

**JOINT DECLARATION ON THE STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF
EGYPT AND THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN**

The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and The President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, on the occasion of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt's official visit to Madrid on 19 February 2025 (hereinafter "the Participants"),

CONSIDERING the historical friendship that binds both countries, their geographical and cultural closeness, reinforced by recent high-level exchanges, and underscored by both countries' firm commitment to deepening a relationship based on mutual respect and shared benefit;

DESIRING to upgrade their relationship to the level of a Strategic Partnership, based on the values of equity, mutual respect and trust;

ACKNOWLEDGING the significant progress achieved in the bilateral relation in the recent past;

BASED on the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Spain, signed in Cairo on 5 February 2008, as well as on all other bilateral and multilateral treaties in force that bind both countries;

INSPIRED by the Joint Statement on the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Union;

COMMITTED to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion of peace, security and sustainable development, as well as the rule of law, democracy and human rights;

REAFFIRMING their shared belief in a peaceful and sustainable future of the Mediterranean region;

WILLING to join forces to bolster the well-being of their peoples;

DECLARE their commitment to elevating their bilateral relationship to the Strategic Partnership level, with the aim of deepening their political, economic, social, academic, trade, defence and security ties and contribute to the peace, prosperity and stability of both peoples and the region.

This Strategic Partnership aims at projecting the long-standing relationship between the two countries into the future and will be based on existing

bilateral commitments, including the above mentioned international treaties as well as on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Political Consultations signed in 2020.

1. Political cooperation

- 1.1 Participants reiterate their willingness to elevate their political cooperation to the strategic level as a means to unleash the full potential of their relationship.
- 1.2 Spain acknowledges the role Egypt plays as a key partner for stability in the Middle East and Africa, as well as a valued Euro-Mediterranean ally. In turn, Egypt recognizes the role Spain plays as an EU Member State with an unwavering commitment to peace and stability in the region, which has been reflected in important initiatives such as the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).

2. Economic, trade and investment relations

- 2.1 Egypt and Spain share an important and growing economic, trade and investment cooperation, thus contributing to a notable surge in employment, innovation, economic growth and development in both countries.
- 2.2 Spain values the significant economic reforms that the Egyptian Government is undertaking and stands ready to support Egypt's Vision 2030 development agenda to secure long-term macro-economic stability and economic growth.
- 2.3 Cooperation in strategic sectors such as infrastructure, defence and aerospace is already underway. In all these areas, the Participants commit to boosting the participation of Spanish companies with long-standing presence in the region in the Egyptian development plans.
- 2.4 The Participants highlight opportunities to increase sharing of best practices for advancing industry interests, particularly in the tourism sector, increasing the number of visitors from each country, as well as facilitating Spanish investment.

- 2.5 Both Participants are committed to fulfilling the potential of Spanish companies in projects by the Egyptian government in different sectors, such as railways, renewable energies, water treatment, farming systems, food value chain, petrochemical, all of these relevant areas to which the Spanish Official schemes (Corporate Internationalization Fund FIEM and the Spanish Export Credit Agency CESCE) have already contributed to with large projects. Spain supports the possibilities offered by the Global Gateway initiative to improve Egypt's digital and physical infrastructures through strategic investment, as well as the opportunities offered by EU programmes such as Erasmus+ or Creative Europe. Egypt and Spain are strongly committed to the R&I programme PRIMA (Partnership on Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) within Horizon Europe, dedicated to projects contributing to sustainable use of natural resources and economic growth in the Mediterranean.
- 2.6 The Participants agree to explore ways of broadening their economic cooperation based on Research and Innovation (R&I) and technological and social development. In such spirit, they welcome the organization of business-to-business contacts and fora in order to promote joint research and innovation projects, trade, employment and economic development both in Egypt and Spain. They emphasized the significant presence of Spanish businesses in Egypt highlighting the strong economic connections and opportunities between the two nations, as well as the opportunity to collaborate jointly in the implementation of industries in Egypt, as well as in cooperation with the Spanish technological centres in fields of Food and agro-industrial projects.
- 2.7 Both Participants agreed on reactivating the Joint Business Council which will serve as a mechanism to further enhance commercial, industrial, and investment cooperation between the business sectors in both countries, and welcome convening the first meeting of this council in Egypt, whereby the Spanish companies would have an opportunity to conduct field visits, including the Suez Canal Economic Zone, among other field visits, presenting an opportunity to benefit from the advantages of the trade agreements Egypt enjoys with several international and regional partners.

3. Development Cooperation

- 3.1 Spain reaffirms its solid commitment to Egypt's sustainable and equitable economic and social prosperity as it is showcased in the latter's status as a "priority country" in Spain's International Development Cooperation Master Plan (2024-2027). In this sense, both Participants agree that the Joint Commission, which met for the fourth and last time in 2005, must hold a session in the near future so as to adequately reflect progress registered in this field, and with the final aim of concluding a strategic framework document for cooperation Egypt-Spain
- 3.2 The Participants also recognize the role that the AECID's regional cooperation programme with the Arab countries, Masar, launched over a decade ago to promote Egypt's sustainable development and recently updated and revisited as 'Masar al'an' programme, has played in strengthening cooperation between Egypt and Spain. The new Masar al'an aims to contribute to the triple social, ecological and economic transition in the Arab countries, as a response to their current economic, social and climatic challenges that are shared in many cases by both sides of the Mediterranean, through the application of practical solutions based on knowledge and innovation. Spain is confident that, in the upcoming years, this programme will continue to reflect its commitment to support Egypt and its institutions.
- 3.3 They pledge to collaborate closely in multilateral fora to advance joint initiatives in areas of shared interest, including environmental cooperation, biodiversity loss, desertification, and the promotion of renewable energy. With a shared vision for sustainable management of water resources in a context of a growing population, competing water demands, and climate change, the Participants agree to promote joint actions at bilateral, regional, and international levels in line with the Joint Declaration on an Egypt-EU Water partnership signed at COP28 in Dubai and their joint membership in the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA).
- 3.4 Egypt and Spain reaffirm their commitment to ongoing cooperation on water and food security, emphasizing the critical importance of transboundary water cooperation in accordance with International Law. Recognizing Egypt's heavy reliance on the Nile River in a context of its water scarcity, Spain reiterates its support to Egypt's

water security and the compliance with international law, while recalling that the 'do no harm' principle serves as a guiding principle in the European Green Deal.

- 3.5 Both Participants underscore the significance of the IV International Conference on Financing for Development, set to take place in Seville in 2025, stressing the urgent need for reforms to expand financing for sustainable development and to accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda

4. Cooperation on Home Affairs and Migration

- 4.1 Acknowledging Egypt's migration and refugee policy to combat irregular migration and to fight criminal networks, which led to successfully preventing illegal departures from Egyptian shores since 2016, the Participants pledge to work together for the adoption of a holistic approach to migration governance, addressing the root causes of irregular migration, and promote the exchange of experiences and best practices regarding existing channels of legal pathways for migration, and promoting safe, orderly and regular pathways, including circular migration opportunities, in accordance with applicable national laws and based on a mutually and equally beneficial approach.
- 4.2 Participants pledge to continue to cooperate to support Egypt's efforts to host migrants and refugees and ensure the sustainability of the services provided to them along with the host communities. Both sides are committed to the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees including in the framework of Egypt's National Strategy for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration for 2024-2026. Many actions in this field have been canalized since 2020 through the implementation by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) of the –still ongoing- EU delegated cooperation project 'CONMIGO', supporting Egyptian authorities on public migration management.
- 4.3 Both Participants pledge to work together on common threats including the fight against organized crime and express their desire to convene a meeting of the Joint Committee to this end.
- 4.4 The Participants also underscore their commitment to pursuing the fight against terrorism, including terrorist and organized crime financing, which continues to be one of the biggest threats to international security.

They underline the importance of countering extremism in all forms, including combatting all forms of hate, radicalism and racism.

5. Cooperation on Justice

- 5.1 Both Participants underline their commitment to enhancing operative and judicial cooperation to tackle shared challenges in a globalized world, and pledge to open new avenues for judicial cooperation and paved the way for new schemes of collaboration.
- 5.2 Spain supports the efforts of the Egyptian government to implement the National Human Rights Strategy (2021-2026).

6. Cooperation on Defence

- 6.1 The Participants highlight the importance of their partnership on defence based on the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding and commit to increasing the relation between their Armed Forces. The Participants are committed to expanding the relation between their defence industries. To this end, they stress the value of continuing discussions by the Joint Military Committee on future partnership, and underline their commitment to address shared global defence challenges.
- 6.2 The Participants agreed on the importance of deploying a new Spanish Defence Attaché to Cairo, to deepen collaboration in areas of common interest. The Participants agree on the opportunity to explore cooperation in the area of space. Egypt praised Spain's advocacy within NATO of a 360-degree approach to security that takes into account the views of southern partners.

7. Cultural Cooperation

- 7.1 Both Participants agree to promote cultural exchanges and recognize the need to address global challenges and the construction of a more just and sustainable world through culture.
- 7.2 The Participants welcome discussions to elevate their partnership focusing on people-to-people ties in the promotion of diversity, inclusion, and institutional excellence, including the promotion of the Spanish language and cultural industries. The Participants discussed a future partnership between Egypt-based scholars and Spanish archaeologists with a shared long-term vision for creating world-class experts in the field, and increasing research and innovation.
- 7.3 The Participants, recognizing the need to enhance mobility amongst experts in pursuit of this excellence in the field, agreed to facilitate

access for Spanish archaeologists, streamlining administrative procedures and increasing the number of visas granted to this end.

7.4 The Participants agree on the importance of artistic, educational and cultural workshops. They expressed interest in fostering cooperation in the fields of visual arts, performing arts, cinema, music, libraries, archives, museums and the management of the vast cultural heritage of both countries, as well as contributing to the promotion of cultural and creative industries. The Participants recognize the universality of culture and the rights related to cultural creation and committed to maintaining a strong coordination in international fora, particularly at UNESCO.

8. Cooperation on agriculture and fisheries

8.1 The Participants recognise the important role of agriculture and fisheries in food security by sufficient providing nutritious and affordable food. The Participants reiterate their commitment to SDG 2 of the 2030 Agenda.

8.2 Participants agree to the importance of the R&D and technological innovation, to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector, especially in water management and the field of sustainable irrigation with non-conventional waters (regenerated and desalinated water).

8.3 Moreover, the Participants highlighted the innovative approach of New Genetic Techniques (NGT), with the aim to obtaining more productive and better adapted crops, especially in environments with scarcer and more irregular rainfall.

8.4 The Participants acknowledge the need of conservation and sustainable use of the Mediterranean and share the importance of fighting against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

9. Institutional framework of the Strategic Partnership

9.1 In order to signal the strategic character of their bilateral relationship, the Participants declare that the consultations foreseen in the aforementioned 2020 Memorandum will be held in the form of a Strategic Dialogue with periodic meetings at the level of Head of Government/Head of State, and at the level of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, or at any other level, as

appropriate. The Participants engage in holding on political dialogue sessions focused on specific topics of mutual interest.

9.2 Within the context of economic and trade ties binding Egypt and Spain, considered a crucial pillar for the bilateral relation, the Participants welcome the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Dialogue, as well as the work of all other sectoral committees and commissions, which reinforce the bilateral relationship and complement the structural pillars, key to the new Strategic Partnership.

The Participants look forward to making progress in all the areas of this Strategic Partnership and commit to reviewing and expanding them through regular high-level meetings with a structured Strategic Dialogue based on the bilateral high-level consultations that they hereby establish

**H.E President of the Arab
Republic of Egypt**

**H.E President of Government
of the Kingdom of Spain**

ABDEL FATTAH ALSISI

PEDRO SANCHEZ