements	128	106	234
Security Council travel	2	5	7
Arria Formula meetings	17 (all-time record)	12	29

SPAIN'S ACTIVITY ON THE COUNCIL

	2015	2016	Total
Co-sponsored resolutions	28	21	49
Statements in a national capacity at public meetings	88	102	190
Results of votes on draft resolutions	Unanimously in favor (66)	80 in favor and 1 against	146 in favor and 1 against
Arria Formula meetings organized	5	2	7

SPANISH COUNCIL PRESIDENCIES

	Octubre 2015	Diciembre 2016	Total
Resolutions	5	15 (all-time record)	20
Presidential statements	2	2	4
Press statements	5	9	14
Arria Formula meetings organized	5	2	7

SPANISH CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

	2015	2016	Total
The 1718 DPRK Sanctions Committee			
Meetings	5	5	10
Reports	2	2	4
The 1737 Committee on Iran Sanctions(dissolved 16/01/16) and facilitating implementation of Resolution 2231			
Meetings	4	-	4
Reports	2	1	3
The 1540 Committee on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction			
Meetings	19	25	44
Reports	1	2	3

SPAIN'S PRESIDENCY OF DECEMBER 2016 WAS THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE HISTORY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IN TOTAL, 15 RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED.

The Security Council was very productive in 2015-2016: 77 resolutions were adopted in 2016, the highest number in the last decade. More than 500 meetings were held, plus closed-door consultations and informal Arria Formula meetings to address particular issues. Four of the six draft resolutions that were not adopted (establishing a tribunal to examine the downing of flight MH17 over Ukraine; commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre; and two texts regarding the situation in the Syrian city of Aleppo) did not pass due to a Russian veto in three cases, and a Russian and Chinese veto of the fourth. The other two draft resolutions (one Russian draft concerning the situation in Aleppo; and

another U.S. draft proposing an embargo on South Sudan) were not adopted, as they did not gathered enough votes.

Spain's presidency of December 2016 was the most productive in the history of the Security Council. In total, 15 resolutions were approved, 3 of which were put forward by Spain (legal cooperation in the fight against terrorism, non-proliferation, and human trafficking in armed conflicts).

Spain only voted against one of the 147 draft resolutions: a Russian text concerning the situation in Aleppo, which was proposed as an alternative to the draft previously submitted by France and Spain. The two votes took place at the same meeting.

Spain was the only Security Council member to participate in all but three of the high-level debates that were convened with either Ministers or Vice Ministers (30). This is unprecedented —not only in the last two years, but at any other time. The President of the Government of Spain (Prime Minister) chaired two Security Council debates (on Women, Peace and Security in October 2015; and on human trafficking in conflict situations in 2016), reflecting the importance that Spain attaches to its burden in the Council.

Spain played a relevant role in the agreements relating to Libya and the humanitarian dossier of the Syrian conflict (Resolution 2258). Below, conflict zone in Sirte.
© EFE/ Mohamad Abdel Kader





Parliamentary support for Spain's activity in the Security Council was reaffirmed through two Non-legislative Motions presented to the Congress in July and September 2015, and an official statement issued by the Spanish Senate in July of the same year. There were three parliamentary visits to the United Nations Headquarters in 2015, to attend Security Council meetings, showing high-profile of support.

The 7 Arria Formula meetings organized by Spain were on: Women, Peace and Security; Syria (together with France); climate change and security (with Malaysia); the role of victims in the fight against terrorism (with the U.S.); the Responsibility to Protect and non-State actors (with Chile); food security and peace (with Angola); and cybersecurity (with Senegal).

Over the past two years, Spain was the only Security Council member to chair three Subsidiary Bodies, specifically the three key Committees that address non-proliferation issues. Two of these bodies (Committees 1718 and 1737) dealt with sanctions, an area in which Spain has been particularly active, whilst always aiming to act in accordance with the principles of transparency and responsibility.

In 2015, Spain was the penholder for the dossiers on Afghanistan (two resolutions, a presidential statement and ten press statements) and on the humanitarian aspects of the conflict in Syria, together with New Zealand and Jordan (being replaced by Egypt in 2016). As a result of this work, two resolutions were adopted, a presidential statement was made, and five press statements were issued.

Spain has spearheaded initiatives, actively contributed to agreements on key texts and in all of its actions (some in conjunction with other members, a new initiative we have been promoting) has championed an approach that is unmistakably inspired by the value and principles of the United Nations Charter (for details of the actions, please see www.exteriores.gob.es).

His Majesty the King, during his intervention at the High-Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants within the framework of the General Assembly, held in September 2016.
© EFE/ Sergio Barrenechea

SPAIN HAS SPEARHEADED INITIATIVES AND CONTRIBUTED TO REACH AGREEMENTS DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The role of Spain in Resolution 2286 on protection of the wounded and sick, medical and humanitarian personnel in armed conflict has been crucial. Attack on an ambulance in Aleppo, Syria. © EFE / Ghith Sy



The President of the Government stands before the press after presiding over a session of the Security Council in December 2016. © EFE/ Juanjo Martin

2015

A detailed evaluation of 2015 was provided in the booklet published in January 2016. The most significant international achievements in 2015 were the agreement on the Iranian nuclear program, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris agreement on climate change. The commemoration of the United Nations' seventieth anniversary was enhanced by the unanimous adoption, of General Assembly Resolution 70/3, presented by Spain, whereby the 193 members of the UN renewed their commitment to the San Francisco Charter, and above all to the values, purposes and principles that constitute its foundation.

The Security Council adopted historic resolutions: 2022, taking on the Minsk Accords regarding the conflict in Ukraine; 2231, on the Iranian nuclear program; 2240, allowing interception of vessels smuggling migrants or trafficking human beings in the international waters off the coast of Libya; 2249 and 2253, extending and strengthening coverage in the fight against Daesh and other terrorist organizations; 2254, on a politically inclusive solution to the Syrian conflict; and 2259, on Libya.

Spain played a particularly relevant role in the agreements relating to Libya and the humanitarian aspects of the Syrian conflict (Resolution 2258). Our actions were decisive in the adoption of Resolution 2242, which renewed the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

The January 2016 booklet takes an exhaustive look at Spain's contributions in key thematic areas and in the geographical issues addressed by the Council in the first half of our term.

2016

1. THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

1.1 Non-proliferation (Resolutions 2207 [2015], 2224 [2015], 2231 [2015], 2270 [2016], 2276 [2016]), 2310 [2016], 2321 [2016], 2325 [2016]

Resolution 2325 was adopted under Spain's presidency in December 2016, resulting in a comprehensive review of Resolution 1540. As the presiding country of the 1540 Committee, Spain oversaw the review and prepared the draft resolution.



The text was adopted unanimously at an open high-level debate, which was chaired by Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. It was co-sponsored by 78 States, including the 15 members of the Council, an exceptional achievement. The resolution significantly strengthens the mechanisms aimed at preventing weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of non-state actors and terrorist organizations. It also promotes transparency in the 1540 Committee's work, bolstering assistance for States in the fight against proliferation and acknowledges the role of parliamentarians and civil society in this area. The resolution establishes measures to improve the coordination and effectiveness of the international system to fight proliferation.

Spain championed the creation of Groups of Friends of Resolution 1540 in both the United Nations and the OSCE.

Spain also facilitated application of Resolution 2231, which added an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program to the body of Security Council measures. We were entrusted with this task in recognition of our leadership of the 1737 Committee on Iran Sanctions. The 1737 Committee was dissolved on 16 February, once the International Atomic Energy Agency had determined that Iran had complied with the conditions necessary to withdraw the sanctions. In July, Spain submitted the first six-month report on the new period.

Spain also chaired the 1718 Committee on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Sanctions. The Security Council responded to the DPRK's nuclear tests in January and September 2016 and its repeated launches of ballistic missiles with 12 press statements condemning these actions, as well as with Resolutions 2270 and 2321.

In keeping with our prioritization of transparency, Spain organized two meetings that were open to all UN members, to provide information on the measures established by Resolutions 2231 and 2270.

1.2. Preventive diplomacy and interfaith dialogue

In 2016, Spain continued to contribute to strengthening the Security Council's preventive capacities and made mediation a hallmark. A meeting of the OSCE Mediterranean Contact Group was hosted in Madrid on 23 and 24 May, attended by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Libya. On 30 and 31 May, we also hosted the first International Conference on Preventive Diplomacy in the Mediterranean, held in Alicante, Spain.

Furthermore, from 14 to 16 November, Alicante was the venue of a Summit of Jewish, Muslim and Christian Religious Leaders for Peace in the Middle East. The participants agreed on a statement urging the leaders of Israel and Palestine to work towards a solution that would recognize the two peoples' right to co-

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, during the Spanish presidency of the Security Council in december 2016. © UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

The first Conference on Preventive Diplomacy held in Casa Mediterráneo, Alicante, May 2016. © EFE/Morell

exist in secure neighboring States with mutually recognized borders. A permanent committee will monitor its implementation.

1.3. Women, Peace and Security (Resolution 2242 [2015])

Resolution 2242, which was drafted by Spain and the United Kingdom and adopted under Spain's presidency in October 2015 —following an open debate with the highest number of addresses by those in attendance in the history of the Security Council (113) —was first implemented in 2016. We established and have co-chaired the Informal Group of Experts created by the resolution, along with the United Kingdom, and have published the lines of action that will guide future joint chairs. The Group analyzed the situations in Mali, Iraq, the Central African Republic and Afghanistan, and has had a progressive impact on the integration of gender issues into the Council's geographic and thematic matters. Spain has worked to ensure that renewals of UN missions' mandates include the new aspects of the agenda, and also proposed that a representative of civil society report to the Council in a meeting on Liberia.

In New York on 23 September, we launched the WPS National Focal Points Network. The purpose of the network is to further this agenda at the national and international levels. The first meeting is scheduled to take place in Spain in 2017.

Spain is a founding member of the Global Acceleration Instrument to finance the WPS



Agenda, together with Australia, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Iraqi people escaping Mosul (Iraq). © EFE/Ahmed Jalil

1.4. The fight against terrorism (Resolutions 2199 [2015], 2249 [2015], 2253 [2015], 2255 [2015], 2322 [2016], 2309 [2016], 2331 [2016])

In a presidential statement approved on 4 May, Spain included a reference to the role of victims of terrorism in counter-messaging terrorist organizations. We thus continued the work of the meeting organized under the Spanish presidency in October 2015, together with the United States, which focused on victims of ETA, Daesh and Boko Haram.

On 12 December, Spain's Minister of Justice chaired a meeting which resulted in the unanimous approval of Resolution 2322, reinforcing international judicial cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The text, which was drafted by Spain, draws on the Guiding Principles approved at the meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, held in Madrid in July 2015.



SPAIN HAS FULFILLED THE PRIORITIES LISTED IN ITS PROGRAM.

On 20 December, at an open debate led by the President of the Government of Spain, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2331 on human trafficking in armed conflicts, which was presented and drafted by Spain. This is a landmark text, the first of its kind, to combat trafficking in conflict situations as a terrorist practice. The resolution includes significant new measures related to the fight against sexual violence in conflicts.

1.5. Humanitarian Affairs (Resolutions 2222 [2015] 2258 [2015], 2286 [2016] 2332 [2016])

Spain has turned humanitarian action into one of the hallmarks of its mandate. Together with four other non-permanent members (New Zealand, Egypt, Uruguay and Japan), we promoted Resolution 2286 on healthcare access and protection in armed conflicts, which was unanimously adopted with 85 co-sponsors. Organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières also provided input to the wording of the resolution, which strengthens International Humanitarian Law.

In 2016, Spain shared responsibilities as penholder in the humanitarian dossier on Syria with New Zealand and Egypt. We were also invited to join the International Syria Support Group (ISSG). Resolution 2332, which renewed the authorization for cross-border humanitarian assistance in Syria until 2018, was adopted in December.

Resolution 2328, introduced by France, made it possible to evacuate civilians from Aleppo under the supervision of the United Nations. In October, France and Spain had submitted a draft resolution to bring a halt to the bombing of the city, which was vetoed by Russia. Together with New Zealand and Egypt, Spain made a new attempt in early December, however it was not successful either, as it was voted down by Russia and China.

1.6. New threats

Spain fulfilled its commitment to bring the two-fold issue of water and peace to the Security Council. In conjunction with Egypt, we organized a consultative meeting on desertification in the Sahel. The matters of water and climate change were addressed in a session on the situation in Lake Chad in July. In November, Spain supported the Senegal presidency's initiative of a debate on water, peace and security. Spain's address focused on the risks that water insecurity poses to global stability.

We also fulfilled the objective of addressing the issue of cybersecurity within the Security Council. Together with Senegal, Spain organized a pioneering Arria Formula meeting on this matter on 28 November.

1.7. Working methods

Spain's work has been characterized by transparency and willingness to listen. We improved the information provided to member states of the European Union, in



The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, next to the Minister of Justice, during the Religious Leaders' Summit for Peace in the Middle East, held in November 2016. © MAEC/ Nacho Gómez

accordance with Article 34 of the Treaty on European Union, and to members of the UN as a whole, keeping our campaign promise.

Informal wrap-up sessions under the name of "Toledo briefings" have consolidated. This meeting format improves the quality of the information provided to members and increases the possibilities for dialogue. Nine Toledo briefings were held in 2016.

In Spain, we have convened regular briefing sessions for the diplomatic corps, as well as for representatives from the civil society, academia, think tanks and the media.

Spain has enhanced the role of the Security Council members elected as joint penholders. Likewise, we supported the first Security Council presidential statement on working methods, which was adopted in October 2015 following an open debate. Spain played an important role in ensuring that the chairs of the Council's subsidiary bodies are selected by all 15 members and not solely by the five permanent members, as had been the practice until 2015. The new system was set down in a presidential statement issued in July 2016.

We are currently working with New Zealand on a joint document describing the work carried out during the two-year term.

1.8. Election of the UN Secretary-General (Resolution 2311 [2016])

Spain championed a transparent and participatory process to select the

Secretary-General, in which all Security Council members had the same degree of responsibility whilst respecting the criteria established by the General Assembly. The election by acclamation of António Guterres as Secretary-General for the 2017-2021 term, replacing Ban Ki-moon (General Assembly Resolution 71/4), confirmed the support of all UN members for a process characterized by transparency and active participation from the member States and civil society.



SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS BY THEMATIC AREAS

	2015	2016
Non-proliferation	2207, 2224, 2231	2270, 2276, 2310, 2321, 2325
Preventive diplomacy	-	-
Women, Peace and Security	2242	-
Combating terrorism	2199, 2249, 2253, 2255	2322, 2309, 2231
Humanitarian affairs	2222; 2258	2286; 2332
New threats	-	-
Working methods	-	-
Election of the Secretary-General	-	2311

Other matters

2015	2220 (small arms), 2225 (children and armed conflict), 2250 (youth, peace and security), 2256 (combatting impunity)
2016	2269, 2306 and 2329 (combatting impunity); 2272 (peacekeeping operations); 2282 (peacebuilding); 2320 (United Nations and regional organizations); 2324 (tribute to the outgoing Secretary-General)

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Secretary of Homeland Security, together with other participants in the Special Meeting in Madrid of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for experts from more than 70 countries, in 2015. © EFE/J. J. Guillén

The President of the Government granted the Collar of the Order of Merit to the former Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York last December 2016. ©EFE

2. GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

2.1. Middle East

→ **The Peace Process** . (Resolution 2334 [2016]). Under Spain's presidency, UNSC Resolution 2334 was adopted on 23 December 2016 —the first in eight years on the Palestinian issue—, with 14 votes in favor and one abstention by the United States. The resolution demands a halt to settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. Spain maintained its commitment to a fair and lasting peace in the region, and offered to facilitate and

promote dialogue and understanding between the parties through meetings such as the Summit of Religious Leaders for Peace in the Middle East, held in Alicante in November.

→ **Siria**. (Resolutions 2209 [2015], 2235 [2015], 2254 [2015], 2258 [2015], 2268 [2016], 2314 [2016], 2319 [2016], 2328 [2016], 2332 [2016], 2336 [2016]). Particular attention was paid to political and humanitarian issues as well as chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict. Established by Resolution 2235 in August 2015, the mandate of the office for the



UNIFIL troops throughout training tasks in Lebanon. © UN Photo/ J. Pasqual Gorriz

Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) on the Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria was renewed twice. As co-penholders of the humanitarian dossier, we have promoted the adoption of Resolutions 2328 and 2332, and A/RES/71/130. Spain has fully endorsed the work of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria and worked within the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) to bring hostilities to an end. Spain's good offices during its presidency in December enabled the adoption of Resolutions 2328 and 2336, which takes note of the ceasefire agreement between Turkey and Russia.

- Golan Heights (Resolutions 2229 [2015], 2257 [2015], 2294 [2016]). The Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in June.

- Iraq. (Resolutions 2233 [2015], 2299 [2016], 2335 [2016]). The humanitarian

situation of civilians under the terrorist threat from Daesh, especially in Fallujah and Mosul, has been followed with concern by the Security Council. In July, the Council renewed the mandate of the UNAMI (United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq) and in December it adopted Resolution 2335, maintaining the escrow account authorized by Resolution 1958 (2010).

- Lebanon. (Resolutions 2236 [2015], 2305 [2016], 2330 [2016]). The mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was renewed in August. In December, the Security Council welcomed the announcement of the formation of a national unity government.

- Yemen. (Resolutions 2201 [2015], 2204 [2015], 2216 [2015], 2266 [2016]). Resolution 2266 extended the sanctions regime. The Security Council expressed concern over the attacks and the humanitarian situation in the country, supported the work of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy, and welcomed the peace talks held between the parties at the beginning of the year.

2.2. North Africa

Lybia. (Resolutions 2208 [2015], 2213 [2015], 2214 [2015], 2238 [2015], 2240 [2015], 2259 [2015], 2273 [2016], 2278 [2016], 2291 [2016], 2292 [2016], 2298 [2016], 2312 [2016], 2323 [2016]). The Security Council renewed sanctions on Libya and extended the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya



*Aerial view
of the civil
protection area
in Bentiu (South
Sudan) in June
2016. © UN
Photo/Isaac
Billy*

Spain is the second-largest contributor to EUNAVFOR Med Sophia, the European Union operation that undertakes such actions. Resolution 2292 allowed for the interception of vessels suspected of violating the Libyan weapons embargo, and established training for Libyan coastguards.

Western Sahara. (Resolutions 2218 [2015], 2285 [2016]). The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) underwent a serious crisis following the expulsion of part of its civilian contingent. Resolution 2285 highlighted the urgent need for MINURSO to return to full functionality. Spain has defended this position and continues to provide support to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy.

2.3. Sub-Saharan Africa

(UNSMIL) three times. In July, it adopted Resolution 2298 on the destruction of chemical weapons, calling for States and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to cooperate with the Libyan Government of National Accord. Spain backed the mediation efforts carried out by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy.

Resolution 2312 renewed the mandate established in Resolution 2240 (2015) whereby the Security Council authorized States and regional organizations to inspect vessels on the high seas off the Libyan coast that they had reasonable grounds to suspect were being used for human trafficking and, in particular, for migrant smuggling.

Gambia. In view of the political crisis triggered by the presidential elections in the Gambia, the Security Council expressed its support for the newly-elected president of the country, as did the African Union and ECOWAS. During its December presidency of the Security Council, Spain emphasized the need for the Council to pay attention to this crisis as part of its preventive action. Urgent consultations were convened and the situation was analyzed on a regular basis.

Guinea-Bissau. (Resolutions 2203 [2015], 2267 [2016]). The Security Council renewed the mandate for the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) and supported



A blue helmet from the MINUSMA's Nepalese contingent works on the demining of the airstrip in Kidal (northern Mali). © UN Photo/Marco Dormino

the International Contact Group and the leadership of ECOWAS and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) in management of the crisis.

Liberia. (Resolutions 2215 [2015], 2237 [2015], 2239 [2015], 2288 [2016], 2308 [2016], 2333 [2016]). The Security Council lifted the sanctions on Liberia, dissolved the associated Committee and the expert panel, and prolonged the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until March 2018, when it is scheduled to end definitively.

Côte d'Ivoire. (Resolutions 2219 [2015], 2226 [2015], 2260 [2016], 2283 [2016], 2284 [2016]). The mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was renewed twice, and it is scheduled to be dissolved in June 2017. Resolution 2283 put an end to the sanctions regime.

Mali/Sahel. (Resolutions 2227 [2015], 2295 [2016]). Following the Peace Accord of 21 June 2015, the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was strengthened. Nevertheless, numerous terrorist attacks on blue helmets and civilians have continued to occur. Spain has been particularly active regarding the inclusion of elements from the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the MINUSMA mandate. Mali was the theme of the first meeting of the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, held in February and co-chaired by Spain and the United Kingdom.

Desertification in the Sahel triggered a formal Security Council meeting on peace and security in the region, promoted by Spain and Egypt.

Central African Republic. (Resolutions 2196 [2015], 2212 [2015], 2217 [2015], 2262 [2016], 2264 [2016], 2281 [2016], 2301 [2016]). The Security Council extended and prolonged the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) through four resolutions, and renewed sanctions as well. The peaceful celebration of the constitutional referendum, the elections and the presidential inauguration was welcomed. The Council also addressed denunciations of sexual exploitation and abuse allegedly committed by blue helmets, and urged to strengthen the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy.

Somalia. (Resolutions 2221 [2015], 2232 [2015], 2244 [2015], 2245 [2015], 2246 [2015], 2275 [2016], 2289 [2016], 2297 [2016], 2316 [2016], 2317 [2016]). The Security Council renewed the mandates of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the arms embargo, and the measures to combat piracy and armed robbery along the coast.

Sudan/South Sudan. (Resolutions 2205 [2015], 2230 [2015], 2251 [2015], 2271 [2016], 2287 [2016], 2318 [2016]). The Security Council has maintained and expanded United Nations Missions in the

THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS RESPONDED TO HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES IN CONFLICTS SUCH AS THE ONES IN SYRIA AND SOUTH SUDAN.



region. In view of the instability and violence that continue to dominate the border zone, the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) was renewed twice, through Resolutions 2287 and 2318, which included provisions relating to Women, Peace and Security. Sanctions were renewed.

South Sudan. (Resolutions 2206 [2015], 2223 [2015], 2241 [2015], 2252 [2015], 2280 [2016], 2290 [2016], 2302 [2016], 2304 [2016], 2326 [2016], 2327 [2016]). The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was extended four times, which has strengthened its mandate. Sanctions were renewed twice. Spain supported a draft resolution for an arms embargo, which was rejected.

The international community became increasingly alarmed by the escalation of violence in Wau and Juba at the beginning of the summer, resulting in tens of thousands of internally displaced people. In Juba, the United Nations and diplomatic offices were attacked, and the Head of

Mission of UNMISS was relieved of his duties by the Secretary-General. Spain paid particular attention to the risk of atrocities in South Sudan and supported participation by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Prevention of Genocide in the Security Council meetings.

Darfur. (Resolutions 2200 [2015], 2228 [2015], 2265 [2016], 2296 [2016]). The Security Council renewed the panel of experts in February, and the mandate of the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) was extended in June. In October 2015, the Spanish presidency successfully cooperated with the Sudanese authorities in order to permit the flow of containers with supplies for UNAMID.

Burundi. (Resolutions 2248 [2015], 2279 [2016], 2303 [2016]). In response to the political and humanitarian crisis that erupted in 2015, the Security Council adopted three resolutions on Burundi. These resolutions acknowledged the role of the African Union and ECOWAS in mediating and managing the crisis.

Displaced people next to the UNAMID's base in Um Baru (Darfur) in January 2015. © UN Photo/Hamid Abdulsalam



Resolution 2303 authorized an observation mission comprising 228 police officers, which was rejected by the government of Burundi. Some of these troops were later deployed. At Spain's request, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Prevention of Genocide reported the risk of genocide to the Council in November 2015.

Democratic Republic of the Congo. (Resolutions 2198 [2015], 2211 [2015], 2277 [2016], 2293 [2016]). The Security Council welcomed the progress towards stabilization and peace (such as the Political Agreement reached on 18 October and the mediation efforts led by the National Episcopal Conference of Congo). The mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) was renewed, as was the sanctions regime.

RESOLUTIONS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

	2015	2016
Sub-Saharan Africa		
Guinea-Bissau	2203	2267
Liberia	2215, 2237, 2239	2288, 2308, 2333
Côte d'Ivoire	2219, 2226	2260, 2283, 2284
Mali / Sahel	2227	2295
Central African Republic	2196, 2212, 2217	2262, 2264, 2281, 2301
Somalia	2221, 2232, 2244, 2245, 2246	2275, 2289, 2297, 2316, 2317
Sudan / South Sudan	2205, 2230, 2251	2271, 2287, 2318
South Sudan	2206, 2223, 2241, 2252	2280, 2290, 2302, 2304, 2326, 2327
Darfur	2200, 2228	2265, 2296
Burundi	2248	2279, 2303
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2198, 2211	2277, 2293
North Africa		
Lybia	2208, 2213, 2214, 2238, 2240, 2259	2273, 2278, 2291, 2292, 2298, 2312, 2323
Western Sahara	2218	2285
Middle East		
Peace Process	-	2334
Syria	2209, 2229 (FNUOS), 2235, 2254, 2257 (FNUOS), 2258	2268, 2294 (FNUOS), 2314, 2319, 2328, 2332, 2336
Iraq	2233	2299, 2335
Lebanon	2236	2305, 2330
Yemen	2201, 2204, 2216	2266
The Americas		
Haiti	2243	2313
Colombia		2261, 2307
Europe		
Ukraine	2202	
Cyprus	2197, 2234	2263, 2300
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2247	2315
Asia		
Afghanistan	2210, 2255	2274

AT COLOMBIA'S REQUEST, THE COUNCIL CREATED A POLITICAL MISSION TO MONITOR AND VERIFY THE ARMS SURRENDER AND THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES FOLLOWING THE PEACE AGREEMENT.

2.4. The Americas

Haití. (Resolutions 2243 [2015], 2313 [2016]). The suspension of the electoral process in 2015 was closely monitored by the Security Council until elections were held in November 2016, despite the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew. The Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which may be substantially modified in 2017.

Colombia. (Resolutions 2261 [2016], 2307 [2016]). Resolution 2261, adopted

in January, created a Political Mission at Colombia's request. This mission was intended to monitor the surrender of arms and was part of the "tripartite mechanism" to verify the ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities following the signing of the Peace Agreement. Spain was the first European country to offer a contingent for the UN Mission in Colombia, to which we contributed 18 military and police officers, five of whom were women. The Security Council welcomed the successive Peace Agreements in Resolution 2307 and in press statements.

Disasters caused by Matthew hurricane in Port-au-Prince (Haiti) © UN Photo/Logan Abass





The President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, attended a high-level meeting of the Security Council on the Colombian Peace Agreement in September 2016. © UN Photo/Amanda Voisard

2.5. Europe

Ukraine. (Resolution 2202 [2015]). The Security Council has held briefing sessions and consultations regarding the implementation of the Minsk Accords and the status of human rights in Crimea.

Cyprus. (Resolutions 2197 [2015], 2234 [2015], 2263 [2016], 2300 [2016]). The mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) was renewed twice. The Security Council unanimously supported the talks between the parties since they began in May 2015. These talks may lead to an overall, lasting solution to the division of the island.

Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Resolutions 2247 [2015], 2315 [2016]). Resolution 2315 extended the mandate of the EUFOR ALTHEA support and capacity-building mission, led by the European Union.

Kosovo. The Security Council hosted regular follow-up meetings to monitor the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the situation in the territory.

2.6. Asia

Afghanistan. (Resolutions 2210 [2015], 2255 [2015], 2274 [2016]). The Security Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) through Resolution 2274, facilitated by Spain as penholder. At the initiative of Spain, the Council also reaffirmed its support for the Afghan government and people in a presidential statement in September, just prior to the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan held on 4-5 October.

2.7. Travel

During the six visiting missions within this term, the Security Council visited Haiti, the Central African Republic, Burundi, Ethiopia, Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal, Somalia, Kenya, Egypt, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola. These visiting missions constitute a useful tool to prevent the eruption and escalation of conflict.

IN CYPRUS, THE SECURITY COUNCIL SUPPORTED THE TALKS BETWEEN THE PARTIES SINCE THEY BEGAN IN MAY 2015. THESE TALKS MAY LEAD TO AN OVERALL, LASTING SOLUTION TO THE DIVISION OF THE ISLAND.



4

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Spain has actively participated in the adoption of new tools to combat threats as non-proliferation and disarmament. © UN Photo/ Martine Perret



Afghan kids in Maslakh, near Herat. © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Transparency has been a persistent priority during Spain's term. Explaining our actions has been an inherent characteristic of our duty.

Explanations have taken the form of publications and public presentations. We have published brochures on Women, Peace and Security, and on the Comprehensive Review of Resolution 1540. An additional publication (Non-State Actors and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction — Resolution 1540: A Spanish Contribution) by the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (IEEE) was devoted to the latter. Moreover, newspaper articles signed by the President of the Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Ambassador-Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in New York were published. Contributions were also made to collective works by the United Nations Association of Spain (Naciones Unidas desde España: 70º Aniversario) and the IEEE (Strategic Panorama 2016).

We have been equally active in using the Internet and social media for communication purposes. Spain's Diplomatic Information Office published

weekly information bulletins at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website (<http://www.exteriores.gob.es>). Furthermore, Spain's major public statements were made available to the readers on this website and on that of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations. Marca España (Brand Spain) set up a portal devoted to our work as part of the Security Council and called Nuestra mejor marca (Our Best Brand, available at <http://marcaespana.es/espana-en-el-consejo-de-seguridad-de-la-onu>). Spain also produced the video *Cuatro cifras para la humanidad* (Four figures for humanity) about the drafting and adoption process of Resolution 2286 on the protection of medical and humanitarian personnel in armed conflicts.

Regular meetings were held with the press, think tanks and NGOs. Conferences were delivered at universities and associations in Madrid, Santiago de Compostela, Vitoria, Pamplona, Zaragoza, Brugge, Santander and Barcelona.

Our commitment to transparency with the international community materialized in briefing sessions for the diplomatic corps and in consultations with a large number of countries during our two-year term (Algeria, Austria, Bolivia, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Slovenia, Sweden, United States of America, and many others).



INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY HAS BEEN ONE OF THE HALLMARKS OF SPAIN'S TERM.

5

NEW OBJECTIVES

*Civil population
in Juba, South
Sudan. © UN
Photo/ JC
McIlwaine*

Spain held an International Seminar on the role of the victims in the fight against terrorism in June 2016. © MAEC/ Javier Hernández



We aim to keep up the momentum of the past two years and to consolidate our country as an increasingly relevant actor in the international scene. Spain's priorities for action include but are not limited to:

1. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

We will continue to defend and uphold the values, purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and International Humanitarian Law, ensuring that they are respected and complied with across all areas.

We will actively participate in the development of International Law through the adoption of new instruments in areas such as humanitarian assistance, non-proliferation and disarmament, the fight against terrorism, cybersecurity and the protection of the environment.

We will continue to strengthen the principle of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and will actively participate in the Group of Friends and the Global Network of R2P Focal Points. We will keep supporting the International Criminal Court in its fight against impunity of the gravest crimes, on the basis of the principle of complementarity with national jurisdictions.

2. PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Spain will reaffirm its commitment to conflict prevention by promoting the use of diplomatic channels, especially mediation. This is a key instrument for conflict prevention and settlement that must be based on local ownership and include the civil society and women.

We will continue to promote the Initiative on Mediation in the Mediterranean together with Morocco and other partners.

We will work to strengthen the preventive role of the Alliance of Civilizations along its four priority areas: education, youth, migration and media.

We will host meetings between religious leaders in the service of mutual understanding and peace.

3. NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

In accordance with our National Security Strategy, we will continue to fight against the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons falling into the hands of non-state actors and terrorist groups.

We will uphold non-proliferation initiatives through relevant UN forums, especially the First Committee of the UNGA and the Group of Friends of Resolution 1540. We will continue working on non-



WE AIM TO CONSOLIDATE AS A RELEVANT ACTOR IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

proliferation through organizations, initiatives and export control regimes such as the IAEA, the OPCW, the OSCE, the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Australia Group, among others.

4. FIGHTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM AND ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR VICTIMS

Spain will maintain a comprehensive approach in the international fight against terrorism, targeting radicalization, support for and membership in terrorist organizations, as well as their funding.

We will continue working for the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and for the completion of the international jurisdictional framework with the aim of preventing impunity.

We will stand for attaching the greatest importance to the voice of the victims given the delegitimizing effect that their testimonies and the preservation of their memories have on terrorist narratives.

We will strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, the European Union and regional organizations against terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking, drugs, cultural heritage and natural resources.

We will continue to promote the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the activity of the Group of Friends of the Victims of Terrorism.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS

Spain's priority and cross-cutting foreign policy goal is the respect for and the promotion of human rights.

We will continue to work hard for the abolition of the death penalty, non-discrimination based gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, the rights of people with disabilities, the human right to water and sanitation; and the relationship between corporations and human rights.

We will also promote social, economic and cultural rights; fight racism, xenophobia and hate crimes; and provide special support to human rights advocates.

These parameters set the framework of our candidacy to the Human Rights Council for the period 2018-2020.

6. WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Spain will further its commitment to the development of this agenda in collaboration with the civil society.

We will advocate for a growing participation of women in peace and peace-building processes, and work to reinforce gender units in peacekeeping operations.



Resolution 2240 enables to intercept in open sea off the shores of Libya vessels that were dedicated to human trafficking. In the picture, a migrant giving birth in the "Navarra" frigate in December 2016. © Spanish Army

We will continue to bolster the Network of Focal Points in order to promote the best practices at the international level.

We will support the fight against impunity in the face of sexual violence in conflicts.

7. WATER DIPLOMACY AND CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

We will do our best to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, two major milestones for multilateral diplomacy.

We will continue developing initiatives for efficient and sustainable water management and for cross-border cooperation, two factors that are essential to peacekeeping in regions with scarce water resources.

We will continue participating in the Water Strategy of the 5+5 Dialogue, the Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Ibero-American Water Directors Conference and the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace.

8. CYBERSECURITY

Spain will continue working for a secure and reliable international cyberspace that respects human rights.

We will stand for establishing global standards and for expanding the legal system to protect critical infrastructure. Furthermore, we will advocate for the development and promotion of best practices, and foster international channels of information, detection and response.

We shall promote the harmonization of national legislation and participate in international cooperation on cyber defense.

9. UN WORKING METHODS AND REFORM

We will encourage the UN to maintain the communication and accountability methods that Spain promoted in the Security Council, such as the "Toledo briefings".



WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND AND UPHOLD THE VALUES, PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.

We will advocate for the development of EUROOPEN, an informal and voluntary mechanism for the European Union and its Member States to jointly submit initiatives and positions to the Security Council.

We will continue to work for the reform of the United Nations, championing a more representative, efficient, transparent and responsible Security Council and a stronger, more streamlined General Assembly.

We will defend multilingualism to ensure a more even participation in international forums.

10. OTHER GLOBAL CHALLENGES TO OUR EXTERNAL ACTION

In addition to the issues that are intrinsically related to the scope of authority of the Security Council, other matters influence the global agenda and must be part of our external action priorities:

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Spain will fulfil our commitment to establish



Spain will keep working in the Sustainable Development Objectives. In the image, a view on the rice fields in Sapa, Vietnam. © UN Photo/ Kibae Park



Spain is working in the candidature for the UN Human Rights Council for the biennium 2018-2020. ©MAEC/ Javier Hernández

a cross-cutting roadmap that covers all areas of our external action. Based on the principles included in the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, we will also keep on ensuring that its social, economic and environmental aspects are applied universally.

We will maintain our evaluation and monitoring work within the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and keep our support up for the activities of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.

We will contribute to the development of initiatives aimed at highlighting the value of sustainability in different areas, such as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development in 2017. Furthermore, we will also pay particular attention to the situation of Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries, especially those of landlocked states.

Large movements of people (refugees and migrants)

Spain will actively and constructively participate in further preparation of the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees, as agreed in the New York Declaration of September 2016, and will work on structuring safe, orderly and regular migratory flows.

We will support the United Nations management and coordination efforts, as well as the humanitarian activities of its agencies.



SPAIN REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO CONFLICT PREVENTION THROUGH DIPLOMACY AND THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE.

We will address the root causes of large movements of people, whilst favoring the stabilization and economic development of their origin countries.

His Majesty the King of Spain at the family picture on the occasion of the launch event of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism, held in El Pardo palace in January 2017. © EFE/Fernando Alvarado

A seat on the Security Council symbolizes an ideal opportunity to enhance a country's position and its international reputation. Spain drew practical lines of action for the term 2015-2016, which we have followed over our two years of service. We have worked with commitment, perseverance and dynamism in favor of international peace and security, so this legacy should increase our influence and expand the visibility of our national brand Marca España.

6

CONCLUSIONS



As a country that has left its mark in world history, expectations and demands on our external action must be high. Spain assumed its Security Council mandate with this conviction, which will continue to guide and shape our efforts to build a fairer, humanitarian and solidary world.





SPAIN2015-2016
NON-PERMANENT MEMBER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL



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