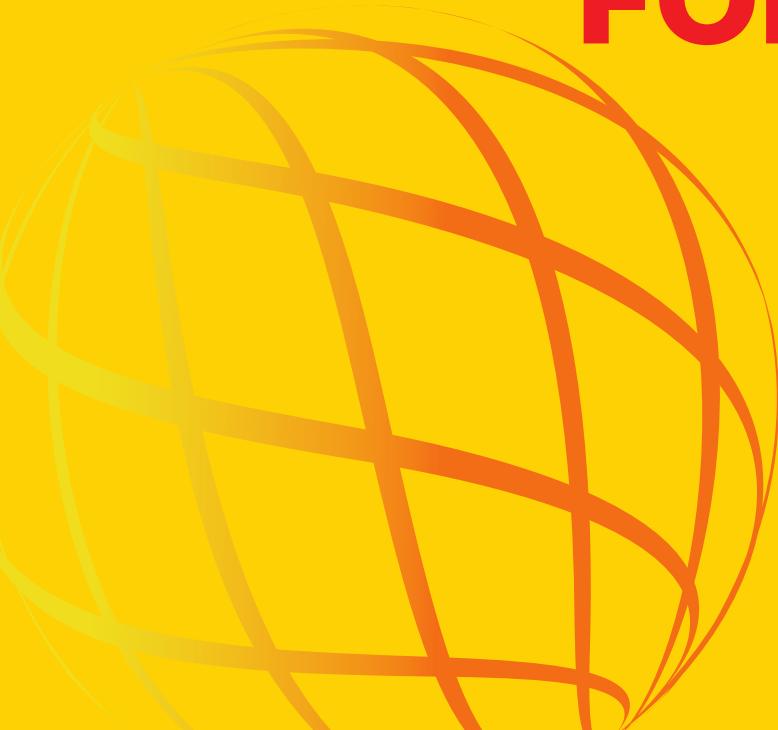




**SPAIN2015-2016**  
NON-PERMANENT MEMBER  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL

SPAIN IN THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL:  
**REVIEW OF  
2015 AND  
PRIORITIES  
FOR 2016**





*Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain listen to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, speaking at the Royal Palace on October 29, 2015, during the official ceremony on the occasion of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the entry of Spain into the United Nations.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

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One year after Spain was elected to the United Nations Security Council, it now seems appropriate to take stock of the implementation of the priorities outlined in our programme, published in January 2015, and to assess our priorities in the light of experience.

This paper has two aims. First, bearing in mind our programme, to review the results obtained during 2015. Second, to present the objectives for 2016 These goals do not reflect new priorities, but develop the programme for action, which remains fully applicable.

After the Spanish general election in December 2015, a new government must be formed and take office. During this period, Spain must continue to contribute to the work of the Security Council. Conflicts and terrorism will not take a break. We will exercise our responsibility with determination, as the international community expects and society demands.

This Review is published in compliance with the duty to inform the Spanish people of the results and the objectives of our presence in the Security Council. It also fulfils our commitment to provide the UN wide membership with detailed information about the accomplishments of our service. It is, in short, the outcome of the pledge to transparency that inspires our mandate.

## 2. REVIEW OF 2015

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2015 has been an intense and fruitful year for international diplomacy. The agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris agreement on climate change are among the major achievements of this period.

In 2015, the United Nations celebrated its 70th anniversary. To mark this occasion, Spain promoted and achieved the adoption of a General Assembly Resolution to renew the commitment of all UN Member States to uphold the values, purposes and principles of the Charter of San Francisco.

Spain celebrated its 60 years as a member of the United Nations in a ceremony presided over by their Majesties King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, with the participation of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The UN Association of Spain published a book setting forth the Spanish outlook on the United Nations.

The Security Council concluded many important agreements in 2015. This year may be considered the most productive in the Council since the outbreak of the war in Syria in 2011, not only in terms of the number of Resolutions adopted, 63 in all, but due to their major significance in many cases. Chief among them are the following:

- Resolution 2202, endorsing the Minsk agreements on Ukraine.
- Resolution 2210, promoted by Spain in its capacity as Security Council penholder for Afghanistan, renewing the mandate of UNAMA, the UN Mission in that country.
- Resolution 2231, incorporating the agreement on the Iranian nuclear programme.
- Resolution 2235, on the creation of the Joint Investigative Mechanism to establish accountability in the use of chemical weapons in Syria.
- Resolution 2240, adopted under the Spanish presidency of the Security Council, which enables the inspection of and, if necessary, action against vessels engaged in the smuggling of migrants and in human trafficking in the Mediterranean off the coast of Libya.



*The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Minister of Interior and the President of the Victims of Terrorism Foundation at a photo exhibition in New York, following their participation in the session of the Security Council dedicated to the victims of terrorism, held in October 2015.*

- Resolution 2242, which develops the revised agenda on women, peace and security.
- Resolution 2249, authorising the use of all means necessary to fight Daesh and other terrorist organisations.
- Resolutions 2199 and 2253, reinforcing measures to combat the financing of terrorism.
- Resolution 2254, which lays the foundation for an inclusive political settlement in Syria.
- Resolution 2258, renewing the framework for the provision of humanitarian assistance in Syria.
- Resolution 2259, which endorses the agreement signed in Skhirat (Morocco) by representatives of the Libyan factions in conflict and paves the way for a future Libya under the direction of a government of national unity.

Spain has played an active role in facilitating many of these resolutions. We have also been involved in other areas of considerable importance. We are the only country of the 15-member Council to have been represented at ministerial level in all the high-level debates held in 2015.

Spain has also conducted an intense level of activity in chairing three Security Council committees: 1540 (to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction); 1737 (on sanctions against Iran); and 1718 (on sanctions against

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea). Each of these committees, in its area of attention, has contributed to making the world safer.

Following the order of priorities set out in our programme, some of the major contributions made by Spain in its membership of the Security Council during 2015 can be listed as follows.

## 3. LINES OF ACTION

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### ||||||| 3.1. PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

- We have promoted mediation and preventive diplomacy as fundamental tools for the effectiveness of the Security Council. In March, we organised a seminar on the role of regional organisations in mediation in the Mediterranean region. This was followed by a meeting of religious leaders in Barcelona in July. Moreover, we called for a new Madrid Conference to be held in order to relaunch the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.
- In June, Madrid hosted the Fifth Meeting of the Global Network of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Focal Points, on new challenges and threats to vulnerable communities. The findings of this Meeting were reported to the General Assembly and the Security Council. In December, in conjunction with Chile, we convened a meeting of the Security Council ("Arria Formula"), open to other Member States and to civil society, on the relationship between R2P and non-State actors. This was the first meeting that the Security Council devoted to R2P.
- We have called for restrictions to be placed on the use of the right to veto, because this mechanism can result in inaction in situations that require urgent measures by the Security Council. Spain has supported the initiative proposed by France and Mexico on voluntary restraint in the use of the veto by the Security Council permanent members with respect to mass atrocity crimes, and has signed the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action, pledging not to vote against a draft resolution proposing action by the Council to end or to prevent acts of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.



*The Prime Minister of Spain, Mariano Rajoy, together with the Secretary General of the United Nations, during the Security Council meeting entitled "Women, Peace and Security" held on October 13, 2015.*

## ||||||| 3.2. PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING

- We have actively contributed to reviews conducted during 2015 of peace operations, the UN peacebuilding architecture and of the outcome of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In the latter respect, we have emphasised the need to enhance prevention, to strengthen the mandates and to adapt them to the circumstances on the ground, reinforcing the roles and leadership of women.
- We organised an informal meeting of the Security Council with the Lead Author of the Global Review of the Implementation of Resolution 1325 and with representatives of the review panels of UN peacekeeping operations and the peacebuilding architecture.
- Finally, Spain took part in the High-Level Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping Operations, which took place in September on the margins of the opening of the General Debate of the General Assembly, at which specific commitments were made.

## ||||||| 3.3. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

- Together with Jordan and New Zealand, Spain has led the efforts of the Security Council on the humanitarian aspect of the conflict in Syria. Resolution 2258 is the most notable result of this work, but not the only one; in April, the

Security Council issued a Presidential Statement on the situation of Syrian refugees.

- During 2015, the UN Security Council interacted constantly with civil society to address issues concerning the protection of civilians and on the upholding of international humanitarian law.
- We have defended the generalised reinforcement of mandates and of language concerning the protection of civilians, with particular emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, on women and children.
- We have taken part in various Security Council debates in this respect, at which parliamentarians have attended, and our interventions have included contributions from stakeholders (associations of journalists, for example, in the debate held in May on the protection of journalists).
- After the earthquake in Nepal, we led the efforts to adopt General Assembly Resolution A/69/280, to provide urgent assistance to the survivors and to begin reconstruction. Widespread consensus was achieved, and the Resolution was co-sponsored by 127 countries.

### 3.4. HUMAN RIGHTS

- We have argued that the Security Council should devote attention to human rights issues, for example in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- Together with the United Kingdom, we have advocated a high-level review of Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and we have campaigned for the Secretariat and the Member States to commit themselves more strongly in this respect.
  - The Council debate on this issue, chaired by the Prime Minister of Spain, had an unprecedentedly high level of participation.
  - The Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2242, which supersedes Resolution 1325 and paves the way for the full participation of women in peacebuilding; furthermore, it identifies new challenges, such as the impact and role of women in the fight against terrorism, and firmly establishes the renewed commitment of the UN system and of the Council to the underlying issues of Women, Peace and Security.



*The delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Congress during their meeting with the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations that took place in New York on May 27, 2015, on the occasion of their attendance to the Security Council debate on protection of journalists in armed conflicts.*

- The participants made specific pledges with a view to accelerating the implementation of their obligations in this matter.
- Spain announced its commitment to update the national plan, to upgrade training and to adopt a policy of zero tolerance regarding sexual violence. Spain also pledged to assign one million euros to various initiatives favouring the agenda on Women, Peace and Security, including Resolution 2242.

### **||||||| 3.5. NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT**

- Spain currently chairs the 1540 Committee on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among non-State actors. This instrument is essential to the overall architecture of non-proliferation and the fight against terrorism. Spain has contributed to the effective implementation of Resolution 1540. We have worked for its universal application and we have actively coordinated with States and international organisations, and have played an active part in non-proliferation initiatives and mechanisms. We have strengthened contacts with civil society, companies, parliamentarians and academia, and laid the foundations for the Global Review of this Resolution, which is currently taking place.
- Spain has also chaired the 1737 Iran Sanctions Committee, with responsibility for ensuring its continuing activity and for monitoring the enforcement of sanctions. In this respect, Spain has contributed to the viability of the nuclear agreement with Iran. In July, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2231, endorsing the nuclear agreement and stipulating that sanctions should be lifted after verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran has fulfilled its commitments to the international community regarding the transparency and civil nature of its nuclear programme. When the sanctions



regime was suspended on 16 January 2016, Spain was elected to be the Security Council Facilitator for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of Resolution 2231. This election acknowledges the effectiveness of Spain's efforts in this sphere.

- The sense of responsibility has also underpinned Spain's actions in chairing the 1718 Committee on sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

### ||||||| **3.6. COMBATING TERRORISM**

- Spain organised a Special Meeting in Madrid of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) on foreign terrorist fighters, at which the Madrid Guiding Principles were adopted. This event was followed by a Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior from over eighty countries, which was inaugurated by the Spanish Prime Minister and concluded with the adoption of a Ministerial Statement in support of the CTC's role in stopping the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.
- Spain brought the voice of the victims of terrorism to the Security Council by organising a meeting, in October 2015, co-chaired by the Spanish Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and of the Interior and by the US Permanent Representative to the UN. Victims of terrorism from diverse backgrounds gave their testimony, delegitimising the narrative of terrorism and representing a factor mobilising society against terrorist barbarism.
- Spain has contributed to the adoption of Resolution 2249, concluded after the attacks in Paris, which calls upon States to use all means to fight the terrorism

of Daesh and other terrorist groups and to eradicate their sanctuaries in Iraq and Syria, and to that of Resolution 2253, which adapts and strengthens the mandate of Resolution 1267 concerning the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and adds Daesh to the sanctions list.

- To combat impunity, Spain and Romania have promoted an initiative to create an International Court against Terrorism.

### **3.7. NEW GLOBAL CHALLENGES TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

- In conjunction with Malaysia, we organised a Security Council meeting on “The role of climate change as a threat multiplier for global security”. Representatives of civil society in countries of the Sahel and the Pacific that have been especially affected by climate change spoke before the Council.
- In meetings with the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), we shared our experience in dealing with natural disasters and with health and water-related issues.

### **3.8. SECURITY COUNCIL WORKING METHODS**

- We are honouring our commitments in terms of transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the Security Council. Under its presidency in October, Spain organised an open debate which gave rise to a Presidential Statement, the first in several years in this respect. Furthermore, we compiled and distributed a set of proposals expected to be useful for the future.
- We have sought to achieve the highest possible degree of transparency while respecting the confidentiality of Security Council deliberations. Thus, we have promoted accountability to the membership in formats that are more open and interactive than those used previously, creating a new format for monthly wrap-up sessions. In addition, we have held consultations with a large number of countries, including members and non-members of the Security Council. We have offered regular briefings to embassies accredited in Madrid and have extended this practice to other capitals; and we have dedicated special efforts to the European dimension, regularly informing the Member States, both in New York and in Brussels, and obtaining their opinions on outstanding issues regarding the Common Foreign and Security



*The Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, Román Oyarzún, addresses the media in New York in October 2015.*

Policy, in accordance with the stipulations of Article 34 of the Treaty on European Union.

- We have enhanced the representativeness of the Security Council, by promoting the inclusion in its works of countries with a special interest in the subject under discussion. For example, on the subject of climate change, Spain organised a meeting in March with the Pacific Small Island Developing States and related countries so as to study options on how the Council should address climate change as a threat to global peace and security.
- We have promoted joint interventions, under a mechanism known as the Toledo Formula.

## 4. GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

### ||||| 4.1. MIDDLE EAST

#### **The Peace Process**

Spain has proposed that a new International Peace Conference, Madrid II, be held, in order to reactivate the peace process launched at the Madrid Conference, and after the model of Madrid I, consisting of a bilateral track, with conversations between the relevant parties, and a multilateral track, accompanied by the international community.

## **Syria**

Beyond leading the humanitarian dossier together with Jordan and New Zealand, in June we co-chaired with France an open meeting on the indiscriminate use of weapons against civilian population in Syria, including the use of barrel bombs. In December, Spain led the adoption of Resolution 2258, which renews for one year the authorisation of UN cross-border operations to distribute humanitarian aid without the consent of the Syrian authorities. Spain worked hard to ensure that this Resolution would reflect the urgency of addressing certain priorities of protection, such as medical and school neutrality, and humanitarian access to besieged areas.

Spain has also supported the work of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to achieve a cessation of violence, thus opening the way to dialogue. In December, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2254, requesting the Secretary-General to bring together representatives of the government and of the opposition to initiate urgent negotiations on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué, and called for a ceasefire in parallel with the political process.

## **Iraq**

In July, the Security Council renewed the mandate of UNAMI (Resolution 2233) and welcomed the Secretary General's recommendation to prioritise and review the tasks of the Mission, jointly with the Government of Iraq.

## **Lebanon**

In August, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNIFIL (Resolution 2236). Spain has stated its readiness to lead this force.

In January, corporal Francisco Javier Soria died in action in the Blue Line demarcation area. At the request of Spain, the Security Council issued a press statement condemning his death and calling for an immediate, complete and thorough investigation to be conducted by UNIFIL to determine the facts and circumstances of the incident.

## **Yemen**

In Resolution 2201, adopted in February, the Security Council called on both sides to resolve their differences through dialogue. In Resolution 2216, the Security Council again demanded that the parties refrain from taking further



*Security Council Resolution 2201 called on the parties to resolve the conflict in Yemen through dialogue.*

unilateral actions that could undermine the political transition in Yemen and called on them to fulfil their obligations under international law. Spain contributed to strengthening the language of this Resolution, with respect to the rapid, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel.

## **Iran**

Resolution 2231, sponsored and adopted unanimously by the members of the Security Council, represents a triumph of diplomacy and contributes to creating a safer world by endorsing the nuclear agreement with Iran. Moreover, it is a positive factor for stability in the Middle East and in the fight against terrorism.

## **||||||| 4.2. NORTH AFRICA**

### **Libya**

We strongly support the mediation efforts of the Special Representatives of the UN Secretary General and have contributed to the adoption of Resolutions such as 2214 on combating terrorism in Libya and 2240, aimed at saving the lives of migrants and victims of human trafficking by criminal organisations operating on the high seas off the coast of Libya. In December, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2259, which supports the Libyan Political Agreement facilitated by the UN, which was signed on 17 December in Skhirat (Morocco) by members of the two rival parliaments and representatives of political parties, municipalities and civil society.

In 2014, Resolution 2174 imposed an arms embargo on Libya. In February 2015, the government based in eastern Libya requested an exemption from this embargo in order to acquire a long list of military equipment. Spain, supported by United Kingdom, New Zealand, France, Angola, the United States, Lithuania and Chile, rejected this request, in view of the risk of an escalation of clashes in the Libyan civil war, which would have thwarted the political negotiations sponsored by the United Nations.

### **Western Sahara**

Spain has continued to support UN efforts to achieve a political, fair, lasting and mutually acceptable solution that will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in the framework of arrangements that are consistent with the aims and principles of the UN Charter. Among other aspects, this support consisted of providing the Secretary General's Personal Envoy with a Spanish Air Force aircraft to facilitate his travel, and providing the necessary funding for a security coordinator to complement the UN structure in security issues in Tindouf.

Spain emphasises the need to maintain the international financial support indispensable to ensure the continuity of essential humanitarian projects in the camps and has made major contributions in this respect; thus, Spain was the leading bilateral donor in 2015.

In April 2015, Resolution 2218 renewed the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for one year.

## **||||||| 4.3. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

### **Guinea-Bissau**

In February, under Resolution 2203, the Security Council renewed the mandate of UNIOGBIS for one year. In response to the deteriorating political situation, Spain actively participated in the preparation by the Security Council of three press statements calling for dialogue, national reconciliation and respect for national constitutional order.

### **Mali/Sahel**

After the peace agreement of 20 June, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2227, extending the mandate of MINUSMA for one year and adapting it to better



*The King of Spain Felipe VI during his speech at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.*

equip the Mission to accompany the peace process through the verification of the ceasefire and good offices. The Resolution includes the increase of personnel in 40 military observers and the possibility to consider sanctions against those who might hinder or jeopardize the implementation of the peace agreement, or those who might break the ceasefire or threat MINUSMA.

### **Central African Republic**

In April, under Resolution 2217, the Security Council renewed for one year the mandate of MINUSCA. In view of the serious deterioration of the security situation, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement in October in support of the transition process led by the Acting President.

### **Somalia**

In October and November, the Security Council adopted three key decisions to contribute to the transition process and to achieve stability in Somalia. Resolution 2245, establishing the UN Support Office in Somalia (UNSO), with a reformulated mandate to contribute to the mission of AMISOM, UNSOM and the Somali armed forces working jointly with AMISOM; Resolution 2246, on the renewal of measures to combat piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia (Spain contributed to this Resolution with the introduction of new language on illegal fishing); and finally, Resolution 2244, which renewed the sanctions regime and humanitarian exemptions.

## **Great Lakes Region**

### ► **Burundi**

Resolution 2248, adopted in November, condemned the violence and incitement to hatred in Burundi, supported the efforts of the African Union and the mediation of the East African Community and endorsed the Secretary General's appointment of a Special Adviser on Conflict Prevention, with particular emphasis on Burundi. Spain has supported all efforts by the international community and by organisations and countries in the region to stop the violence in the country and to seek a negotiated solution to the crisis. Spain proposed that the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide should intervene in an open Council meeting to discuss the risks posed by the violent situation in Burundi.

### ► **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Resolution 2211, adopted in March, extended for one year the mandate of MONUSCO and the Intervention Brigade, endorsed the strategic review of MONUSCO and urged the Government and all parties to work to establish an environment conducive to the free, clean, credible, inclusive, transparent and peaceful course of the electoral process and to respect the timescales stipulated in the Congolese Constitution. At Spain's proposal, the Resolution includes strengthened language on the responsibility to protect.

## **Sudán/Sudán del Sur**

In May, Resolution 2230 was adopted, extending the UNISFA mandate until December. In that month, under Resolution 2251, the mandate was again extended until May 2016. At the request of Spain, references to Resolution 2242 were included in the paragraphs on issues concerning Women, Peace and Security.

## **South Sudan**

Under the Spanish presidency, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2241, which renewed the UNMISS mandate and adapted it to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreement. In December, under Resolution 2252, the Security Council extended the UNMISS mandate until July 2016 and increased its strength. At the request of Spain, a reference to Resolution 2242 was included in the paragraph on issues concerning women, peace and security.



*The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain addresses the media after chairing a debate on the Middle East at the Security Council.*

## ► Darfur

In June, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2228, extending the UNAMID mandate for one year and endorsing its revised strategic priorities: the protection of civilians, the facilitation of humanitarian assistance and the safety of humanitarian personnel, the mediation between the Sudanese Government and the armed movements that have not signed the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and the support to mediation in community conflicts.

## ||||||| 4.4. THE AMERICAS

### Haiti

In October, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2243, renewing the MINUSTAH mandate for one year. Spain believes that the role of MINUSTAH continues to be essential as a guarantee to ensure the development and the security conditions that will enable a transparent, free and fair electoral process, and the support to the efforts of the international community to achieve a peaceful political transition that will consolidate democratic institutions in the country. Therefore, Spain supports the renewal of this mandate for another year and maintaining the current number of authorised personnel, as recommended by the Secretary General.



## 4.5. EUROPE

### **Ukraine**

In the Security Council Spain has defended, without exceptions, the supremacy of international law and the principles of territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. We support the Minsk Agreement and Protocol and believe that the EU and the OSCE should play an active role in its implementation. In February, under Resolution 2202, the Security Council endorsed the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, and urged the parties to implement it fully, including the general ceasefire stipulated.

### **Cyprus**

In July, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2234 renewing the UNFICYP mandate until January 2016. This Resolution welcomed the resumption of negotiations between the two leaders on the island, enabled by a new, more favourable political climate, and encouraged the parties to seize this opportunity with determination.

### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Under Resolution 2247, adopted in November, the Security Council renewed the EUFOR-Althea mandate for one year, so that, in cooperation with the presence of the NATO headquarters, it may fulfil its main function of peace stabilisation in relation to the military aspects of the Peace Agreement.



## 4.6. ASIA

In the Security Council, Spain is the penholder on the situation in Afghanistan and is also a member of the Group of Friends of Afghanistan. In this capacity, Spain has facilitated the adoption of Resolution 2210, renewing the UNAMA mandate. In the context of the conclusion of the ISAF mission and the start of the Decade of Transformation in Afghanistan, Security Council members requested the Secretary General, in consultation with the Afghan Government and other major stakeholders, that he review the role, structure and activities of the United Nations in this country, with a view to the future revision of the mandate. In addition, the Security Council members called attention to various pending challenges, regarding issues such as security, political stability, the economic situation and human rights, which will set our course during 2016.

In December, the Spanish police officers Jorge García Tudela and Isidro Gabino Sanmartín, stationed at the Embassy of Spain in Kabul, were killed in the line of duty, by a Taliban attack. At the initiative of Spain, the Security Council issued a press statement of condemnation.

## 5. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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The mandate of Spain in the Security Council is a responsibility of State that requires broad political and parliamentary support. Simultaneously, we have paid special attention to the interaction with the media, think tanks, academia, NGOs and civil society in general. In this regard, we have focused on three main areas:

1. The consolidation of a consensus among all political forces, and the concept of our service in the Security Council as a project of State. In February, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation appeared before the Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committee to report on Spain's priorities, general guidelines and expectations as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

The Resolution passed in March, the two non-legislative proposals adopted in June and September by the plenary session of the Spanish Congress and the Senate's official statement on Women, Peace and Security, issued in July, are examples of parliamentary support for our work in the Security Council.

2. Interaction with civil society. The Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs have held meetings with think tanks, specialised journals, universities and Spanish NGOs to inform them of Spain's priorities and to take stock of the month-long Spanish presidency of the Security Council.
3. Public information, with the dual purpose of communicating the actions of our country in the Security Council and of promoting awareness of the role of the United Nations and the importance of multilateralism in the world today.

The Diplomatic Information Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has worked tirelessly to communicate the work performed by Spain in the Security Council and in other UN bodies and agencies, using both traditional instruments (communiqués, press releases, articles and interviews in the press and other media, briefings for journalists and opinion makers, and



book-length publications) and digital media (via the [www.maec.es](http://www.maec.es) website and social networks). The Ministry's website publishes a weekly summary of the Security Council activities and the Spanish positions.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Brand Spain, in coordination with the Directorate General for the United Nations and Human Rights, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, has created a webpage within the Brand Spain portal ([marcaespana.es](http://marcaespana.es)), which seeks to disseminate the multilateral dimension of Spain ("Spain in action") and to reinforce the image of Spain as a committed and reliable member of the international community, emphasising the notion of accountability which is highlighted in the campaign "Spain delivers".

## 6. PRIORITIES FOR 2016

In continuation of the list of programme priorities for Spain's mandate in the Security Council, published in January 2015, the following goals have been established for the second half of our term, during 2016.

## ||||||| **6.1. PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY**

- Mediation will continue to be one of the hallmarks of Spain's foreign policy, especially in the Mediterranean. The Spanish-Moroccan Initiative for Mediation in the Mediterranean (Med/Med) will continue to promote mediation as an instrument of preventive diplomacy.
- We will support UN mediation efforts in response to threats to international peace and security, especially the mediation conducted in the Middle East Peace Process, and in Syria and Libya.
- In the Security Council, we will continue to champion the perspective of the Responsibility to Protect.
- We will continue working to include the gender perspective in our prevention endeavours. Episodes of sexual violence may be indicative of an imminent crisis.
- We will encourage Security Council presidencies to dedicate more time and effort to maintaining direct contacts with policymakers in countries where peace might be at stake.

## ||||||| **6.2. PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING**

- We will again coordinate the renewal of the UNAMA mandate in March, seeking to adapt it to the needs of Afghanistan in the second year of the Decade of Transformation.
- Special attention will be paid to the Sahel, a region of priority interest to Spain and one reflecting many of the issues we have identified as being of major concern for our action in the Security Council, including terrorism fuelled by religious extremism; organised crime; climate change and water as factors threatening peace and security; trafficking related to weapons of mass destruction; and sexual violence and the lack of participation of women. We will promote initiatives to counter these threats.
- Libya, Western Sahara, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Ukraine, the conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi, as well as the need to continue helping to stabilise Haiti, are also areas of preferential attention.



*The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain during his meeting with the future Prime Minister of Libya, Faiz Serraj, in December 2015 in Morocco.*

- We will contribute to the consolidation of peace in Colombia by actively participating in the preparation of supportive statements by the Council and in the implementation of agreements that incorporate the Colombian Government's standpoint.

### **||||| 6.3. PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW)**

- In view of the growing number of attacks against hospitals and medical personnel in conflict areas, contravening the most basic rules of international humanitarian law, Spain is working on an initiative on health care in areas of armed conflict, which we will present to the Security Council, seeking to end these attacks, to protect medical personnel, their facilities and means of transport and to ensure access to health services in conflict situations.
- We will continue exerting co-leadership in the humanitarian dossier in Syria. We will uphold the principles of neutrality and access to medical attention and emphasise the need for accountability, especially when massive atrocities are committed.
- If the hoped-for progress is achieved in the implementation of the recently-adopted Resolution 2254 on Syria's political transition, we will seek to negotiate a resolution on post-conflict reconstruction.

- In regard to the humanitarian situation in Yemen, we are willing to assume a responsibility similar to that adopted in the case of Syria. In general, we will work actively for the Council to contribute to alleviating humanitarian crises in all areas of conflict.
- We will actively participate in the implementation of Resolution 2242 on Women, Peace and Security, in particular as regards humanitarian issues and the fight against terrorism.

## ||||||| 6.4. HUMAN RIGHTS

- We will continue to fight against the violation of human rights, especially those of women and children caught up in armed conflicts.
- We will continue to work for the inclusion of the gender perspective in the prevention and protection tasks performed by the Security Council, and defend the need for the empowerment and participation of women in conflict resolution and in post-conflict phases.
- We will extend our endeavours to respond to the needs of women and girls in each of the countries addressed in the Security Council agenda, through the creation of an informal group of experts on Women, Peace and Security (under Resolution 2242). Spain will co-chair this group, together with the United Kingdom.
- We will work to create a network of focal points on Women, Peace and Security.
- We have been chosen as the focal point of the caucus of the Security Council members that are parties to the Statute of Rome. As such, in the Council we will continue to support the fight against impunity and the work of the International Criminal Court, and seek avenues of cooperation between the Security Council and the ICC.

## ||||||| 6.5. NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

- During the Spanish Presidency in December, we will work for the adoption of a Resolution to develop and renew Resolution 1540 on preventing the



**Spain will continue working on peacekeeping and peacebuilding.**

proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and on combating new threats in this regard. This new Resolution will incorporate essential elements of the Global Review process, which must be completed before December 2016.

- We will continue to promote the work of the 1540 Committee in its work to ensure the implementation of the Resolution, the provision of support, cooperation and information, and the organisation of outreach activities.
- Special efforts will be addressed to States that have not yet submitted their national reports on compliance with Resolution 1540, so that they do so during 2016.
- In January 2016, the 1737 Committee concluded its work. The Security Council has appointed Spain as “Facilitator” of the new functions that Resolution 2231 requires of the Council concerning Iran’s implementation and fulfilment of the commitments made concerning its nuclear programme. We will exercise this responsibility with the same diligence with which we chaired the 1737 Committee, seeking to ensure that the new framework is governed not only by rigour, but also by certainty and transparency.
- We will be especially diligent in directing the work of the 1718 Committee on sanctions against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, working in particular to prevent any activity related to nuclear weapons.



## 6.6. COMBATING TERRORISM

- In the Security Council, we will make good use of Spain's experience in the fight against terrorism, placing special emphasis on respect for the rule of law and human rights.
- We will work for the adoption of a Presidential Statement on the role of victims, as a continuation of the informal session which took place in October 2015.
- We will convene a meeting to continue promoting the initiative of an International Court against Terrorism, in order to combat impunity.
- We will pay special attention to the protection of heritage and to combating the trafficking in cultural goods. We will strive to ensure that those whose actions put our heritage in jeopardy are brought to justice.
- We will continue working closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee to make it more effective, particularly as regards the issues addressed at the Madrid meeting on foreign terrorist fighters.
- We will work to enhance the UN approach on the judicial aspects of the fight against terrorism.
- We will enhance our coordination against terrorism in the Mediterranean area, in close collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean and the Executive Directorate of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee.



## 6.7. NEW GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- We will explore the possibility of the Security Council adopting a text on climate change.
- We will also seek a specific Security Council session on the relationship between water and security.
- We will work with a view to organising a session on cybersecurity.

# ESPAÑA EN EL CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD DE NACIONES UNIDAS 2015-2016

## NUESTRA MEJOR MARCA

ESPAÑA ACTÚA

ESPAÑA CUMPLE

DOCUMENTACIÓN

*Web banner developed by Marca España to disseminate the work of Spain in the Security Council.*

## ||||||| 6.8. SECURITY COUNCIL WORKING METHODS AND ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

- We will continue to advocate for a rational time management in the Council, in order to achieve greater effectiveness, and to consolidate and introduce new formulas that increase its interaction with all members of the Organisation. To this end, we will actively participate in the activities of the Informal Working Group on documentation and other procedural questions, focusing particularly on questions of implementation and transparency.
- We will participate in the process of selecting a new Secretary-General to succeed Ban Ki-moon, whose second and final term expires on 31 December 2016. The selection process for the ninth Secretary General will be different from the previous ones, being more open to the participation and influence of the entire membership. Spain is committed to achieving the greatest possible transparency in the selection of candidates by the Security Council and, in line with Resolution <sup>69/321</sup> of the General Assembly in September 2015, to promoting an equitable geographic distribution, based on gender balance. We will favour women candidates and hearings for all candidates. The goal is to select the best candidate, preferably a woman.

## ||||||| 6.9. EXIT STRATEGY

- We will work to create an “exit strategy” to consolidate Spain among the major players on the international stage, as a tangible outcome of Spain’s service on the Council during this biennium.
- By 1 January 2017, we hope to have a greater presence than we had on 31 December 2014. When we leave the Council, we must strive to keep Spain

among the group of countries with a respected voice on the international stage.

- This ambition is perfectly compatible with our unwavering support for a common European foreign and security policy, which in these years of uncertainty should be complemented by the coherent and consistent action of its Member States.
- Therefore, at the appropriate time a roadmap should be drafted for action in 2017 and following years, underpinned by the achievements of our term in the Council and the exercise of the Security Council mandate on the basis of our External Action Strategy.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

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Serving in the Security Council provides a valuable opportunity to enhance a country's international reputation. The programme presented at the outset of our mandate will continue to guide our work throughout 2016.

Spain is expected to play a meaningful role during its mandate, consistent with its history, potential and international profile. To fulfil this duty we must all continue working together, as we did in 2015, with some remarkable results. We will do our best to achieve significant outcomes with which both individuals and institutions can feel rightfully satisfied.

