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# SPAIN'S FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

Promoting  
Gender Equality  
in Spain's  
External Action



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# Preface

*"We will adopt a feminist foreign policy. I announce this in the year in which we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, that have to continue inspiring us. Sensitivity to gender issues will be present in the policies and instruments of our external action, including development cooperation".* With these words, at my very first appearance at the Foreign Affairs Committee in Parliament, I was announcing the commitment of the Government of Spain to a Feminist Diplomacy.

Twenty-five years after the Beijing Conference, achieving gender equality remains a great challenge, the unfinished task of our time. It is true that progress has been made in the last decade, thanks to the implementation of ambitious progressive policies, but global data highlight persistent inequalities and a risk of regression, especially after COVID 19.

Equality is a synonym of diversity and thus also a synonym of wealth. Wealth in the exercise of rights by all citizens, but also economic wealth, prosperity and justice. In this sense, our feminist foreign policy promotes and defends our interests as well as values of our society.

At the same time, the feminist diplomacy mirrors the necessary coherence between national policy and the external action of the State. It is the reflection, at the international level, of the commitment of the Government of Spain to equality and women's rights.

This Guide to Spain's Feminist Foreign Policy is an operational guide for the practical implementation of a public policy, delivered through our commitment to multilateralism, our actions in the European Union, our bilateral relations as well as through our development cooperation policy, not to mention equality within our own Foreign Service. We will lead by example, as we have been doing since the beginning of this legislature, increasing the proportion of women among Heads of Missions from 14 to 21% over the past year.

In short, Feminist Diplomacy contributes to a better, more just world, where women and men are equal in rights and opportunities. Nothing more. Nothing less.

**Arancha González Laya**  
**Minister for Foreign Affairs,**  
**European Union and Cooperation**



# Promoting Gender Equality in Spain's External Action

By announcing an explicit commitment to implementing a feminist foreign policy, Spain joins the countries that have placed gender equality and empowerment of women and girls **at the centre of their foreign policy**.

The decision to move towards a feminist foreign policy stems from the analysis of the current situation, Spain's already existing leadership at the highest level in this area, and from a **strong political commitment** based on the vision of achieving the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations (UN) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The prevalence of inequalities between women and men underscores the need to step up efforts to close gender gaps. In this context, Spain's foreign policy will contribute to moving towards real and effective equality at the international level.

Spain's normative framework is well developed and comprises the Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March, on effective equality between women and men<sup>1</sup>; the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Towards a Spanish sustainable development strategy

(2019); and, more recently, the Strategy for External Action, together with this guide for the implementation of the feminist foreign policy.

Upholding the same level of commitment to equality in all public policies, including those with an external and global dimension, is a matter of coherence, and therefore also a matter of country's credibility. Due to its normative framework and public policies, Spain has become an international reference in areas such as combating gender-based violence, promoting gender equality in the context of employment and in work-life balance policies, and fostering gender budgeting. The preamble to **Act 2/2014 on the State's External Action and the Foreign Service** identifies promoting equality between women and men and eradicating gender-based violence as two of Spain's core values and interests.

Moreover, a feminist foreign policy enables Spain to step up the fulfilment of its **international commitments. The 2030 Agenda and meeting the targets of SDG 5**

<sup>1</sup> Article 15, which addresses the issue of mainstreaming the principle of equal treatment between women and men. In line with this, and with a feminist foreign policy in mind, the latest Royal Decree on basic organisational structure included the provision that "The powers set forth in this Royal Decree shall be exercised with a cross-cutting gender approach which guarantees real and effective implementation of Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March, on effective equality between women and men."



> Women are up to 27% more likely to suffer from food insecurity (UN Women).

> An estimated 60% of preventable maternal deaths occur in settings of conflict, displacement, and natural disasters. Every day, more than 500 women and adolescent girls die from complications during pregnancy and childbirth in emergency contexts (UN Women).

> Improvements in gender equality in the European Union (EU) would lead to an additional 10.5 million jobs by 2050. The employment rate would reach nearly 80%, and the EU's per capita gross domestic

product (GDP) would rise by nearly 10% by 2050 (European Institute for Gender Equality).

> Only 55% of working-age women (15-64 years) are in the labour market, compared with 78% of men (World Economic Forum).

> During the Covid-19 pandemic, cases of violence against women and girls rose by 30% worldwide (UN Women).

> Only 13% of agricultural lands are owned by women (UN).

> Only one out of five exporting companies is owned by women

(International Trade Center, UN, World Trade Organization).

> According to data from surveys conducted in 83 countries, the average time dedicated to care work and unpaid domestic work is three times more for women than for men (UN).

Women are under-represented in management positions. In most of the 67 countries for which data is available, less than one third of senior and middle management positions were held by women between 2009 and 2015 (UN).

guide our efforts in advancing towards gender equality. In the humanitarian area, the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit established gender equality commitments to guide the international humanitarian system. The international legal and policy framework on gender equality is highly developed and comprises the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In the European context, key documents include the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention); the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025; the EU's third Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025

(GAP III); and the EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2019-2024.

Gender equality is not only a matter of rights and social justice; achieving gender equality **benefits society as a whole**. Study after study has confirmed that gender equality favours employment, economic growth, increased productivity, and improved social structures. At the same time, women's full participation in all phases of conflict resolution, including peace processes, has proven essential to their effectiveness, success and sustainability. Therefore, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda recognises gender equality not only as a goal in itself, but also as a prerequisite for achieving sustainable peace and prosperity.

# 2

## Guiding principles: What does adopting a feminist foreign policy mean?

Spain has adopted a practical and operational approach towards the implementation of the feminist foreign policy, with its own methodology aimed at specific actions. We will follow a two-pronged approach, strengthening the priority lines of work of the Foreign Service in this area, while mainstreaming the gender perspective into all phases of foreign policy as well as into all its actions. Spain's new **External Action Strategy** presents the active promotion of gender equality as **a crosscutting principle and a priority of Spain's external action**.

The feminist foreign policy will be guided by **five principles** that will govern our external action in all its phases and in every area.

> **Transformative approach:** Spain will foster

a global view of its feminist foreign policy, eliminating silo-based work and ensuring coherence across all areas of external action. The goal is to bring about a structural change in working methods and institutional culture, so that gender perspective is systematically mainstreamed in every action of the Foreign Service.

> **Committed leadership:** The entire Foreign Service has taken on the commitment to develop, within their scope of competence, a feminist foreign policy, incorporating the principle of equality into their priorities, and ensuring that the management of the human, material, and financial resources takes into account this framework for action.

> **Ownership:** The Foreign Service has put in place coordination mechanisms to enhance the ownership of the feminist foreign policy by all its members. Those in leadership positions have the specific responsibility to promote gender equality within their scope of action.

> **Inclusive participation and fostering alliances:** It is crucial to unite efforts with all the actors that may contribute to achieving sustainable and lasting advances for women. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation will conduct the feminist foreign policy in close collaboration with other ministries, in particular with the Ministry of Equality. Participation channels with other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, think tanks, civil society organisations, and the Parliament, will be strengthened to reach a broad consensus on this policy and achieve its effective implementation. Beyond its borders, Spain will continue participating



## STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES TO PROMOTE EQUALITY

Spain is represented in international networks working to promote gender equality:

- > International Gender Champions Network in Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Paris and The Hague.
- > Network of Special Representatives and Ambassadors for Women, Peace and Security.
- > Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network launched by Spain.
- > Informal Groups of Friends in the EU to promote gender equality.
- > Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls created in 2020 within the UN, and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

in international gender equality networks. Furthermore, Spain's public institutions will continue to provide support, within the framework of international cooperation projects, for the design and implementation of public policies addressing equality with different partner countries.

- > **Intersectionality and diversity:** Mainstreaming the gender approach in foreign policy necessarily means working with an intersectionality perspective. The situation of women and girls cannot improve without recognising the existence of intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination. In addition to gender discrimination, women may also suffer discrimination due to their ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation and gender identity (LBTI women), economic status, religious beliefs, disability or place of origin.





# 3

## Instruments: How will feminist foreign policy be carried out?

The Foreign Service will make a full use of existing instruments to achieve the goals of its feminist foreign policy. These are, in particular:

### **a) Mainstreaming the gender approach in foreign policy**

The gender approach will be mainstreamed into all foreign policy instruments and actions, while the thematic areas on which gender-related action has traditionally focused will be strengthened. Another aim of gender mainstreaming is to foster change in new strategic areas, such as climate change, trade relations and the fight against human trafficking. At the same time, a gender perspective will be progressively integrated into all phases of foreign policy development, ranging from drafting, planning and implementation to the follow-up, using the appropriate tools to analyse the impact of any decision on the situation of women. Achieving this goal requires internal capacity building through awareness-raising and training initiatives, development of internal instructions and tools, as well as provision of support.

### **b) Bilateral and regional diplomacy**

It is important to mainstream the gender approach into all areas of Spain's bilateral relations with other countries. This means systematically putting issues regarding gender equality and women's and girls' rights on the agenda during travels and official visits, policy consultations and political dialogue meetings, as well as in international negotiations, and making sure that women and women's organisations have a voice. The participation of Spanish multinational corporations and local stakeholders in the feminist agenda will also be encouraged. **The feminist foreign policy confers a new prominent role to Spain's diplomatic and consular missions as well as other bodies that channel its external action**, fostering their active engagement in promoting equality.

Realisation of human rights and gender equality is systematically mainstreamed and integrated in all Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) of Spanish Cooperation. As a result, the SDG 5 of the 2030 Agenda has become consolidated as a priority and a hallmark of Spain's foreign policy (16 of the current 21 CPFs include SDG 5 as a priority).

**Regional organisations** are also priority stakeholders in Spain's actions regarding women's economic empowerment and rights, and support for women's organisations and their participation in all spheres of society. Spain promotes and supports initiatives by the African Union, the Organization of American States, and the Central American Integration

## OUR EMBASSIES' ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY: THE EMBASSY OF SPAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES (2020)

> Cooperation for sustainable development: The gender dimension is one of the priority lines of action for sustainable development cooperation in the Philippines, as reflected in the CPF. Collaboration is underway with the Philippine Commission on Women for the approval of the Magna Carta of Women, which seeks women's empowerment and equality. Different projects are being carried out, such as:

- > Support for indigenous women's participation in human rights, peace, and development.
- > Improving the employability of displaced young people and women in Marawi and Zamboanga.
- > Promoting resilient communities with a gender and governance approach in the Caraga region.

> Amplifying women's voices: Narratives for transitional justice in the north and south of the Philippines.

> Humanitarian action: In the framework of Spain's chairing the Donor Support Group of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), a high-level workshop on gender equality in humanitarian action was organised in 2020.

> Cultural diplomacy: As part of its cultural programming in 2020, the Embassy organised a webinar and launched a video as a tribute to female creators, specifically the Spanish painter Betsy Westendorp, highlighting the role she played in raising the profile of female artists.

> Bilateral contacts: The Embassy

maintains regular contacts with key stakeholders promoting equality in the national context, such as transsexual congressional representative Geraldine Roman, who became a member of the Philippine Academy of the Spanish Language in 2019.

> The Embassy contributes to implementing the European Union's external action by promoting EU gender equality priorities with local bodies, such as the Philippine Commission on Women, and supporting the EU Gender Champion project. The Embassy is also going to participate in the Gender Equality and Equality in Diplomacy workshop organized by the EU Delegation.

System (SICA), as well as the integration of gender equality as a strategic component of their programmes and planning. Defending and promoting gender equality, especially among the most vulnerable populations, is one of the four priority lines of action of the Costa Rican *pro tempore* presidency of SICA during the first half of 2021.

Spain's relations with Ibero-America are embodied in the system of the **Ibero-American Summits**. The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) promotes gender mainstreaming in all its actions and it presents itself as a point of reference in

the promotion of robust institutions, effective public policies, and cooperation programmes that advance gender equality. Spain will promote specific dialogue on this matter, following the initiative launched in response to Covid-19, as well as the mainstreaming of this approach in all political declarations and cooperation programmes, and harmonising Ibero-American countries' legislation on combating gender-based violence. In this framework, the **Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)** has decisively supported and promoted the Ibero-American Programme on gender equality.

## ADVANCING COMMON AGENDA WITH CANADA IN SUPPORT OF GENDER EQUALITY

During their meeting in Montreal in September 2018, the President of the Spanish Government Pedro Sánchez and the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, signed a joint statement on gender equality, reaffirming their com-

mitment to deliver on Agenda 2030 through the specific SDG 5 as well as through the inclusion of gender equality perspective in all other Sustainable Development Objectives.



## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH REGIONAL INITIATIVES: G5 SAHEL ALLIANCE

Spain designated the Women, Peace and Security agenda as one of the priorities of its Presidency of the Sahel Alliance General Assembly, which began in June 2020. In this context, in December 2020, Foreign Minister González Laya promoted a Declaration, in her capacity as President of the General Assembly, restating the Alliance's commitment to:

> Increasing support for cooperation projects and

programmes seeking to promote the equality and empowerment of women and girls.

>Providing support to countries and the G5 Sahel Secretariat in adopting an institutional and legal framework and policies regarding gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls.

>Strengthening ties within the Alliance, as well as with national partners, local stakeholders, and civil society.

During her visit to the region, the Minister also held meetings with women's organisations and female leaders to promote the participation of women in all areas, including peacebuilding and security.



## EFFORTS TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY AS A HALLMARK OF SPANISH COOPERATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Gender equality is a crosscutting priority of the Spanish Development Cooperation. Moreover, 10,4% of the gross bilateral ODA that AECID allocates to the region corresponds to SDG 5. The emphasis lies on programmes to combat gender-based violence and femicide, mainstream a gender perspective, and to foster women's economic empowerment and their effective political participation.

In the framework of the ARAUCLIMA programme to combat **climate change**, the project on women's participation in climate governance in Peru in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic is particularly noteworthy.

### Indigenous peoples:

Empowerment and leadership of indigenous women is one of the targets of the Indigenous Programme, as 50% of the Indigenous Programme's projects have had SDG 5 as the main goal.

In the case of **Afro-descendant women**, AECID supports the Afro-descendant women's chair at several universities in Ecuador, working to institutionalise training programs for women leaders, promote their advocacy capacity and political and social participation.



### c) European Union

Within the European Union, Spain will continue to promote and strengthen its position as a gender equality advocate in the negotiation, drafting and implementation of all documents and Council Conclusions.

Spain has **promoted European Union instruments** on gender equality, and will continue contributing to the development and implementation of the EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2019-2024 and to the achievement of the objectives set out in the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

Spain will actively participate in the development of a **common approach for the EU's external action** in line with III Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action 2021-2025. In this context, Spain will:

- > Promote the systematic inclusion of gender issues in political and human rights dialogues.
- > Prioritise the establishment of specific dialogues on gender equality with interested countries.
- > Promote and participate in the definition of EU Joint Strategies on cooperation with third countries, with an aim to incorporate gender equality as a strategic goal.

Spain will support the adoption of legislative proposals that **promote gender equality within the EU**, including the Directive on improving the gender balance on company boards. Moreover, it will promote the adoption of measures on pay transparency and on combating gender-based violence and domestic violence, once the European Commission presents the relevant legislative proposals.

With regard to the **participation in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**, Spain leads, together with Finland, the cluster on women's participation in the EU's civilian missions. Spain will organise two annual workshops and will ensure the follow-up of the national plan to implement the Civilian CSDP Compact. It will also promote the publication of an operational guide on good practices and lessons learned, so that Member States may apply specific measures to promote women in these missions.

Spain will follow up on the **Council Conclusions on Human Rights and Decent Work in Global Supply Chains**. Spain will promote the inclusion of a gender perspective and the analysis of inequalities in this sphere in the future draft of an EU Action Plan focused on the sustainable configuration of global supply chains and on the promotion of human rights, rules of due diligence in social and environmental matters, and transparency.





## PROMOTING EU'S ACCESSION TO THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

Spain is committed to promoting the European Union's accession to the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention, which is a key instrument to combat violence against women and girls. In this context, Spain will support the efforts of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council, including its initiative to organise a high-level conference on gender-based violence in the EU, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Istanbul Convention.

In line with the goals of the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, Spain will promote and support future measures presented by the European Commission to achieve the same objectives; in particular, a possible initiative to extend the areas of crime in which harmonisation is possible to include specific forms of gender-based violence, pursuant to article 83.1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

## d) Multilateral diplomacy

Through its feminist foreign policy, Spain will deepen its existing commitment and strengthen its positioning as a driver of new initiatives. The goal is to give greater weight to gender issues on the agendas of international organisations, be it through improving collaboration with other countries in this area, supporting candidates who promote this priority, or ensuring that a gender approach is integrated into funding instruments. Furthermore, Spain will support and monitor equality plans of international organisations in which it participates.

With this goal in mind, coordination mechanisms will be strengthened, both within Spain's Foreign Service as well with other ministries. As a first step, gender focal points have been designated in Spain's representations and missions to international organisations.

At the UN level, Spain has led strategic gender-equality initiatives that will make their mark on future global actions:

- > Resolution of the UN General Assembly on women and girls in the response to Covid 19 adopted in November 2020.
- > Joint statement on reinforcing multilateralism adopted on 12th November 2020, which includes gender equality as a priority.
- > Resolution of the Human Rights Council on the rights of women and girls, marking the anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.



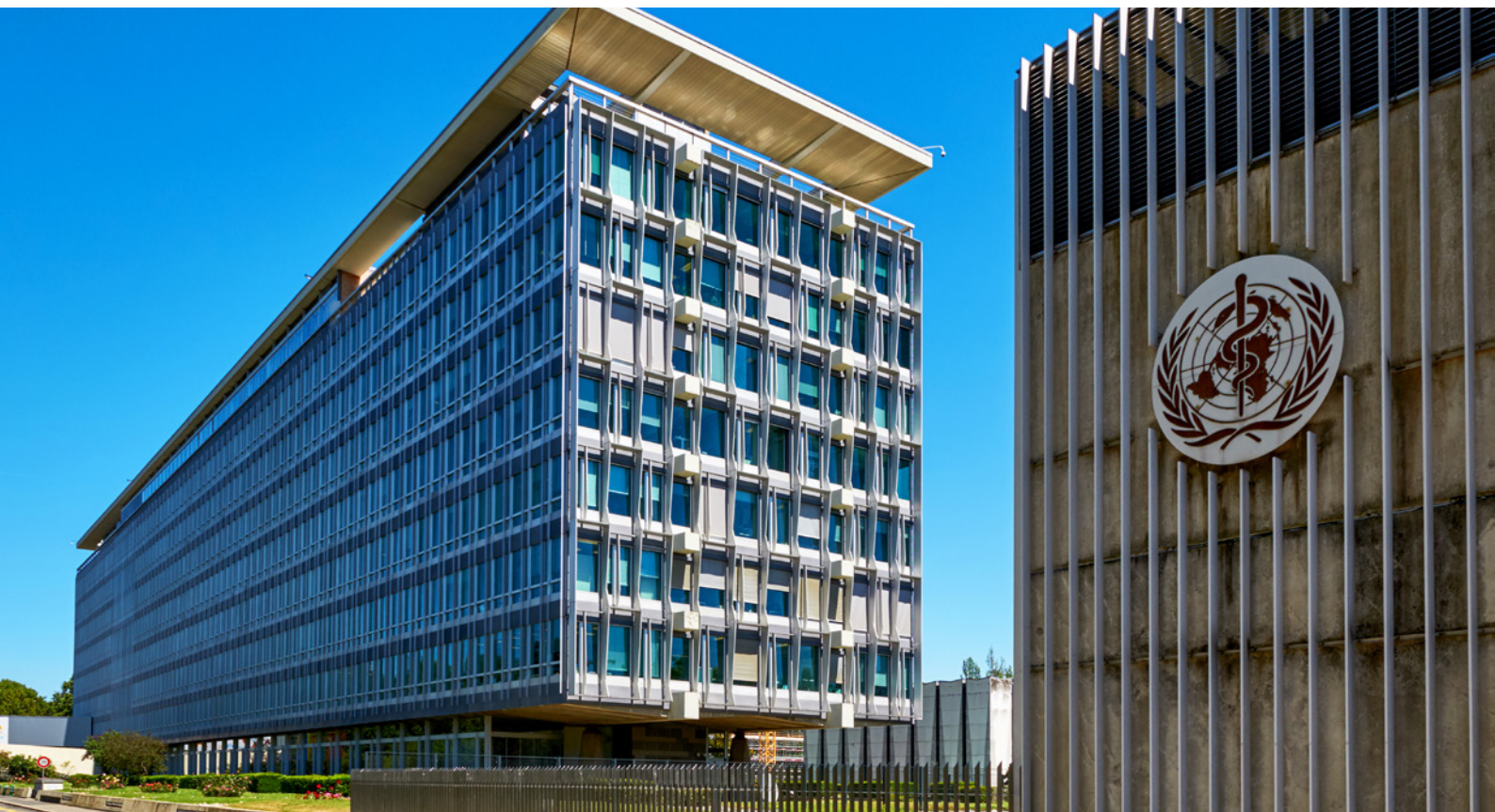
> Spain is leading the gender approach dimension of the Disarmament Agenda of the UN Secretary-General and actively participates in the Stockholm Initiative, which promotes the participation of women and the integration of the gender perspective in nuclear disarmament and in the non-proliferation agenda.

Within the **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**, Spain supports the gender equality priority of the Swedish Chairpersonship. It will continue promoting the Gender Equality Review Conference as well as increased participation of women in OSCE Missions. Spain will co-sponsor a 'Security Day' on gender equality and women's participation in security issues.

Moreover, it will promote internal OSCE projects.

Spain will continue contributing to the work of the **Council of Europe**, which plays an important role in promoting gender equality at the European level. In its role as an active member of the Equality Commission, Spain will continue supporting the implementation of the strategic objectives set out in the Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023.

Consistently with promoting the participation of women at all levels of global decision-making, Spain will promote candidacies and appointments of women in international agencies and organisations.



## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

At the 148th session of the WHO Executive Board, Spain urged the WHO to renew its gender strategy as soon as possible, to apply the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of

Women (GEEW), and to narrow the current gender gap in its staffing. Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation is a Gender Champion for the WHO Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

## SPAIN AND UN WOMEN

Spain played a decisive role in the creation of UN Women, the UN organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Spain has signed strategic partnership frameworks formalising its relationship with the organisation, the current one covering the period from 2018-2021. Since UN Women was founded in 2011, Spain has made key economic contributions, totalling more than 210 million euros, and participates actively in initiatives such as Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces and the Beijing+25 Generation Equality Forum.

## SPAIN AND THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

A framework agreement between Spain and UNFPA supports the following initiatives:

- > Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security.
- > Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence.
- > WE DECIDE programme, promoting policies for social inclusion, gender, and prevention of sexual violence in vulnerable populations, with an emphasis on persons with disabilities.



## e) International cooperation for sustainable development

Achieving SDG 5 under the 2030 Agenda is a priority of the fifth **Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2018-2021** and of Spanish Cooperation's Joint Response Strategy to address the Covid-19 crisis. Through bilateral, regional, and multilateral instruments, Spanish Cooperation supports public policies promoting equality and the eradication of violence against women in partner countries. Moreover, Spanish Cooperation stands with women's organisations and feminist groups through its involvement in innumerable projects with a wide diversity of stakeholders.

A series of analyses and reviews by the **Development Assistance Committee (DAC)** of the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has singled out gender equality as a hallmark of Spanish Cooperation, and its leadership and commitment on the international stage.

Spain subscribes to the EU commitment that at least 85% of its international cooperation actions will have gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment as a significant or a principal objective.

Spanish Cooperation has vast experience in progressively mainstreaming the gender approach, acquired through more than 25 years of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action into its development policy. Spanish Cooperation's planning instruments reflect this reality:



> Spanish Cooperation has a **Gender Strategy**, an Action Plan for Women and Peacebuilding, and manuals on mainstreaming gender and human rights in its Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs). In addition to these advances, there are other relevant policy documents such as the Health Strategy. The 2019-2026 Humanitarian Action Strategy incorporates a gender approach and considers a feminist agenda for the humanitarian action.

> Another reference document is the **Sectoral Gender Plan**, which guides the priority setting of Spanish Cooperation, aligns it with specific targets of SDG 5, and guides the work of other public actors such as Spanish civil society.

> AECID also has its own **Guide for Mainstreaming the Gender Approach** into all of its other policies and sectoral interventions. The Guide is very useful in practice, ensuring that the elements of the gender approach are incorporated into all interventions of Spanish Cooperation.

With regard to development cooperation, it will be crucial to maintain a systemic approach towards all the interventions: **AECID currently runs more than 300 projects centred on gender equality with a total budget of more than 100 million euros.** Moreover, the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP) has carried out more than 80 gender initiatives to date, with a priority focus on pandemic response.

At the same time, **new lines of action** will be launched based on priorities in the post-

pandemic context. In the next few years, regional programmes will be launched for the Arab world and Sub-Saharan Africa, centred on promoting equality and the defence of women's rights. These include the new Ellas+ Fund, focused on SDG target 5.5, and aimed at promoting the full and effective participation of women in the public sphere, and the new RAISA grants programme for women leaders in Africa and the Arab world.

## MASAR GENDER PROGRAMME

AECID is committed to strengthening its Masar Gender Programme in North Africa and the Middle East, whose lines of action include the protection of women's rights; promoting the political participation of women; the Women, Peace and Security Agenda; women's socio-economic empowerment; and supporting the media's role in combating stereotypes and creating more diverse and inclusive societies. It remains especially important to continue working with our partners on the legal and judicial changes necessary to eradicate gender-based discrimination.

In addition to bilateral actions, the Masar Gender Programme will focus on activities that promote the creation of regional networks, underscoring the importance of South-South cooperation. Through this programme, AECID is cooperating with Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ROUNDTABLE ON GENDER EQUALITY IN MEXICO

Since October 2020, Spain has held the rotating chairpersonship of the International Cooperation Roundtable on Gender Equality in Mexico. Created in 2018, the International Cooperation

Roundtable is a venue for dialogue to strengthen coordination amongst international partners and international cooperation stakeholders.



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## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In 2017, Spain joined the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies and it has renewed its specific commitments for 2021-2025, focusing mainly on training the Spanish Cooperation staff in gender violence prevention, mitigation and response.

## SPANISH COOPERATION'S JOINT COVID RESPONSE STRATEGY

Spanish Cooperation's Joint Covid Response Strategy mainstreams a gender approach linked to women's human rights as crosscutting elements while promoting specific initiatives to narrow the discrimination gap in economic rights and the feminisation of poverty, exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis.

To advance the **identification of good practices**, it is foreseen to strengthen the network of gender experts at the Cooperation Units Abroad, which are key in consolidating AECID's ongoing efforts to promote stable knowledge management processes.

In relation to **humanitarian affairs**, intense work has been undertaken on tools enabling the mainstreaming of gender equality into all interventions, especially regarding the prevention, protection and assistance to the victims of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crisis situations, in line with the methods and guidelines of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) of OCHA and of the European Commission (DG-ECHO), and regarding women's decisive role as peacebuilders in conflicts as part of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

In 2021, Spain will present its **Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy for 2021-2026**, incorporating elements of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as its priorities, as well as combating gender-based violence in humanitarian situations.

## f) Consular protection and assistance

In line with the Action Protocol for Assisting Spanish Women Victims of Gender-based Violence Abroad, Spain will continue to strengthen its assistance to Spanish women through its network of embassies and consulates, and will establish cooperation channels with third States. The Protocol is implemented through annual action plans and the office of the Coordinator on Violence

## ASSISTING SPANISH WOMEN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ABROAD

In 2020, Spain's consular missions abroad provided assistance to 260 new cases of violence against women, in addition to the cases for which consular assistance had already begun in previous years. The 2021 Annual Action Plan to Coordinate Combating Violence against Spanish Women Abroad includes 19 measures aimed at achieving three specific objectives:

- 1) Continue to design tools to professionalise, systematise, coordinate, and facilitate assistance to victims.
- 2) Provide specific training, coordinated among the parties to the Protocol, to improve assistance services.
- 3) Raise awareness about the availability of this public service, and provide information on Spain's role at international level.





against Women at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.

## g) Public diplomacy

Public diplomacy will contribute to consolidating Spain's role as a leader in the implementation of equality policies, raising awareness of the country's actions abroad as well as among its own citizens. The tools to do this include campaigns highlighting good practices, participation in international campaigns, as well as events, conferences, and publications on these issues. Efforts will be made to promote synergies with key stakeholders in Spain's external action that contribute significantly to public diplomacy such as the Instituto Cervantes, the Foreign Ministry's Network of 'Casas', the Carolina Foundation, and the network of Council Foundations.

In its communication, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation takes special care to respect the principles of inclusive and non-sexist communication, avoiding gender stereotypes and providing visibility to female points of reference in the different aspects of its external action. With this objective, the Ministry has elaborated Recommendations for inclusive communication, which serve as a useful tool, both for the drafting of internal documents as well as for external communication.

## h) Equality policies within the Foreign Service

The development of a genuine feminist foreign policy requires a Foreign Service that puts emphasis on the values of equal treatment and equal opportunities and applies them consistently within its own structures. It is about achieving **substantive equality and highlighting the role of women in Spanish diplomacy.**

At present, women still make up a little less than one third (28%) of all Spanish diplomats.

## 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Declaration and Platform for Action mobilized governments and civil society to implement specific measures to achieve equality between men and women and to combat all forms of discrimination.

Spain is participating actively in this commemoration and is a co-leader of the Economic Justice and Rights Coalition included in the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), promoting specific transformative actions.



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## COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS

In 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation, in coordination with other ministries and actors, has launched campaigns to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action the 20th anniversary of resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; and events to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November. It is estimated that these campaigns may reach a total of 1 million views during 2021.



## España es un país pionero en la lucha por la eliminación de la violencia contra las mujeres

En España existen 106 Juzgados exclusivos de Violencia sobre la Mujer, Fiscalías de Violencia sobre la Mujer y Unidades Forenses especializadas.

El número 016 atiende 24/7/365 en 53 idiomas a víctimas, familiares, personas de su entorno y profesionales.

España es uno de los primeros países en implantar las TICs para atender a las víctimas, a través del servicio ATENPRO y del seguimiento telemático de las medidas judiciales de prohibición de aproximación.

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La Ley Integral contra la Violencia de Género, aprobada en 2004, ha sido reconocida por las Naciones Unidas y recibió en 2014 la mención de honor en los *Future Policy Awards*.

En 2017, se aprobó el Pacto de Estado contra la Violencia de Género, con el consenso de todas las fuerzas políticas.

As regards senior positions, women are in charge of one third of the Foreign Ministry's directorates-general. When it comes to the positions of Heads of Missions, the proportion of female Ambassadors grew from 14.7% in January 2020 to the current 21%. Efforts to continue advancing towards parity include:

> Maintaining the ongoing efforts to **attract more women candidates** for the competitive exams to enter the diplomatic service. In the last public examination, 42% of the candidates were women. However, it is necessary to maintain and increase this figure to achieve the goal of parity. To this end, ongoing activities will be intensified, presenting a career in diplomacy as a professional option for female university graduates. Spain's Diplomatic School will also continue and step up its efforts to raise awareness among female university students.

> **Appointing women to senior positions** will remain an aspiration of our staffing policy. Efforts will continue for women to occupy top positions at the Ministry headquarters as well as its embassies, without forgetting the importance of lower management positions due to their medium- and long-term relevance.

> In the case of **Heads of Missions**, the goal will not only be quantitative but also qualitative with a view to achieve adequate representation of women in the priority geographic areas of Spanish foreign policy.

> To improve the knowledge about the

evolution of equality within the Foreign Service, efforts will be undertaken to strengthen the collection of **disaggregated data** regarding the representation of women within the Ministry, its diplomatic staff and in senior positions.

Measures to promote equality, work-life balance, and co-responsibility will be carried out in line with the third Gender Equality Plan for the General State Administration and its Dependent Public Organisations.

Moreover, the Ministry will undertake **measures necessary to address the inherent specificities of the Foreign Service**. To this end, the Ministry will use all the instruments available to support families of officials subject to forced mobility, avoiding as much as possible the interruption of professional careers.

Work will also continue to consolidate the Belisama platform, supporting officials' spouses and partners in seeking employment abroad.

The Foreign Service will promote the standardisation of **training in gender equality**. Efforts will be made to ensure that the Foreign Ministry's annual training plans include modules on equality. Moreover, training courses on equality issues will continue to feature in the Diplomatic School's programming, promoting equality training in every phase of diplomatic staff's professional development, from new recruits to senior officials.

At the beginning of this legislature, the percentage of female Heads of Missions was below 15% and there was no female head of mission in any G20 country. At present, 21% of all Ambassadors are women and there is one female Ambassador to a G20 country.

Progress will continue within the existing staff selection mechanisms to achieve the overall **target of 25% female Ambassadors, and to have at least 15% of women Ambassadors in G20 countries**, before the end of the government's mandate.

# 4

## Lines of action: Thematic priorities of Spain's feminist foreign policy

While continuing to strengthen gender mainstreaming in every area of foreign policy, Spain will continue developing specific actions in the priority lines of action.

### **a) Women, Peace and Security**

The Women, Peace and Security Agenda, based on resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council and the following, is a priority of Spanish foreign policy. During its presidency of the Security Council, Spain promoted the adoption of resolution 2242 of the Security Council, the creation of the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, and the launching of the Focal Points Network.

Implementation of this Agenda is based on the second National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security 2017-2023 and a specific plan of the Spanish Cooperation for Women and Peacebuilding. Coordination with other ministries is carried out through a network of focal points. Moreover, a Spanish Cooperation Working Group for Projects on Women, Peace and Security was also established.

> **Internally**, the Foreign Ministry will promote the development of projects and sectoral and geographic strategies.

> **At national level**, a follow-up report on the second National Women, Peace and Security Plan is due to be presented to the Parliament. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation jointly with the Ministry of Defence will organise a training course on Gender in Operations.

> **At the European Union level**, Spain will actively participate in the EU Task Force for Women, Peace and Security, monitoring the EU Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Furthermore, Spain will promote the mainstreaming of this agenda into other European instruments, especially the EU's third Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025. In addition, Spain will support and participate in EU technical cooperation projects focused on gender equality and contribute to raising the profile of Spain's equality policies that inspire reforms in other countries.

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH ECOWAS

Spain and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) formalised a Memorandum of Understanding on Women, Peace and Security, which included 400,000 euros in funding for projects in the region.

> **At the multilateral level**, Spain presented a resolution on promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325. The resolution was adopted by consensus during the 45th session of the Human Rights Council with more than 60 co-sponsors. Spain will follow up on the implementation of the afore-mentioned resolution as well as on the mainstreaming of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the work of the Human Rights Council. As part of the Beijing+25 Generation Equality Forum, Spain is a member of the Compact for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. Spain also participates in the implementation of NATO instruments in the area of women, peace and security, particularly its plan to combat sexual violence, its initiative on gender equality and terrorism, and the actions of the NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.

> Spain will support, through its existing funding mechanisms, instruments and funds working on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. This includes a two-year funding for the Secretariat of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network and contributions to the Women Humanitarian Peace Fund (WHPF). Moreover, Spain has renewed its commitment to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, doubling its contribution and serving as an advocate for strengthening post-conflict societies through the full participation of women and mainstreaming the gender approach.



## COMMITMENT 2025

In 2019, Spain and Finland presented their **Commitment 2025** initiative. Now subscribed to by 12 countries, the initiative sets forth 10 specific commitments for the signatory States and five requests aimed at the United Nations, with the goal of guaranteeing the full and effective participation of women in all peace processes by 2025.





## b) Violence against women and girls

The Government of Spain accords great importance to combating gender-based violence and violence against women. Through multilateral action and partnerships with other countries, the Foreign Service will work to raise the profile of the Spanish model for combating gender-based violence.

In the consular area, the need for specific planning to provide informed assistance to Spanish victims abroad has been fully recognised. Development cooperation and humanitarian action will continue to prioritise programmes focused on gender-based violence in priority countries and multilaterally, whether through Country Partnership Frameworks, conventions or projects.

> On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Istanbul Convention**, Spain reaffirms its support for this instrument through communication campaigns and commemorative events, promoting its ratification by other European countries.

> The Foreign Service will ensure Spain's participation in events to combat violence

against women and girls in the **multilateral area** and will take part in the recently created Group of Friends for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, of which Spain is a member. Spain will also continue to promote initiatives in the international sphere and to support the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls, as well as the Working Group on Violence against Women.

> In the **bilateral context**, Spain will identify countries with which to sign **Memoranda of Understanding** on collaboration in combating gender-based violence, as it did with Tunisia in 2018, as well as joint declarations on the issue.

> Spain will fight against impunity with regard to sexual violence crimes, promoting interventions of relevant international Courts as well as adoption of sanctions, when applicable.

> The adoption and implementation of the 2021 Annual Action Plan of the Action Protocol for Assisting Spanish Women Victims of Gender-based Violence Abroad is crucial to strengthening consular assistance.

## JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF SPAIN-ITALY SUMMIT

On the occasion of the bilateral Summit held in Palma de Mallorca on 25 November 2020, a joint statement was signed marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Both sides expressed their ambition to combat and prevent gender discrimination and to promote specific measures at EU level to combat violence against women.







### c) Human rights of women and girls

This line of action encompasses initiatives aimed at strengthening the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of women and girls. Part of this work is undertaken at the **multilateral level**, and requires the promotion of national initiatives in addition to the close monitoring of the resolutions and sessions of the Human Rights Council and of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, as well as responses to communications from Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.

> Spain will monitor the UN General Assembly resolution on women and girls and the response to Covid-19 promoted by Spain and adopted by consensus.

> Spain will participate actively in the 65th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

> Spain's periodic report will be presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

> Messages and exchanges regarding the human rights of women and girls will be featured in the bilateral sphere.

**Combating the trafficking of women and girls** will receive increased attention, consisting in monitoring multilateral initiatives and designing national initiatives, promoted by the Foreign Ministry. These will include:

> Promoting the formalisation of bilateral conventions aimed at combating trafficking, with particular focus on the trafficking of women and girls.

> Organising an international seminar on human trafficking, focusing on the in-depth analysis of international supply chains, illegal financial flows and the role of new technologies in the fight against human trafficking, in collaboration with experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, tech companies and the heads of financial institutions, among others. The conclusions reached will be used to design the Foreign Ministry's upcoming short- and medium-term actions in international fora.

> Active participation in the resolutions presented to the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, and support to existing mechanisms such as the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons or the UN Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. Furthermore, Spain will contribute to and support the EU strategy towards the eradication of human trafficking due in 2021.

A specific focus will be placed on promoting **sexual and reproductive health and rights**, with these efforts entailing the following actions in 2021:

> Monitoring and promoting initiatives in the multilateral area and within the EU to guarantee the agreed language and advances pursuant to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICDP).

> Support for multilateral bodies leading projects for the promotion of sexual and reproductive rights, such as UNFPA and UN Women.

> Projects undertaken by AECID relating to sexual and reproductive rights, including in humanitarian contexts.

Supporting the realisation of rights necessarily entails **supporting human rights defenders**. Spain has a Human Rights Defenders Programme providing temporary reception in Spain to human rights defenders who have been threatened and are at risk due to their activities. This support also means the recognition of the role to women's rights movements, ensuring their visibility and presence in different fora.

The Embassies of Spain will continue to participate in the liaison groups promoted by the European Union to hold meetings and monitor the situation of human rights defenders in different countries. We will work to raise the profile of female human rights defenders in multilateral and regional fora. In this regard, Spain will also strengthen its support for the programmes undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to protect human rights defenders.

## PROMOTING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Spain promoted and signed, together with 57 countries, a **Joint Statement on Protecting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Promoting Gender Responsiveness in the Covid-19 Crisis**, which serves as a guide to guaranteeing that responses to the pandemic consider sexual and reproductive health as a fundamental right.





## d) Participation of women in decision-making

The full and effective participation of women and girls in political and public life, and in decision-making in all spheres of society, is key to achieving real equality, while at the same time serving as a catalyst for the attainment of other priorities.

Spain's external action will support the participation of women and girls in all spheres of power and influence, with particular focus on specific areas, including:

> **Participation and active empowerment of women in the political life and in leadership at local level** through specific programmes and dialogue with women's organisations in different countries. The role of women's organisations in implementing Spain's feminist foreign policy will be promoted through meetings in the context of official visits or through Spanish Cooperation projects.

> **Participation of women in multilateral bodies and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights**, focusing particularly on strengthening consultation mechanisms and stepping up the presence of women in bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly.

> **Participation in peace processes and mediation projects:** The projects currently designed for stabilisation and resolution of conflicts at the local level in Libya include the creation and inclusion of women's networks in mediation processes and in the different crosscutting areas of the activities planned to enhance economic and political empowerment. The Toledo Platform project for mediation through cultural heritage also incorporates the gender equality perspective by involving women as central and active players in the socio-cultural contexts of conflict resolution processes.

## SUPPORTING THE G5 SAHEL WOMEN'S PLATFORM

In 2018, Spain supported the launch of the Women's Platform of G5 Sahel, a subregional organisation formed by Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Burkina Faso. The purpose of this Platform is to facilitate the integration and consideration of gender perspective and the priorities of women and girls into these countries' initiatives and activities, thereby contributing to the stability and development of the Sahel region.



## PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS

Official trips and visits to countries in the Maghreb region and the Middle East have included meetings with women's representatives from civil society and women leaders. Such meetings were held during the recent visits to Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. In addition, new initiatives will be put in place to connect and raise the profile of women and women's organisations through virtual meetings and seminars, as is currently the case with Palestinian women's organisations, among others.

## INITIATIVE ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The signatories have undertaken to deliver on the following commitments by 2025:

- > Adopt and implement gender-responsive climate change action plans, policies or strategies.
- > Improve the evidence base by supporting women's knowledge platforms and quantifying the benefits and effectiveness of engaging women and girls in climate actions and other initiatives.
- > Track progress by including relevant information in their regular reporting to UN bodies and other related fora.
- > Promote and enhance innovative tools that demonstrate and measure the transformative power of women and girls' leadership in modifying patterns of consumption to reduce carbon emissions.
- > Support and promote initiatives that foster women's and girls' full participation and leadership in mitigation and adaptation measures.

### > **Gender and climate change: participation in the climate action.**

Spain will monitor the commitments undertaken by more than 50 countries under the Initiative on Gender and Climate Change, promoted by Spain, Peru, Costa Rica, UN Women and other relevant actors during the 2019 Climate Action Summit. Moreover, Spain will pay special attention to the gender dimension as a member of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Advisory Group on Climate Change. Similarly, Spain will promote the implementation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and the Gender Action Plan adopted at the 25th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25) held in Madrid in December 2019.

### **e) Economic justice and the empowerment of women**

Spain, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation and the Ministry of Equality, has assumed the leadership of the **Beijing+25 Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights**, giving our country a key role in promoting women's economic rights in the multilateral sphere and the opportunity to promote specific initiatives engaging a variety of actors. This coalition will identify specific commitments to be implemented over the next five years by governments, international organisations, private sector entities and civil society organisations, addressing issues such as decent work, the care economy, equal access to and control of resources, financing and digitalisation.

The launch of the different action coalitions' work and their specific commitments will be announced at the Mexico City Forum in March and the Paris Forum in June 2021, with Spain participating at high level.

Similarly, Spain's feminist foreign policy promotes the economic empowerment of women as agents of wealth creation, as demonstrated by many studies and forecasts.





## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN SPANISH COOPERATION

AECID contributes to the economic empowerment of women in Ibero-America and the Caribbean through innovative actions such as the *Emprende-Q* project in Chimborazo, Ecuador, and the microcredit programme in the Dominican Republic, through the FONPRODE Development Promotion Fund.

## FORUM OF AFRICAN WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS

Currently, women represent only 5% of CEOs in Africa and only 14% of senior management. As part of the Spotlight on Africa programme, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation will organise periodic meetings of African women entrepreneurs, underscoring the importance of equality to sustainability and to the good health of companies and government bodies. Top-level African women entrepreneurs will participate in the forum, together with Spanish female business leaders and representatives from national and international institutions. The first meeting is foreseen in 2021 in Madrid.

**Economic diplomacy** will use the tools at its disposal to support women as business owners and consumers and promote their participation in defining and implementing economic policy.

Spain is committed to **an inclusive trade policy**. In the international context, Spain will follow up on the Buenos Aires Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment signed in 2017 in the context of the 11th Ministerial Conference of the International Trade Organization (WTO). Within the framework of the International Gender Champions (ICG) initiative, initially led by Botswana and Iceland, a working group on trade and gender has been created at the WTO. In the European context, Spain supports the inclusion of a chapter on gender in all trade agreements negotiated by the EU.

Moreover, Spain promotes and gives visibility to the role of **women in the internationalisation of the Spanish economy**. The 2019-2020 Action Plan set the foundations for progress in this area, identifying as priorities the analysis of the obstacles to female entrepreneurship at international level, as a basis for corrective action; and promoting the participation of women in government programmes supporting the internationalisation.

In this context, in 2019, the State Secretariat for Commerce organised the first meeting of the Working Group on the Role of Women in the Internationalisation of the Spanish Economy, attended by the representatives of different public bodies, universities and business

associations. In this framework, several discussion panels were created in 2020 with the aim to define concrete actions, promoted by the State Secretariat for Commerce and the State Secretariat for Equality and against Gender-based Violence. The presentation of the final report of the Action Plan is foreseen for 2021. Under the new Action Plan for the Internationalisation of the Spanish Economy 2021-2020, efforts in this area will continue through new lines of action.

Spain will promote women's access to digital media, particularly e-commerce as a key instrument in reducing the commercial gap. The proportion of women business owners in e-commerce is double that of traditional business owners. The access and participation of women and girls to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) training and careers is a fundamental lever in the goal of full participation of women and girls in international trade.



## PROMOTING GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE EU TRADE POLICY

In November 2020, the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade, together with her counterparts from France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg, sent a letter to EU Commissioner Dombrovskis with proposals for a more gender-responsive trade policy with specific references to the WTO.

## EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND THE G20

Spain participates in G20 meetings and summits as a permanent guest member, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in G20 declarations and lines of action. Spain actively participates in the Women20 (W20) group and the Empower Women network, led by the private sector with the principal objective to promote the presence of women in leadership positions in companies.

# 5

## Actors: Working together

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation** will implement the feminist foreign policy in collaboration with all the actors involved in Spain's external action.

**AECID**, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, plays an instrumental role in this context, not only in mainstreaming gender approach into Spanish Cooperation but also in sharing with the rest of the Foreign Service the lessons learned from its extensive experience in this area. The other bodies which are linked to or depend

on the Foreign Ministry will also collaborate closely in integrating the gender approach into Spain's external action, including the **Instituto Cervantes**, the **Carolina Foundation**, the network of **Council Foundations**, and the **'Casas' Network** comprising Casa América, Casa Árabe, Casa África and Casa Mediterráneo.

The implementation of Spain's feminist foreign policy requires close institutional cooperation with **other ministries and public administrations (the General State Administration, regional administrations of the Autonomous Communities, and local administrations)** that participate in Spain's external action or in the defence of gender equality. This includes the Ministry of Equality, which is responsible for ensuring that the gender approach is present in all the Government's public policies.

### GENDER EQUALITY AND CULTURAL COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The **Instituto Cervantes** seeks to offer exclusive cultural programming that disseminates creative work by women in the Spanish language. It is also strongly committed to a balanced presence of women in its line-up.

The **Carolina Foundation** undertakes action on gender in three areas: a) postgraduate training, a Master's programmes on gender equality policy and gender and development, in relation to SDG 5, through an annual call for grant applications, and specific programmes for women in STEM fields; b) studies, analyses and seminars, and their relationship to development and cooperation policies in the Ibero-American and Euro-Latin-American spheres; and c) a visitors' programme,

envisaged in the Foundation's 2021 programming, with a new call for grant applications for its women leaders programme.

Spanish **Cultural Centres** abroad undertake numerous initiatives on gender and culture in collaboration with local partners, raising the profile of women who create and produce culture in different countries, creating networks of women in culture, and publicising the cultural output of Spanish women.





**Cooperation with other actors** will also be further enhanced, in recognition of their instrumental role in defending gender equality. These include, in particular:

- > **non-governmental organisations**, particularly development and humanitarian action NGOs and women's rights organisations, recognising their considerable experience in this area;
- > the **private sector**, as a key actor in raising the profile of Spain's feminist foreign policy and raising public awareness about the positive impact of actions aimed at empowering women;
- > **universities and research centres**, to advance analysis of gender-responsive foreign policy.

In implementing Spain's feminist foreign policy, the Foreign Service will work closely with the **multilateral organisations** in which the country participates, in particular the United Nations and its related organisations, especially UN Women and UNFPA, as well as regional organisations, in particular the Council of Europe and OSCE. Similarly, partnerships with bilateral actors will be promoted with an aim to achieve specific advances in gender equality.

## THE INTERNATIONAL AND IBERO-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC POLICIES (FIIAPP)

The FIIAPP as an actor of the Spanish and EU development cooperation incorporates gender equality as a strategic and cross-cutting priority into its projects on inclusion and diversity, disability, health, migration, modernisation of public administration, governance, climate change, justice, combating people-smuggling and human trafficking, and combating organised crime.

## CONNECTING AFRICAN AND SPANISH THINK TANKS

The initiative to create a network of African and Spanish think tanks to deliberate on the political, social, and economic empowerment of African women and on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda will be launched in 2021. The first meeting, scheduled for the first half of 2021, will focus on laying the foundations of the network, sharing information and experiences, and identifying specific geographic contexts and spaces ripe for research initiatives.



# 6

## Monitoring mechanism and resources

Effective implementation of Spain's feminist foreign policy requires establishment of a monitoring mechanism, as well as an increase in available resources to make gender equality a reality.

As regards the external action, the incorporation of the gender approach shall be reflected in the existing funding instruments and in support for specific projects and organisations that promote the rights of women and girls.

Within the Foreign Service, there is a need for a redistribution of human and material resources and creation of practical tools. Budgeting is a key instrument for gender mainstreaming. Spanish budget legislation makes an explicit

reference to the need to develop a gender-responsive budget in order to reflect one of the State's public policy priorities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation prepares budgets with a gender perspective and will work on improving gender impact reports in the execution of the budget by incorporating indicators, in order to guarantee a gender perspective in all its financing.

The Ambassador-at-Large for Equality in Foreign Policy is responsible for maintaining the global vision of Spain's feminist foreign policy. The Under-Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation will ensure, through its Equality Unit, the incorporation of the gender approach into the Foreign Service's internal policies.

The monitoring of the actions described in this Guide will be carried out through annual reports that will reflect how Spain's feminist foreign policy is being implemented. The report will be presented to the Parliament and discussed with stakeholders and civil society. A high-level Advisory Group will be established to identify future priorities and courses of action.



# Appendix.

## 2021 schedule

- JANUARY**
- Preparatory meetings, Beijing+25 Generation Equality Forum coalition.
  - 15 January: first workshop on the participation of women in EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Missions (co-led by Spain and Finland).
- FEBRUARY**
- Preparatory meetings, Beijing+25 Generation Equality Forum coalition.
  - Presentation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) report.
  - 46<sup>th</sup> Session, Human Rights Council (HRC).
- MARCH**
- 8 March: International Women's Day.
  - 8 March: Instituto Cervantes, launch of the Inclusive Language Guide.
  - 15-26 March: 65<sup>th</sup> session, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
  - 29-31 March: Generation Equality Forum in Mexico City.
- APRIL**
- Presentation to the Spanish Parliament of the follow-up report on the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.
- MAY**
- Commemoration, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Istanbul Convention.
  - Event in Brussels and communication actions. Event/Seminar with participation of leaders in Strasbourg.
- JUNE**
- Beijing+25 Generation Equality Forum in Paris, and launch of the coalitions' work. Heads of State and of Government level.
  - 47<sup>th</sup> session, HRC. High-level panel discussion on the rights of women and girls.
- SEPTEMBER**
- UN General Assembly (UNGA) Ministerial Week. Organisation of parallel acts.
  - 48<sup>th</sup> session, HRC.
- OCTOBER**
- UN Security Council, Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security.
  - UNGA Third Committee.
- NOVEMBER**
- UNGA Third Committee.
  - 25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. 16 days of activism.









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