

JOINT DECLARATION KENYA-SPAIN

Upon invitation of His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, made an official visit to the Republic of Kenya on 26 October 2022. This is the first visit to Kenya by a President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries fifty-seven years ago.

The visit took place at a pivotal moment, following the inauguration of H.E. President Dr. William Ruto. In this regard, H.E. President Sánchez took the opportunity to congratulate H.E. President Ruto for his election and assumption of office.

The two leaders held bilateral talks during which they reaffirmed the warm and productive relations between Kenya and Spain, characterized by shared values, strong economic links and a commitment to multilateralism and rules-based international order.

a) Towards stronger ties between Kenya and Spain

1. President Ruto and President Sánchez agreed that this visit should be instrumental in developing a permanent dialogue between both countries, building on the common principles and values of democracy, freedom, the rule of law, respect for human rights and the territorial integrity of States that both countries share.
2. President Sánchez conveyed that Africa is a priority for Spain's foreign policy, as reflected in the *Third Plan Africa, Focus Africa 2023* and *Horizon Africa Strategy*. Spain on the other hand advocates for strengthening ties with the continent by increasing mutually beneficial political and trade relations with sub-Saharan Africa.
3. The two leaders agreed on the need to develop a broad bilateral agenda, fostering political, economic and cultural cooperation. In this regard, the two Memoranda of Understanding in the areas of Education and health were signed by representatives of both countries.
4. The Kenyan side warmly welcomed the interest of Spanish companies in sectors of tourism, agriculture, infrastructure, water management and renewable energy. Both countries agreed on the need to continue working on those fields to promote the presence of Spanish companies, seeking to contribute to Kenya's sustainable, diversified, and inclusive economic development.

Both leaders expressed their commitment to strengthening economic and investment relations between the two countries. They appreciated that whereas bilateral flows have shown a very positive growth trend over the last decade, there is still significant room for improvement. The two leaders

noted that the renewal of the current Financial Protocol to be addressed by the two countries will add new funds to the kitty and will also modernize existing financing instruments, thus, facilitating the implementation of Kenya's priority projects by Spanish companies.

b) Fostering a strategic dialogue between the European Union and Africa

5. President Ruto and President Sánchez welcomed the Kenya-European Union Strategic Dialogue 2021 -2027 and committed themselves to working together under its framework for its successful implementation.
6. Both leaders recalled the holding of the Sixth European Union-African Union Summit, which took place in Brussels on February 2022, and reiterated their desire to nurture this partnership in the frame of a “Joint Vision for 2030”. President Sánchez committed to continue developing these objectives under the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, during the Second Semester of 2023.
7. They further welcomed the progress in the process of the Kenya-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement. In this regard, the two leaders look forward to resuming the negotiations within the framework of the joint EU-Kenya taskforce so that full implementation of the agreement can be achieved.

c) Facing Global Challenges Together

8. President Ruto and President Sánchez appreciated that Kenya and Spain share an unequivocal commitment to a rules-based international and multilateral order, and to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They noted that both countries uphold the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the protection of human rights, as cornerstones of peaceful coexistence between countries. The two leaders called for the immediate and peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, and highlighted their concern for the serious consequences of the conflict on food and energy security all around the world.
9. President Ruto and President Sánchez expressed concern over continuing threats to international peace and security, which included conflicts in the Horn of Africa region, the Great Lakes region, and the Sahel. They noted that these conflicts exacerbate human suffering, intensify the Triple Planetary Crisis, cause disorderly and unsafe migration and increase fragility of States. Both leaders emphasised the need for an effective rule-based multilateral system that was responsive to the current global challenges.
10. Similarly, President Ruto and President Sánchez expressed serious concerns over the unfolding global food crisis occasioned by the ongoing drought, unpredictable and severe weather patterns, global pandemics

and ongoing conflicts, which had adversely impacted the global supply chains.

11. To this end, the two leaders expressed support and welcomed the Black Sea Grain Initiative – among other similar initiatives by Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, aimed at addressing the global food crisis.
12. They emphasized their commitment to contributing to international peace and security, respect for democracy and human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability, digital transformation and the promotion of free trade. President Sánchez congratulated Kenya for its leadership during its term at the United Nations Security Council in 2021-2022. They also stressed that terrorism is one of the main causes of instability and insecurity at the global level, expressing their firm commitment to fight it in all its forms and manifestations.
13. The two leaders reaffirmed the shared commitment of Kenya and Spain to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter, and stated their firm support for the United Nations as the central element of an efficient multilateral system, able to deal with global challenges and threats after the painful effects of the COVID19 pandemic. They reiterated their commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.
14. Both leaders recognized that the climate emergency is the most serious challenge of our time. They noted that climate change has triggered a myriad of impacts that are increasingly becoming evident with dire consequences to livelihoods, ecosystems and the economy particularly in developing countries. The two leaders exchanged views on collective measures to address the global climate crisis and the need to increase global efforts in this regard, including concerted action to accelerate the clean energy transition while maintaining and enhancing energy security.
15. Both leaders agreed that the Paris Agreement is the right instrument to achieve the objectives of the fight against climate both in mitigation and adaptation, including accelerating global efforts to make financial flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.
16. President Ruto and President Sánchez committed to support the realization of a successful 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27) that will take place in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, from 6th to 18th November, 2022.
17. The two leaders expressed their shared concerns on the effect of climate crisis in the Horn of Africa as evident from the current drought facing the region and Kenya, in particular. They agreed on the need to promote effective measures for early warning, preparedness and adaptation, so as to increase global resilience to drought, supporting the creation of an International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA), expected to be launched

at COP 27, that may enable a more coordinated, collaborative and effective global response.

d) A shared vision of peace and prosperity in Africa

18. President Sánchez praised Kenya's commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability and promoting the integration and economic development of the African continent and the East African region in particular. President Ruto explained the importance that Kenya gives to its negotiation process for the Provisional Application to Kenya of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the East African Community and the European Unión.
19. President Sánchez welcomed the leadership of Kenya in promoting peace and security in the Horn of Africa, as well its reliable and committed participation in the African Union Missions in Somalia (AMISOM and ATMIS). President Sánchez also welcomed Kenya's leadership in promoting stability, peace, and security in the Great Lakes Region, notably through the Nairobi Process. President Ruto recognized the significant financial and human effort being made by Spain through its active participation in the various peacekeeping missions and operations deployed on the continent, which are a clear demonstration of Spain's commitment to international peace and stability.
20. President Ruto and President Sánchez agreed that the African Continental Free Agreement (ACFTA) is an essential pillar for economic recovery after the pandemic and a major milestone in African integration. They also agreed on the defence of international free trade, based on the respect for environmental sustainability. They expressed their willingness to conclude bilateral agreements to strengthen economic relations between the two countries within the framework of the ACFTA the EPA.

e) Conclusion

21. President Ruto accepted the invitation by President Sánchez to undertaken an official visit to Spain during dates to be mutually agreed through diplomatic channels.
22. The Governments of Kenya and Spain will adapt and update the commitments undertaken in this Joint Declaration, taking into account the circumstances, and with a view to continuing to strengthen bilateral relations.

Nairobi, October 26, 2022