



JOINT DECLARATION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

Madrid, November 28, 2024

The President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez, received the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani, on an official visit to Madrid on November 28, 2024. This visit underscores the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Iraq, as well as both countries' firm commitment to deepening a relationship based on mutual respect and shared benefit.

Strengthening bilateral relations between Spain and Iraq

1. Both leaders emphasized the excellent state of the bilateral relationship between the Republic of Iraq and the Kingdom of Spain, rooted in their historic ties and reinforced by recent high-level exchanges. They highlighted the significance of the Spanish Prime Minister's visit to Iraq in December 2023, followed by visits from Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs in January and Minister of Defense in February, along with several visits by Iraqi ministers to Spain throughout 2024. Both leaders agreed to continue strengthening and expanding this relationship for the mutual benefit of their peoples. Following the initial contacts already made to reconvene the Political Consultations Framework, they look forward to a new meeting to address matters of common interest and further deepen bilateral ties.
2. Spain reaffirms its commitment and support to the Iraqi government's efforts to maintain Iraq's stability, security, and sovereignty, continuing its support for the NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). Spain welcomes the intensive efforts undertaken by the Iraqi government through high-level political consultations to strengthen the strategic partnership with NATO, as part of their shared commitment to fostering a partnership that contributes to the achievement of sustainable security for Iraq. Building on this collaboration, and following the Spanish Defense Minister's visit to Baghdad in February, Spain is also preparing to enhance bilateral support for Iraq.

In this sense, both countries' Defense Ministries have been working to agree on a memorandum of understanding aimed at strengthening defense cooperation as well as fostering collaboration in the defense industry.

3. Spain and Iraq commend the role of the Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh/ISIS and its contribution to the fight against terrorism. Both countries reiterate their commitment to fighting terrorism through Global Coalition and bilateral cooperation to ensure there is no Daesh/ISIS resurgence and to counter its spread globally, through the different lines of effort, including stabilization, counter financing, disruption of foreign terrorist travel, and prevention of recruitment. Both sides welcomed the agreement reached on the conclusion of the International Coalition's mission to defeat Daesh/ISIS in Iraq by September 2025, and the subsequent transition to bilateral security partnerships with each country, aimed at continuing joint efforts to eradicate the terrorist organization. They also emphasized the importance of establishing comprehensive partnerships that enhance reliance on Iraq's capabilities to ensure its full security and stability. Spain and Iraq, as Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, recognize the importance of the assistance to the victims and the protection of their rights, and will promote the conditions for their voices to be heard.
4. Spain and Iraq reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Iraq's reconstruction and modernization through expanded bilateral trade and investment, and greater involvement from Spanish companies. To advance this goal, the leaders welcomed the 13th session of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) held on October 21, 2024, in Baghdad. Both leaders also welcomed the Financial Cooperation Memorandum signed in July 2024, which provides €1 billion in financing through Spain's Export Credit Agency (CESCE) and Iraq's Sovereign Guarantees Committee, aimed at boosting trade, fostering growth in Iraq's private sector, and expanding Iraq's access to Spanish technology across key industries. Both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation in priority areas, including agriculture, infrastructure, railways, transport, energy, water resources, industry, health, pharmaceuticals, and housing development. Both sides welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Sovereign Guarantee Initiative Committee of the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office and the State

Secretariat for Trade at the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Business, aimed at ensuring the increase and diversification of investment projects and infrastructures funded by the Spanish direct lending credit facility (FIEM).

5. Spain and Iraq are committed to advancing scientific, cultural, and technical cooperation, prioritizing areas such as urban and rural development, decentralized planning, and economic legislation to support Iraq's growth and development. They also emphasize collaboration in tourism, scientific research, youth engagement, sport, health, and environmental sustainability, with a focus on sharing expertise in technology, communications and sustainable practices. Additionally, both leaders aim to strengthen our educational –cooperation in higher education and promote the Spanish language. While these programs are underway, they form part of a broader cultural and educational partnership that continues to develop.

A framework for cooperation to address regional and multilateral challenges

6. Iraq and Spain express their deep concern for the escalation of violence in the Middle East and the risk it represents for the whole region. They call on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint, put an end to violence immediately and fully abide by international law, including international humanitarian law. Both countries underscored that military escalation would intensify instability, exacerbate poverty, and disrupt global supply chains, thereby deepening crises on an international scale. They reiterate that the continuation of the conflict would have significant security implications, endangering social peace in the region and contributing to the rise of irregular migration. Both sides are fully committed to helping de-escalate tensions and promote regional stability.

Iraq and Spain reaffirm their shared commitment to addressing the conflict in Gaza and jointly underscore the urgent necessity of bringing the ongoing conflict to an immediate end. They call for the full and effective implementation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. Both countries emphasize the critical importance of an immediate, comprehensive, and sustained ceasefire to ensure the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need.

7. Iraq and Spain highlight the significance of ongoing diplomatic efforts to achieve a permanent, just and lasting resolution to the conflict. They welcome and support initiatives aimed at ending the violence and urge the international community to take decisive action to halt all violations of international and humanitarian law. Iraq and Spain reiterate their commitment to international law and multilateralism, highlighting the role of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in providing essential aid and humanitarian services to Palestinian refugees across the region, especially in Gaza. Its mandate, given by the General Assembly of the UN, is also a source of much-needed stability. Both leaders condemn unilateral measures to expel the Agency from Jerusalem and impede it from carrying out its UNGA approved mandate and express their intention to continue support for UNRWA, while emphasizing the need to uphold humanitarian principles.
8. Iraq and Spain condemn the military escalation in Lebanon, affirm their support for the Lebanese people, welcome the ceasefire agreement announced on November 26th, emphasizing the need for it to pave the way for a lasting end to these conflicts. Both sides call on intensifying international and regional efforts to provide urgent humanitarian aid to Lebanon to alleviate the suffering of civilians. Spain acknowledges the decision of the Iraqi government to receive Lebanese citizens who were forced to leave their country due to the ongoing conflict. Both sides call for the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 and other relevant international resolutions to restore lasting security and stability in Lebanon and ensure respect for its territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders.
9. Both sides recognize the essential stabilizing role played by the Lebanese Armed Forces and UN interim force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and condemn the attacks against their positions. These attacks must immediately end, and all sides must comply with its obligations under International Law and Security Council Resolution 1701. Attacks on peacekeeping operations are a violation of International Law and they undermine stabilization efforts.
10. Iraq and Spain agree to continue to work towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with the principles of the UN Charter.

11. Iraq and Spain reiterate their firm support for the UN and emphasize their commitment to a rules-based international order. Both countries highlight the importance of revitalizing and strengthening this order, especially in light of the outcomes of the recent Intergovernmental Summit of the Future and the upcoming World Intergovernmental Summit for Social Development in 2025.
12. Both sides underscore the significance of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, set to take place in Spain in 2025, stressing the urgent need for reforms to expand financing for sustainable development and to accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Iraq and Spain also pledge to collaborate closely in multilateral forums to advance joint initiatives in areas of shared interest, including environmental cooperation to address climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, and the promotion of renewable energy
13. Iraq and Spain highly value the ongoing cooperation between them in the fight against desertification, which reflects their mutual commitment to addressing environmental challenges and enhancing the sustainability of natural resources. In this context, the Government of the Republic of Iraq is pleased to announce its accession to the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA), following a kind invitation from the Kingdom of Spain. This marks a significant opportunity to enhance collaborative efforts in tackling the challenges of climate change and drought. Both countries look forward to strengthening future cooperation and exchanging expertise, with a shared commitment to supporting environmental sustainability and achieving common goals for a safer and more sustainable future.