

**JOINT DECLARATION BY
THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

Banjul, 28 August 2024

The President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, travelled to the Republic of The Gambia on an official visit on 28 August 2024. This is the first official visit by a President of the Government of Spain to the Republic of The Gambia since the commencement of bilateral relations between the two countries.

On the occasion of this visit, the President of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Mr. Adama Barrow, and the President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, His Excellency Mr. Pedro Sánchez, expressed their interest in continuing to strengthen bilateral relations in areas of mutual interest.

Committing to multilateralism and a robust relationship between Africa and the European Union

- Both Presidents express their unwavering commitment to an international and multilateral rules-based order with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, they support the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity and the protection of human rights as cornerstones of peaceful co-existence of peoples.
- Both Presidents reiterate their commitment to strengthening multilateralism and working together to promote peace and to prevent conflicts, to strengthen respect for international law and the territorial integrity of States, to promote and protect human rights and to further gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in all their diversity.
- Both Presidents call for the immediate resolution, by peaceful means, of the war in Ukraine, and highlight their concern over the serious consequences of the conflict in terms of food and energy security across the world.
- Both Presidents support United Nations Security Council resolution 2735 (2024), adopted on 10 June 2024, and underscore the importance of implementing the resolution as soon as possible. They reiterate their urgent call for a lasting ceasefire that will enable a large-scale entry of humanitarian aid to mitigate the

catastrophe suffered by the civilian population of Gaza, as well as the release of all hostages and detainees. They reaffirm their recognition of and support for the State of Palestine, and their commitment to the two-State solution, which necessarily entails the establishment of an independent, sovereign, contiguous State of Palestine, in line with the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Similarly, they recognize the need for an international peace conference. The Gambia and Spain call on all the parties involved in the conflict to exercise restraint and thus prevent an escalation and spread of violence that could further destabilize the region of the Middle East.

- They express their desire to contribute to regional peace and stability and to the resolution of conflicts on the African continent, particularly in the Sahel.
- Spain recognizes the privileged position of The Gambia in the region as a key stakeholder among Muslim countries in its capacity as chair of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- Spain and The Gambia undertake to work to ensure that the next summit between the African Union and the European Union is held as soon as possible so as to strengthen relations between the two organizations.
- Spain and The Gambia underscore the importance of the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Seville in 2025, and stress the urgent need to agree on reforms to increase financing for sustainable development, and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the African Union Agenda 2063.
- Given the magnitude of the climate emergency, Spain and The Gambia highlight that mitigation and adaptation actions and global efforts to facilitate access to financing, technology and climate capacity-building for vulnerable developing countries must be intensified if the target of zero net global emissions of greenhouse gases by or around 2050 is to be met and the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 °C sustained. Both countries reaffirm their determination to strengthen cooperation for the protection of the environment, the conservation of biodiversity, the management of pollution and the promotion of sustainable growth. They undertake to work proactively to ensure the success of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, including specific outcomes under the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) and advances in the mitigation agenda, and to work towards the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund for developing countries.

- The two countries underscore the importance of promoting international cooperation to tackle desertification and droughts. In that respect, they welcome the progress made by the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA), which was officially launched by Spain and Senegal at COP27 in Egypt in 2022. Spain invited The Gambia to join IDRA. Spain looks forward to The Gambia's membership of this Alliance

Strengthening bilateral relations between The Gambia and Spain

- The two Presidents commend each other for the good state of bilateral relations, as reflected by the memorandum of understanding on establishing political and diplomatic consultations, recently signed by the respective foreign ministries on 25 May 2023, as well as the reciprocal visits between the two countries.
- They express the desire to further those bilateral relations in areas of mutual interest such as the economy, trade, climate change, health, gender equality, renewable energy, development of tourism, education, language learning, cooperation on migration issues and the fight against organized crime.
- They undertake to promote trade relations between the two countries—trade between the two having totalled 29 million euros in 2023, below the potential of both—and to promote conditions that favour investment and private-sector participation in priority projects. In that regard, they highlight Spanish companies' experience and technical knowledge, which enables them to contribute to the sustainable development of The Gambia, in key sectors such as infrastructure, energy, use of water resources and digitalization.

Promoting safe, orderly and regular migration in an environment that offers safety and protects people and property

- The two Presidents acknowledge the positive contribution that migrants make to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their respective countries and undertake to continue collaborating on a comprehensive approach to managing

migration flows, guaranteeing fair and humane treatment of migrants. To this end, they agree to continue to coordinate efforts to address the root causes of irregular migration, working to strengthen legal channels for migration and combat people-smuggling networks.

- They welcome the signing of a memorandum of understanding on circular migration, which will contribute to stronger cooperation in this area and to fostering safe, orderly and regular migration through circular migration programmes that are ground-breaking at the European level.
- Mindful of the additional difficulties that women face in human mobility, they undertake to mainstream gender in all aspects of bilateral relations concerning migration, taking into account defence of the rights of women and girls.
- Spain and The Gambia both recognize the need to identify shared objectives in the fight against terrorism, radicalization and organized crime, including people smuggling and human trafficking, and reiterate their determination to build on mutual consultation and cooperation in all relevant areas.
- They reaffirm their commitment to cooperating in the areas of security and domestic affairs, and applaud the signing of an international treaty on cooperation in the areas of security and combating crime.
- The two countries agree that all forms of racism and xenophobia must be addressed and undertake to join forces to do so.