



TRANSCRIPCIÓN

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DE GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, EN EL ACTO 'GOALKEEPERS' DE LA FUNDACIÓN BILL Y MELINDA GATES, JUNTO A BILL GATES, MELINDA FRENCH GATES, Y LA PRIMERA MINISTRA DE BARBADOS, MIA MOTTLEY

Nueva York, 21 de septiembre de 2022

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Dear Prime Minister Mottley, Melinda, Bill,
Dear friends,

I am very pleased to be here again at the Goalkeepers conference. So much has changed since 2019.

Over the past three years, the world has dealt with numerous crisis. As we were leaving behind the worst of COVID-19, the war in Ukraine started, shattering many of the prospects for recovery. Meanwhile, the climate emergency is not new, and we increasingly see its devastating impact on a daily basis.

The pandemic was a major setback on so many fronts. Children and teenagers around the world could not go to school for one or even two years. Many people were deprived of basic health services.

Millions of families struggled, and they continue to do so. Today many are worried about how to heat their homes and pay the bills at the end of the month.

Governments need to act, we need to act on many fronts simultaneously. But we cannot forget the targets we had set to ourselves for 2030. Which is why we need to redouble our efforts. In this regard, I am happy to announce that Spain will contribute 130 Million Euros for the next three years to the Global Fund, representing a 30% increase from our previous contribution in 2019.

International finances are essential for governments to tackle all these challenges, and we should ensure equitable access to it, as Prime Minister said. That is why we should prioritize the most vulnerable, regardless of abstract categories like the GDP per capita of a country – which can hide enormous inequality and poverty.

This time around, the world grasped the magnitude of the challenge. Our response to the COVID crisis has been very different from the financial crises in 2008.

I am referring to Spain, but also to the European Union as a whole, to the United States and international financial institutions in general. Mindsets changed, and with them changed the priorities.



So there is room for progress, if we continue building on the positive steps we have taken.

Last year, we approved an extraordinary issuance of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and took unprecedented steps to ensure that it benefits those who need it most.

Spain was very vocal about the need of doing so, and about the need to include vulnerable middle income countries in this mix.

This is why we successfully advocated the establishment of a Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) under the IMF, why we committed to allocate 20% of our SDGs to fund this and other existing mechanisms, and why we have been the first country in the world to confirm a contribution agreement for the RST.

But access to finance should also look at national resources and tax fairness. In this sense, I think that we made huge progress with the agreement reached within the framework of the OECD and the G20 on the taxation of multinational companies and a global minimum tax, reflecting our common desire to rein in harmful tax practices and stop the race to the bottom in corporate taxation. Barbados also joined the agreement, which I think is excellent news. Now we need to accelerate on the implementation front.

In summary, we have proven that we are able to take concrete, tangible measures that help people on the ground. We simply need to keep going, we simply need to keep doing so, with the SDGs as our guiding light.

Thank you

P.- Prime minister Sánchez, if I may begin with you first. How do we move forward against the climate emergency at a time when governments must also deal with the global energy, food and finance crises?

Presidente.- I was speaking with Melinda before this event, and I think the major political risk that we are facing is the rise of some voices that use these excuses, I mean, these crises as an excuse to reduce their commitment on green transition and climate change. So in a way, what they would say is well... climate change, for instance... gender equality... are things for, you know, situations where we face economic development, not crises, so we put aside all these challenges because we need to focus on the important things.

The important things are not climate change or gender equality, but others. I don't know which ones. Always to stick to the status quo. So I think that that's the major, major risk.

And how do we fight against this risk? I think we have to redouble our commitment for green transition and gender equality.

And we need to face this challenge saying we are going to accelerate our commitments and to align our responses to the standing crises to the major crises, which is climate change. And that means adaptation, as prime minister said before, financial resources and lastly, accelerate our renewable energy process.

And this is what we are doing in Spain.

P.- Wonderful. And how do you get the will? Because we know what needs to be done, the bringing the will around that can be the hardest part.

Presidente.- I mean, I saw a big change when I spoke with the private sector before the pandemic and after the pandemic.

Before the pandemic, the private sector, all the industry, the traditional industry was very reluctant to admit to face the modernization of the industry and focus on the green transition.

But after the pandemic, things changed.

And also, for instance, in my country during the summer, people realized - since we had heat waves, fires, droughts in Spain and all around Europe - the consequences of climate change and consequences of not acting against them.

So I think in a way people need positive narratives on what does it mean this green transition and to make it an inclusive green transition.

This is what we are trying to do in Spain.

P.- Thank you.

*(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)
(Intervención original en inglés)*