

The Kingdom of Spain

Positions for the General Assembly Plenary

I. **Developing Disaster Risk Reduction and Socio-Economic Resilience Strategies For Natural and Sudden Onset Disasters**

As both a member of the EU and NATO, the Kingdom of Spain **presently** stands as one of the many member states where the majority of its population, roughly eighty-one percent, lives in urbanized areas prone to sudden onset disasters. The Kingdom of Spain continues to be concerned with these potential disasters and has taken preparations with its Government and Civil Protection Unit to develop an innovative mass emergency plan for its citizens. These changes aim to ensure that citizens, especially those in urban areas, are able to economically prepare and safely execute emergency action plans (EAPs) in the event of acts of terrorism, mass murders, natural disasters and explosions. The plan calls for the Ministry of the Interior to allocate data from telephone providers to send prompt SMS messages to their patrons to immediately notify them of the danger level posed in their areas and the necessary actions that should be taken to ensure their safety. These messages are augmented by a physical siren system that appraises nearby citizens in events where SMS messaging is not feasible. Managing these emerging emergency protocols and systems remains a challenge for the Kingdom, and democratic members of the Ministry of the Interior are condemning a recent non-activation of an EAP siren after a chemical explosion took place in La Canonja of Tarragona, leaving many unaware of the dangers in the area.¹ Addressing these condemnations is crucial as these sudden onset disasters can cascade exponentially and detriment both lives and the tourism sector, as disaster-prone tourism sites, such as the Canary Islands, account for thirteen percent of the Kingdom's economy--the second largest tourism country in the world. Fortunately, the Kingdom has taken measures to economically strengthen strategies for onset disasters by incorporating the National Civil Protection School in training programs for strategic management to national staff, first responders, and volunteers. This has allowed the Kingdom to address one of the greatest challenges for resilience strategies for disasters: public awareness and training.

Whereas the Kingdom of Spain in the **past** had a relatively safe response to natural disasters, the start of the Spanish Flu in 1918 marked a period of reconsideration on strategies for countering sudden onset disasters, including pandemics. The Kingdom's total population diminished by over one percent, and the pandemic only worsened the situation for eighty percent of its citizens who were already impoverished because of the lack of trade and supplies from World War I.² Post the Great War, the so-called "Prevailing Epidemic" ravaged urban areas while causing decline in economic activity combined with elevated inflation which resulted in declines in real returns on stocks and short-term government bonds. Needless to say, these declines and socio-economic effects continued on until the Kingdom gradually enhanced its risk reduction strategies going into the twenty-first century.

As an innovating member state for disaster reduction technology, the Kingdom of Spain still possesses **recommendations for change** regarding the issue of onset disaster reduction awareness including incorporating EAPs into job training and general media in a time when it is needed most for socio-economic prosperity. To this end, the Kingdom of Spain's Parliament, the Cortes Generales, is suggesting new methods of correctly and safely implementing risk reduction programs and is open to collaboration with member states for socio-economic resilience.

¹ -, Isha Sesay, et al. "Spain Finalises Mass Emergency Plan for Acts of Terrorism, Mass Murders, Natural Disasters and Explosions." *Euro Weekly News Spain*, EWN Media Gro 18 Jan. 2020, www.euroweeklynews.com/2020/01/18/spain-finalises-mass-emergency-warnings-for-acts-of-terrorism-mass-murders-natural-disasters-and-explosions/.

² Trilla, Antoni, et al. "The 1918 'Spanish Flu' in Spain." *Infectious Diseases Society*, Oxford University Press, 1 Sept. 2008, academic.oup.com/cid/article/47/5/668/296225.

II. Promoting Multilateral Partnerships to Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The augmentation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains of paramount importance. The Kingdom of Spain **currently** stands as the leading member state in Europe to advance this initiative with a strategic action plan to promote public policy alignments with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Congress of Deputies and senate joining to create the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda. The initiative is emphasized by ensuring the Agenda is financed through the new Joint Fund program of the 2030 agenda, in which the Kingdom of Spain is the pioneer of, and devising a nine part plan called Accelerator Policies that aim to implement these SDGs to all levels of government--especially down to the most of local levels throughout Spain.³ By focusing on all aspects of government, the Kingdom intends to homogeneously implement the Accelerator Policies, most notably the first, fifth, and sixth articles that aim to combat poverty/social exclusion, promote the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act, and develop scientific and technical research for the SDGs. However, financial concerns are critical for these operations, but the Kingdom of Spain handles this well by pushing for a circular economy which is oriented at changing the linear economic model to an adoptable sustainable model that makes it possible to maximize the Kingdom's available resources while keeping socio-economic factors in mind. This is important since it doubles the benefits by preventing poverty by strengthening personal skills in areas of training and integrating these new skills into the job market for equal opportunities regardless of gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc. Moreover, the Kingdom of Spain is clearly aware of the social differences in its sovereign--with over thirteen percent of the population being immigrants--and by putting into effect transformative measures of promoting culture as a key element for SDGs, the Kingdom intends to push for a socially-aware society as a model for other member states. With a developing open-minded social infrastructure, the Kingdom of Spain has sent a vivid message that it intends to go through with these multilateral solutions in which it holds dear.

Although the push for multilateral solutions and partnerships remains at large for the Kingdom of Spain's Cortes Generales, the Kingdom's **past** views have remained relatively constant ever since the passing of the Great War. The turn of the first World War marked a turning point for the Kingdom as over eighty percent of the population was impoverished while the events continued to haunt the Kingdom throughout the twentieth century even to this day, as the Kingdom continues to fight a thirteen percent unemployment rate--the second highest rate of all the European member states. Additionally, it wasn't until the late twentieth century did the Kingdom of Spain begin to realize the ever-importance of carbon emissions, and thus consider climate change as a national priority with climate plans for stabilization of greenhouse gases set at the UN Sustainable Development Summit.⁴ These plans call to action an ambitious plan to draw seventy-five percent of electricity from renewables by 2030, rising to one hundred by 2050. It should be noted that although these environmental and financial challenges still stand, the Kingdom of Spain persistently stands with its clear vision for multilateral social equality and clean sustainability, and it is not afraid to be the stepping stone for these changes.

As for future **negotiations**, the Kingdom of Spain recommends that regardless of infrastructure status, member states should still remain environmentally and socially aware of their infrastructure expansion for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Kingdom of Spain also believes that these public goals should serve multiple purposes, with one of the greatest being increased employment as this ultimately leads the way to eradicating poverty and pushing for clean energy use which can be incorporated with a circular economy structure to inevitably drive the Kingdom's economy.

³ Mohamed, Amina. "Spain Leading by Example to Advance 2030 Agenda, Deputy Secretary-General Says, Encouraging More Ambitious Action, at Joint Parliamentary Committee Meeting | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*, United Nations, 26 Feb. 2019, www.un.org/press/en/2019/dsgsm1253.doc.htm.

⁴ Agricultura, Ministerio. "Spain's Vision of Low-Carbon Development." *Sustainable Goals*, UNA-UK, 20 Feb. 2017, www.sustainablegoals.org.uk/spains-vision-low-carbon-development/.