

The Kingdom of Spain

Positions for the General Assembly Plenary

I. Securing Free, Equal, and Cooperative Access to Fresh Water Resources

As a country that faces both water shortages due to droughts as well as susceptibility to flooding, the Kingdom of Spain (Spain) has vast experience in water access, management and restoration and emphasizes the availability of fresh water resources as imperative in improving quality of life for developed and developing nations. To this end, Spain appreciates its unique position as a developed nation able to combine firsthand experience with the financial and technical capacity to develop and fund national, regional and international projects aimed at increasing access to water worldwide.

Internationally, the Kingdom of Spain has financially supported its goal to reach the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), specifically Target 7C, and was recently praised by Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon for contributing over a half billion euros to the MDG Achievement Fund. This contribution is one of the largest single member state donations to UN development activities in history. Stepping beyond financial contribution into action, Spain enthusiastically endorsed the Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 and A/RES/67/204, the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 by hosting the 2013 International UN-Water Zaragoza Conference, taking the lead in fostering international dialogue and information sharing on access to clean water.

At the conference, Spanish government representatives and NGOs presented best practices implemented internationally in Guatemala through the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID- Spanish Acronym) in the areas of integrated water resource management and rural development, an evaluation of national groundwater mining in Spain's south-eastern region, a comprehensive evaluation of public participation in Spain's water planning and management and best practices from its river restoration projects in Navarra. **Regionally**, Spain has led the Latin American component of the European Union Water Initiative since 2004. Furthermore, with the European Commission, Spain revised the Strategy for Water Scarcity and Droughts, highlighting the vulnerability of environmental resources such as water and biodiversity and creating a blueprint to safeguard European waters. Through the Water Framework Directive, Spain works with other member states to manage river basins and create trans-boundary management plans that seek to ameliorate the management of droughts and floods. Realizing the regional importance of dissemination of information in water access and management, Spain also supports the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), information providing and sharing organism created between the European Commission and the European Environment Agency. Additionally, Spain supports the European Commission's Institute for Environment and Sustainability in its Action FRESHWATERS, which has made great strides in assessing freshwater supply, demand and scarcity and sharing the resulting best practices regionally and internationally. **Nationally**, in March 2004, the Spanish government adopted Actions for Water Use and Management program (AGUA), investing in desalination plants and the creation of public water banks to boost water supply and access, using seawater to guarantee the necessary water supply in the areas needed. Finally, to focus on water conservation and reuse as well as the renovation of water infrastructures, Spain created the National Hydraulic Plan of 2004, investing about 3.9 billion euros on the new measures. Spain implores the international community to follow its example and acknowledge the importance of free and equal access to clean water. To that end, Spain proposes a five-point action plan entitled **P.U.R.E.:** **P**rovide financing to undeveloped and developing water access projects; **U**tilize previous successful methods of achievement made towards clean water access and management by acknowledging best practices; **R**eassess the current and future progress of sustainable water management resources appropriate to financial and geographical conditions; **E**nforce advocacy and policies to help populations severely

affected by water related concerns by safeguarding broader access to clean water and adequate sanitation.

II. Fostering Mobile Technology in the Advancement of Commerce

Having emerged in recent history from a dictatorship that greatly restricted freedom of expression and access to information, the Kingdom of Spain (Spain) is highly mindful of the role that accessibility to mobile technology plays in expanding basic freedoms and increasing quality of life through sustainable economic development. **Internationally**, when the Human Rights Council passed A/HRC/20/L.13 affirming internet access as being a key component to development in various forms, Spain reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring internet accessibility at home and internationally. In 2009, Spain and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) committed \$3,000,000 to the project “Capacity Development through Education for Sustainable Development and Knowledge Management for Small Island Developing States.” The project sought to expand access to technology through initiatives that created vulnerability indexes, databases and geographic information systems to address development obstacles, improving issues such as limited internet connectivity and access to affordable technology. **Regionally**, after Spain passed legislation to ensure broadband access to all of its citizens, the European Union publicly affirmed that all countries should make broadband a right to its citizens, and Spain encourages European member states to pass legislation that enforces this statement. Within the European Union, Spain has contributed to the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and the Innovation Union (IU), both research and development initiatives that will serve to boost mobile access and technology development locally and internationally. ERA works to establish uniform research policies across Europe; whereas the IU deals with creating strategies to promote job growth in science related fields. In 2013, the European Union plans to increase the amount spent on providing internet access to the 30% of Europeans who don't have it by 1 billion Euros, a decision which Spain supports and applauds. **Nationally**, Spain has created Plan Avanza, the national strategy for the advancement of the information society and has established itself as an innovator in the commitment governments make to provide internet for its citizens that can be useful as a best practice to all developed nations. A minimum of one megabit per second is now entitled to all citizens, with participating telecom companies being obliged to provide services for a fixed price, with the rest subsidized by the Spanish government. To provide this service, the Spanish government assumes a 75 million euro expense. As part of the Avanza Program, Spain also developed the National Program for Broadband Rollout in Rural and Isolated Areas (PEBA- Spanish acronym) between 2005 and 2008 that aimed to boost investments in rural areas with difficult access to broadband technology. In recent years, Spain has increased its commitment to technology research and development by increasing its percentage of GDP contribution from .91% in 2000 to 1.39% in 2010. Comparatively, other European Union countries range between .5% and 3% of GDP allocated to research and development. In increasing access to mobile technology to advance economic development, Spain urges Member States to participate in **La RED** (translation: “the network”): **R**esearch and identify areas with accessibility issues; **E**ncourage regional cooperation to improve infrastructure and provide better access to available technologies; **D**evelop funding and technical assistance resources through collaboration between the public and private sectors to ensure adequate financial and technical support for upcoming initiatives.