



## Priorities for Spain in the UN Security Council

After working tirelessly to win a seat at the UN Security Council, Spain now has a unique opportunity to play a pivotal role in tackling the insecurity related issues that affect millions of people around the globe. Spain's mandate should focus on improving and implementing the measures that exist in the council for the protection of civilians. These include women, men and children whose lives have been torn apart by conflict. In order to achieve this, Spain must:

### Prioritise the protection of civilians

- Play a leading role in the development of the UN Security Council's Agenda on the Protection of Civilians and ensure that the protection of civilians are central to peacekeeping and international security efforts.
- Ensure that all United Nations peacekeeping missions that seek to protect civilians have a clear, credible and feasible mandate. In addition, there must be an effort to ensure that sufficient resources are available to implement the mandate and to monitor results according to the various protection standards.
- Consistently reference the importance of the "Rights Up Front" Action Plan in debates and briefings and request updates on its implementation.
- Encourage all permanent Security Council members to refrain from using the veto in situations of mass atrocity.
- Support the Council's efforts to improve the relations and coordination with regional organisations such as the African Union or the Arab League in relation to the protection of civilians.

### Ensure the protection of refugees and displaced people

- Encourage debates and resolutions to ensure that civilians in need (including refugees and displaced people) have access to assistance and protection, including those in South Sudan, Syria and RCA.
- Promote measures to guarantee the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons who seek to flee
- Increase the resettlement quota in national territory, including Syrians refugees, and promote that other countries do the same.

### Ensure the protection of women in conflicts

- Play a leading role on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including the protection and realisation of women's rights in conflicts. As well as their participation in conflict management and the security sector. This is particularly critical in the run-up to Spain's Council Presidency in October where there will be a

focus on the 15<sup>th</sup> the anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325.

- Ensure the integration of a gender perspective in all peacekeeping missions, mandate renewals and resolutions, particularly in the implementation of these mandates. Spain should also push for practical measures to have more female staff deployed to peace keeping operations, and ensure all staff receives appropriate gender training.
- Further promote the issue of security sector reform in the Security Council with a gender lens, in order to establish accountable security forces that protect women's human rights and comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

### Put a stop to the proliferation of conventional weapons

- Use its position in the Council to promote ratification, accession, implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty
- Promote the effective implementation of treaties and IHL where aimed at the prevention of the proliferation of conventional arms, and the protection of civilians.
- Call for greater consistency in the UN Security Council's application of arms embargoes in all situations where arms are fuelling conflict and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including gender based violence.

### Increase humanitarian funding in a manner that enhances local capacities and a flexible response that includes resilience building

- Ensure that funds located to Humanitarian Action increase up to the 10% of the Spanish Official Development Assistance (ODA) as it is said in the Master Plan 2013-2016, with a minimum of 60 millions of Euros to comply with its multilateral obligations.
- Define and implement an integral humanitarian action strategy that goes beyond the emergency phase and includes reconstruction and rehabilitation activities and specially prevention of disasters under a resilience focus.
- Ensure that responses are lead by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation through the Humanitarian Action Office.

### Improve transparency and accountability

#### For NGOs, civil society, and experts

- In Spain, open up a space for continuous and formal dialogue with humanitarian NGOs and academics with experience and knowledge of the subject. This should serve as a means to "test" the government's standpoints, receive feedback on its performance within the Council and to provide analysis on the organisation on the field.
- At the UN in NY, the Spanish Permanent Representative to the UN will hold regular meetings with the members of civil society in New York City, with the aim being to gather the range of views on the issues on the Council's Agenda and to

discuss Spain's priorities. Spain will also promote the participation and perspectives of conflict-affected people themselves at open debates at the UN Security Council and fora.

#### For Parliament

- Set up two annual parliamentary sessions with the specific purpose of discussing Spain's progress in the Security Council.
  - Transmit any political decisions made in relation to Security Council issues in a manner that is transparent and effective.
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