

TRANSCRIPCIÓN

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DE GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, EN LA SESIÓN “HEALTH AND PROSPERITY THROUGH PREVENTION”. FORO ECONÓMICO MUNDIAL 2025

Davos, 22 de enero de 2025

Magdalena Skipper.- Prime Minister, let me start with you.

Spain has demonstrated a strong commitment to global health, including significant contributions to Gavi and the Global Fund.

How is Spain fostering innovation and the use of advanced technologies within its own healthcare system, and how can these experiences inform global health inequalities?

Presidente.- Well, first of all, thank you very much for this question. And of course, thank you very much for your invitation.

I think that the COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that health is not an individual issue, but a collective responsibility, and this is also something that we can apply to innovation. In two things, essentially.

First, governments, the public sector, have a responsibility to ensure that the innovation model addresses health needs and also accessibility.

Today we are witnessing a revolution in technology that offers a new hope for improving global health. But profitability cannot be the only driver for innovation. So public health is a fundamental pillar for the development of new medicines and health technologies.

I do believe that it is not true that the public sector cannot innovate. On the contrary, a public and a coherent healthcare infrastructure is a prerequisite for innovation in collaboration with the private sector.

My country is currently the leader in clinical trials in Europe and the third in the world, thanks to a network of internationally recognized centers of excellence and an extensive hospital network. And of course, our primary care network has an important role in supporting the research.

And second, public-private collaboration is essential. Spain is investing in this approach. We launched back in 2021 an innovative public-private collaboration project in health: The strategic project for Vanguard Health, with more than €2.5 billion invested. And we have just launched a pharmaceutical industry strategy in collaboration with the main pharmaceutical associations.

The aim is to promote innovation and equitable access to medicines, particularly in advanced therapies and precision medicine.

So, you know, I think that this approach of public and private cooperation is essential in order to move forward in this innovation approach that you were asking.



Magdalena Skipper.- Really interesting and important examples. Thank you for that, and I really appreciated your comment and emphasis on the fact that you believe that innovation can happen in the public space. I think that's really important to remember.

And of course, that emphasis on public private collaboration, where each of the stakeholders brings something new to that collaboration.

And in some of the other sessions we've heard about this important tension between collaboration and competition and how the two when in balance, in healthy balance, can stimulate really innovation.

So let me follow up with the second question, and that is, in your examples, you actually illustrated already that Spain is leading in international collaborations.

For example, you talked about clinical trials. What are the strategies that are being implemented to support those international collaborations and to address health challenges and potential disparities in the world? Because of course, what you and your government implement in Spain can be a wonderful example for the globe.

Presidente.- So first, Spain has supported and we will continue to support global health initiatives such as Gavi and the Global Fund.

And I think that this represents a joint effort by governments, by academia, by multilateral organizations, by civil society, private initiatives, united to improve access to health services needed to realize the right to health.

And second, we will also promote a more inclusive, efficient and transparent global health governance that allows for better outcomes and results.

What we are witnessing is a change, Magdalena, in the cycle of financing for global health, and that implies risk of regression in many parts of the world. And I think that we need to reverse this trend. And for that we need to be more efficient. And in this regard, innovation can play a critical role in this context.

Global health governance responds to a multiplicity of actors and instruments that need to be harmonized. And we will support multilateral, effective, democratic and representative governance with the World Health Organization at its center.

And last but not least, what we want from Spain is to consolidate ourselves as a strategic partner in international cooperation and global health governance.

We are working on a whole of government global health strategy to bring more coherence among Spanish stakeholders.

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And I'm very happy to express our hope that after 20 years, Spain will return to the Executive Committee of the World Health Organization in 2025 with a clear aim, which is to promote health as a global policy and a primary care approach to effectively address the challenges of changing the social determinants of health and climate change, and of course, mental health.

Magdalena Skipper.- Thank you for sharing this with us. And this is of course, a great opportunity. That's very clear. You are approaching very seriously.

And thank you also for weaving into the conversation the governance, the importance of global governance, of global health and the finance, reimagining the finance. I think that's an important topic, which is, of course, a very large topic in and of itself.

*(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)
(Intervención original en inglés)*