

The Kingdom of Spain

Positions for the Economic and Social Council

Examining the Relationship between Peacebuilding, Post-Conflict Recovery, and Economic Security

The Kingdom of Spain (Spain), having been affected dramatically by a history of conflict, realizes the interdependency that exists between peacebuilding, post-conflict recovery, and realizing economic security. Spain supports the Declaration of Human Rights along with General Assembly Resolution A/RES/41/128 establishing the Declaration on the Right to Development. Furthermore Spain recognizes that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) address a majority of basic human rights and promote economic advancement. In 1966, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) outlined the basic human rights of education, health, housing, food and water, work, social security, an adequate standard of living, a healthy environment, and the right to development, without discrimination and regardless of state of conflict. Spain emphasizes that economic security not only can prevent conflict, but is a cornerstone of post-conflict stabilization and vital to long lasting peace.

Internationally, Spain is a member of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), and participates in collecting available resources and funds to help support countries emerging from conflict. Spain working through the PBC attempts to deploy strategies aimed at achieving conflict prevention, mediation, and peacekeeping, a policy focal point of these attempts is long-term, sustainable development and economic opportunities. Together Turkey and Spain launched the Alliance of Civilizations, an initiative intended to strengthen the links between Western and Islamic countries. **Regionally**, Spain participates actively in the European Union's official development assistance and post-conflict stabilization programs (EU). Spanish foreign policy considers the main political, economic and strategic interests to be aligned with the EU and that Spanish diplomacy's priorities should be defined by and with Europe. Thanks to Spain's staunch support of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (or Barcelona Process), the Union for the Mediterranean project launched by French President Nicolas Sarkozy in July 2008 has become an EU initiative. **Nationally**, Spain offers Systematic Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, and Post War Recovery and Reconciliation (PCTR) training for Senior Leadership, Practitioners, and Policymakers. This Advanced Certificate Program is one of the most advanced of the International Peace and Development Training Center (IPDTC). As prime minister José Zapatero declared in a speech in Madrid in June 2008, 'I believe in a foreign policy of engagement.[...] I am convinced that a foreign policy thus conceived is the best way to defend our interests as a country, the interests of an intermediate power that occupies a unique strategic position in the current multipolar world. Spain believes an action plan for peacebuilding is paramount for post-conflict recovery and ensuring a more secure economy. This is comprised of two essential components. **First** is the integration of public, private, national and international actors in efforts to construct a sustainable progressive and a peace regeneration movement. Rebuilding infrastructure, and developing legitimate law systems designed to advocate for individual rights and democracy can achieve this. A state-by-state assessment must be done to ensure that a proper strategic resolution is created specifically to promote mechanisms that seek to provide for the greater general welfare for all. **Secondly**, the promotion of human security is paramount in securing inalienable rights. This can be done through trauma counseling, creating a community dialogue between different virtues to generate cultural diffusion and mitigate economic growth and stability. Spain believes this can be better achieved through NGO's. International NGOs' impartiality allow for them to play a specific role as promoters and implementers of reconciliation programs because they not only substantively add to the environment but they can also bring community growth, vital to ensuring the great capacity of the state. NGOs can efficiently deal with the entire complexity of issues connected with the return process, not only because their projects span over a range of issues but because of their participatory approach, engaging both civil society and governments. The inclusion of both factors is important when considering the relationship between economic security and peacebuilding. Both factors are needed to ensure efficient growth and peace.

Continuing Progress in the Eradication of Extreme Poverty through Addressing the Needs of the Aging Population

The Kingdom of Spain (Spain) realizes that only by addressing the needs of the expanding aging population,

will the global community make significant strides in eradicating poverty. Spain firmly believes that elder abuse is a human rights violation and it is an infringement of Article 25 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which recognizes and respects the rights of older people to lead lives of dignity and independence. **Internationally**, Spain fully abides by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Spain accepts the definition of Elder abuse as defined in the Toronto Declaration on the Global Prevention of Elder Abuse, stated as the single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. Spain supports General Assembly Resolution 46/91 which encourages governments to incorporate principles such as “independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment, and dignity of the elderly into their national programs whenever possible.” Spain is a member of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). Spain supports ECOSOC Resolution 2010/12 (Promoting Social Integration). This resolution takes into account the relationship between poverty eradication and full employment/decent work for all (including elderly) and ECOSOC Resolution 2012/9 (Poverty Eradication), working towards equality and inclusion of elderly populations in their communities. Spain additionally supports General Assembly Resolution 65/182 (2010) which established the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Ageing to consider the existing framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how to best address them. The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is a Spanish public entity, which under the International Development Cooperation Act 23/1998, is the governing body for Spanish policy on international development cooperation, and its fundamental aim, is to promote, manage, and implement policies on reducing poverty and achieving sustainable human development in developing countries, this is inclusive of elderly populations. The Millennium Declaration constitutes a programme and methodology common to all in the fight against poverty, and as such are the main points of reference for Spanish international cooperation policy. Spain focuses its efforts in some 25 countries on three priority geographical areas: Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) is the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the first global agreement which recognizes older people as contributors to the development of their societies, and which commits governments to including ageing in all social and economic development policies, including poverty reduction programs. **Regionally**, as a member of the European Union (EU), Spain demonstrates its commitment to increase the impact of its aid, concentrating efforts on fewer countries and on the sectors that are significant for long-term growth. An example of elder maltreatment campaigns within the WHO European Region is Spain *Ponte en su Piel* (Put Yourself in Their Skin) which is an Internet-based campaign seeking to raise awareness of elder maltreatment by encouraging businesses, services, and individuals to include an established Decalogue against maltreatment within protocols and culture. Spain, along with Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and Luxembourg also uses MILCEA (Monitoring in Long-Term Care Pilot Project on Elder Abuse) as a set of regulations and guidelines in policy making. Spain is also a member of AGE, the European Older People’s Platform, which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 150 million senior citizens in the European Union and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most. **Nationally**, Spain is a member on ECOSOC’s Commission for Social Development (CSocD) which acts as an ECOSOC preparatory body to encourage annual participation by accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) persons and development to advance health and well-being into old age; and ensure enabling and supportive environments for an ageing population, while trying to reorient the ways their respective societies perceive, interact with, and care for their older citizens. Spain also continues to lobby and advocate for aging population issues through the Plan Mayores (Plan for Older People) and through intersectoral coordination in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Equality, the Women’s Foundation, and multiple trade unions. Spain fully acknowledges that the maltreatment of elders leads to a disenfranchised economy of ageing people who are unable to effectively participate in and help drive up markets and economies. The median age for Spain’s population is 41 years old for men and 42 years old for women. Spain believes we can re-assimilate the elderly back into the economy through multilateral measures Spain proposes the following 4 step Action Plan **C.O.R.E** to eradicate poverty by alleviating the needs of the aging population: **C**oalitions of states and NGO’s must address the issues of healthcare through preventive measures to educate the elderly population against signs of abuse and maltreatment, shift the negative ageing paradigm, and improve the quality of life for the elderly therefore alleviating the demand for healthcare; **O**rganize current or establish databases for unaccomplished goals and progress on previously made national and international agreements in order to reestablish international guidelines and frameworks, and to reevaluate existing mechanisms and limitation; **R**evisit retirement age requirements internationally to consider the implementation of a silver economy by pushing retirement ages back and creating jobs with greater longevity; **E**nsuring a safety net for the elderly through some form of pension or social security to sustain life in old age. These 4 long-term measures will ensure healthy aging populations, which place fewer burdens on society and contribute economically to the state.