

STATEMENT OF KINGDOM OF SPAIN

UN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ACCRA 2023

Distinguished Delegates.....

Today, we celebrate the essential role that peacekeeping operations play in bringing security and hope to millions of people. We met in Accra under the protection of the Government and people of Ghana, whom we thank for their hospitality and their ambition to ensure that the operations are successful.

Operations are above all a political tool to advance peace processes. Therefore, the first requirement to support peace is that we achieve unanimity in the design of the mandate of each Operation. If we do not reach such unanimity, we put them at risk or make their mission ineffective; the mandates must also be realistic, without creating expectations that are incapable of satisfying.

In this sense, Spain supports the New Agenda for Peace of SG Antonio Guterres and the lines of work of Action for Peacekeeping Plus, especially, the safety of the deployed personnel and their mental health, the digital transformation of Operations and the fight against misinformation and hatred.

Under this perspective, the recognition of the UN, Spain and the EU of the importance of relaunching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2024 Future Summit to achieve a "Pact for the Future" makes sense. Indeed, there can be no peace without development, nor development without peace and human rights.

Therefore, we will have to continue working to address the factors that cause conflicts. In Spain and the EU we believe that there are certain fundamental pillars to sustain peace:

- We are strong supporters of a multilateral order sustained by respect for international law;
- We reaffirm our defense of democracy and fundamental rights;

We are convinced of the need to promote gender equality as the best antidote to extremism and violence. We will persevere in the application of the resolutions on Women, Peace and Security to make a more inclusive security sector a reality with more women, since women play a primary role in the prevention of conflicts, addressing the underlying causes.

And we recognize the risks related to climate change and environmental degradation, considering that the United Nations must increasingly focus on the nexus between climate, peace and security; thus the Group of Friends on Climate and Security affirms that the Security Council and UN agencies should integrate nature and peace at the same strategic level in order to prevent conflicts around the world.

Moving on to commitments in Peace Operations, Spain has always prioritized quality and efficiency over other quantitative criteria. Proof of this is the effort we make in an area as in need of Peace such as the Middle East, where we contribute capacities in UNIFIL not only in forces but in the command and control of the Multinational Brigade

East, being a catalyst for units from different countries and also integrating into our personal contingent and units from El Salvador, Serbia, Brazil and Argentina. We are currently proud that the command of the mission falls to a Spanish general, the LTG Aroldo Lázaro.

On the occasion of the Spanish command of the mission or in response to operational needs, Spain has offered the following additional capabilities for UNIFIL, an aerial surveillance radar pending the final administrative procedures for its deployment and, pending response, an "outreach" unit, a Helicopter unit, a Rapid Reaction Company and a Civic-Military Cooperation unit. Given the current situation in the Middle East, it is important to highlight Spain's commitment to the current capabilities deployed in southern Lebanon.

As a concrete offer, within the scope of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and given the success of the online courses in Spanish of "Gender in Operations Advice" held this year, with more than 3,300 students from 20 different countries, Spain offers for the coming years to continue with these online courses for Spanish-speaking countries.

We conclude by congratulating the authorities of Ghana, a country committed to peace and a focus of stability in the region, for hosting the conference. Thank you very much to everyone.