

**JOINT STATEMENT  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE VISIT OF THE AMIR OF THE STATE QATAR  
HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL THANI  
TO THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN  
May 17 – 18 2022**

**Qatar and Spain: A new Strategic Partnership**

Upon the invitation of His Majesty King Felipe VI, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, carried out a **state visit** to the Kingdom of Spain on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. This historic visit marked the celebration of the **50th anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Qatar and Spain.

During this visit, His Highness the Amir met with His Majesty the King and with the President of the Government, Mr. Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, where both sides exchanged views on international, regional, and thematic topics of common interests.

His Highness the Amir and President Sánchez agreed to elevate the relations of the two friendly countries to a **new strategic partnership**, which will be developed through four lines of action: 1) a regular strategic dialogue on global and regional affairs; 2) an enhanced framework for investment, finance, trade and economic cooperation; 3) a reinforced system of cooperation in the fields of energy, defence, and education; and 4) the development of new avenues of collaboration on judicial issues, health, science and innovation. The agreements and memoranda signed during the state visit and referred to in this Joint Statement will pave the way for enhanced collaboration in the upcoming years.

**1. A regular strategic dialogue on global and regional affairs**

- Spain and Qatar agree to hold regular **strategic dialogue meetings** chaired by each state's Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other Ministers and authorities as relevant. These meetings, occurring on an annual basis, will follow up on the content of this Joint Statement and discuss global and regional issues in a spirit of mutual trust and full cooperation. The first strategic dialogue will take place in Qatar during the first half of 2023.
- Growing global challenges call for a **strengthened multilateral system**. Therefore, Spain and Qatar reiterate our unwavering support to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, in particular the respect of human rights and the prohibition of the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, as the basis for international relations. We commit to continue strengthening multilateralism with concrete initiatives in a time of heightened international tensions and conflicts.
- We need to contribute to stabilize the global economy and prevent negative repercussions of the current crises, in particular for developing and least developed countries, in order to preserve the progress achieved so far towards **Agenda 2030** and the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, Spain congratulated Qatar for chairing the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), held in New York in March 2022, and looks forward to the second part of the conference in Doha in 2023.
- President Sánchez praised the **leadership of Qatar** and the achievements made in the state's economic and social progress in recent years, as well as historical developments like the country's first Shura Council elections that took place last October, as well as the recently passed new labour laws benefiting foreign workers. He congratulated Qatar for hosting the **2022 FIFA World Cup**, the first edition ever

to be organized in an Arab country and one that implements innovative approaches for the organization and construction of stadiums and infrastructure. His Highness the Amir acknowledged the role Spain is playing through the Spanish National Police in cooperating for the security of such important occasion, and praised the Spanish architects that were awarded the design of some relevant buildings, such as the Education City Stadium and the 974 Stadium.

- Both countries reaffirm our commitment to promote joint efforts in combating the global **COVID-19** pandemic through accelerating vaccination campaigns in geographical areas that are lagging behind, and to step up international coordination for post-pandemic economic recovery. Spain acknowledged Qatar's efforts in repatriating stranded citizens during the first stage of the pandemic in 2020. Both Spain and Qatar feature prominently in the ranking of largest contributors to this effort, and both of them have made pledges to **COVAX**. In addition, Spain and Qatar have conducted similar successful vaccination campaigns, having both rapidly reached vaccinations rates of around 90 per cent of their respective populations. Both countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on health and medical science matters to reinforce our cooperation in this domain.
- President Sánchez expressed appreciation for **Qatar's active mediation efforts and its constructive** approach to in promotion of peace and reconciliation in some of the most entrenched conflicts such as in the Horn of Africa region.
- Spain recognized Qatar's role in fostering education globally, in particular through the Education Above All Foundation and its initiative of educating 10 million children in conflict zones whereas Qatar praised the efforts made by Spain to contribute to the universalisation of the Safe Schools Declaration and the implementation of its Guidelines to guarantee the protection of education from attack.
- His Highness the Amir also commended **Spain's leadership** and constructive role in the advancement of peace, security and stability through the support of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the focus on the Euro-Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Sahel and Latin America. He also highlighted Spain's role in the European Union, the G20, and the United Nations to promote effective multilateralism and committed solidarity, providing economic support to developing nations, delivering principled humanitarian aid, supporting the empowerment of women and youth at a global scale, and fighting against terrorism. His Highness also underscored the important role Spain will play as host of the 2022 NATO Summit in Madrid, and through the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second semester of 2023.
- The two leaders underscored their joint commitment to pursue the **fight against terrorism**, radicalisation, and extremism in all forms, including the financing of terrorism, which continues to be one of the biggest threats to international security. In this context, they emphasised the importance of the values of peace, moderation, coexistence and respect among people.
- Both leaders recognized the important work of the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations** (UNAoC) as a global platform for intercultural and interfaith cooperation that offers a variety of useful tools to address some of the current global challenges. Therefore, Qatar and Spain will remain solid partners of the UNAoC, supporting the efforts of the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, and his High Representative Miguel Ángel Moratinos in implementing the Alliance's Action Plan 2021-23. The UNAoC has great potential to be a leading actor in the Summit of the Future 2023 proposed by the Secretary General and reinvigorate the multilateral system.

- On **Ukraine**, Spain and Qatar recall United Nations General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 entitled “Aggression against Ukraine” of 2 March 2022. Both leaders reaffirm their commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in accordance with its internationally recognized borders and demand that the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine. Both countries urge the immediate resolution of the conflict through peaceful means and welcome the continued efforts by the Secretary-General, and the efforts by the member states to pass Resolution ES-11/1, which was cosponsored by both Spain and Qatar. Both countries call upon the parties to abide by the Minsk agreements, and to work constructively in relevant international frameworks, including in the Normandy format and Trilateral Contact Group, towards their full implementation. Both leaders expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and stressed their concern over the serious humanitarian and refugee crisis. They condemn all violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights, and call upon all parties to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law. Both countries also stressed the need to keep the humanitarian situation of those affected by violence, displaced persons and refugees as a top priority and provide the necessary assistance while adhering to the international principles for providing humanitarian assistance.
- With regard to **Iran**, both leaders agreed on the importance of a successful outcome of the current Vienna negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which would benefit regional stability and allow for addressing broader security concerns. President Sánchez welcomed Qatar’s diplomatic efforts to de-escalate tensions in the Gulf region and praised ongoing efforts to promote a gradual rapprochement between Gulf countries and Iran.
- Concerning **Yemen**, the two leaders stressed the importance of Yemen’s unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the need to put an end to the war based on the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, expressing their support to the mediation efforts led by the UN Special Representative and other international actors, including the GCC. They also reiterated their strong condemnation of the recent escalation of terrorist attacks by the Houthis against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- Stability in **Afghanistan** can only be reached through inclusivity and respect of basic human rights for all its citizens, including women and girls. Positive actions need to be taken by the interim authorities in order to redress the economic situation of the country that is still heavily dependent of international humanitarian aid. Both countries urge the current authorities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular women and girls’ rights to education, work, health and freedom of movement, as well as the rule of law and the freedom of the media. Both countries appeal to the international community to guarantee the continuity of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Access to food and medicines should be ensured to all Afghans without discrimination. In relation to Qatar’s efforts as a mediator in Afghanistan, President Sánchez expressed his appreciation for the evacuation of foreign nationals, foreign residents, and people in a vulnerable situation.
- Spain and Qatar welcomed the 26th Session of the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-European Union Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting**, held in Brussels in February 2022, and the fruitful progress in the strategic partnership between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union. Both leaders stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen relations and working together. A special mention was made by Spain on the need to resume the negotiations for the establishment of a Free Trade Agreement between the EU and the GCC as soon as possible.

- Both leaders reaffirmed their support to the two-state solution between Israel and **Palestine**, in accordance with international law and within the framework of internationally agreed parameters, as the only way to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories are illegal and constitute a serious obstacle to peace. Both parties agreed on the importance to work for a future relaunching of peace talks and in order to prevent new measures that could harm the two-state solution. Both countries commended UNRWA's role as an essential provider of vital services to millions of Palestinian refugees.
- The **climate crisis** constitutes a direct and existential threat to the global community and to human livelihoods, which thus necessitates strong and ambitious action by all countries. Both countries stressed the need for urgently stepping up action to fulfil the global climate change goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C, especially taking into account the outcomes of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. Both leaders noted the commitment of Spain to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and Qatar's goal to reduce emissions by 25% by 2030. With regards to adaptation, Spain and Qatar acknowledge the vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, as both are prone to extreme weather events, and are already experiencing longer, more frequent and intensive heat waves and droughts. Both countries are also vulnerable to sea level rise, which could affect critical infrastructures located in coastal areas. Both countries will work together with a view to ensure a successful outcome for COP28 that will take place in Egypt in 2027.

## 2. Building an enhanced framework for investment, finance, trade and economic cooperation

- Both leaders highlighted the opportunities that exist to increase Qatari investments in Spain and Spanish companies' interest in expanding their activities in Qatar. They welcomed the initiative of establishing an **investment partnership** through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between QIA and COFIDES that will enable the capitalisation of projects to broaden and deepen their working relationship and explore new investment opportunities. His Highness the Amir announced the willingness of Qatar to invest in Spain a total amount of 5 billion dollars (USD) over the next years.
- Willing to increase, facilitate and better secure bilateral investment flows, the leaders also praised the opening of negotiations to adopt an Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments (BIT, **Bilateral Investment Treaty**) that will promote and enhance further bilateral investment and business opportunities once in force.
- The two leaders also considered positively the importance and future impact of the Spanish Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, under the broader initiative Next Generation EU funds, which could also be the framework for future co-investment opportunities.
- The two leaders expressed their ambition to expand further their **economic** relationship and discussed opportunities for economic cooperation presented by new and emerging sectors, including new technologies, energy, biotechnology, healthcare and life sciences, agro technology, water and clean and renewable energy.
- Both leaders highlighted Qatar and Spain's important **trade** relationship, expressing their common desire to increase bilateral trade and take advantage of the big potential for growth.

- In such spirit, both leaders welcomed the organization of the **Business Forum**, which took place in Madrid on the occasion of the visit, aiming to help Business to Business contacts in order to promote innovation, trade, jobs and economic development both in Spain and Qatar.
- The signature of Memoranda between the Chambers of Commerce and between Business Associations will also contribute to expand bilateral **economic cooperation**.
- Both countries signed a Letter of Intent to strengthen cooperation in **the economic and financial** and technical fields in the framework of common interest and mutual benefit so that the interests of the two friendly countries are achieved.

### **3. Deepening our collaboration in energy, defence, education and sports**

- Spain and Qatar underlined the importance of stable, fruitful cooperation in the field of **energy and gas**, as Qatar is one of the main suppliers of gas to Spain. Qatar has always proved to be a responsible and reliable partner. Spain recognized the fundamental role Qatar plays in the current international energy crisis by contributing to gas output and helping to keep stable prices. Both leaders underlined the importance of promoting renewable energies, a field where Qatar recognized the Spanish leadership and experience.
- Spain and Qatar will enhance our relations in the field of **defence** after the establishment of a strategic partnership and the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding that includes possibilities for cooperation.
- Both leaders pointed out the importance of unlocking the full potential of **culture and sports** in the bilateral relation and agreed to work on the implementation of all possibilities included in the Cultural Cooperation Agreement as well as the Memorandum in Sports both, signed in February 2021. In this sense, both countries welcomed the forthcoming celebration of a **Year of Spain in Qatar**.
- Both sides welcomed the signing of the Agreement on **Education** that will complement the afore-mentioned in Cultural Cooperation. They also expressed their interest in promoting Spanish language learning opportunities in Qatar and in enhancing academic cooperation opportunities between universities.

### **4. Opening new avenues for cooperation in judicial matters, health, agriculture, tourism, science and innovation**

- Spain and Qatar underline the importance of an appropriate framework for **judicial collaboration**, supported by the Memorandum on Judicial Cooperation signed to enable faster communication and contacts between judicial authorities.
- Both leaders welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on **Health Cooperation and Medical Sciences**, where Spain and Qatar will have the opportunity to set out specific projects and cooperation experiences in a variety of fields, ranging from health care systems, exchanging information and experiences in the field of health programs, information systems and medical law, exchanging visits of health professionals, to encouraging graduate studies opportunities and specialized training programmes in the field of medicine for Qataris.
- Both sides agreed on bolstering their institutional ties in the field of **agriculture**. President Sánchez congratulated the Amir of Qatar for hosting the EXPO 2023 of the International Association of Horticultural Producers in March 2023.
- **Tourism** flows are important for economic, social and cultural exchanges, and Spain praised the growing number of Qatari tourists who visit Spain annually. Both

countries agreed to foster tourism cooperation to exchange experiences and intensify institutional ties.

- In line with their common objective to advance cooperation in priority sectors, Spain and Qatar have concluded a Memorandum on **Science and Innovation**, which will allow enhanced contacts in the field of research and development, including the exchange of researchers and scientist, workshops, scientific and technical meetings, conferences and common projects.

#### **Next meetings ahead and the way forward**

- The leaders recalled the importance of the next round of Strategic Dialogue, which will take place in Qatar in 2023, to be presided over by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and which shall continue the partnership between the two countries on global and regional issues of common interest in a spirit of mutual trust and full cooperation.
- In the spirit of this Joint Political Declaration, Spain and Qatar will update and expand the commitments assumed therein depending on the circumstances in order to continue further strengthening their bilateral relations.