



# SPAIN

Statement of  
H.M. The King  
at the United Nations.

New York, 25th of September of 2015

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and a true honour to address the United Nations and represent Spain again.

The Heads of State and Government of the United Nations are here to commit ourselves, on behalf of our people, to transform the world in the next fifteen years. To free it from extreme poverty and hunger which continue to afflict a great part of humanity. We are going to change it amongst everyone and for everyone. This is our conviction and this is our commitment.

The agenda for change which we adopt today is the outcome of negotiations among equals and gathers the voices of millions of citizens. They are the ones that have told us what is expected of us. And they do so on behalf of a generation that is now being born and will be 15 years old in 2030.

We are here to commit ourselves solemnly before this new generation that all of its members will be able to develop fully their capabilities, without any type of discrimination.

We commit ourselves before them to create wealth in a sustainable manner, returning what we have taken from nature, as we are only guests and provisional administrators. For which, it is essential that the Climate Change Summit that will take place in Paris next December produces results which meet the challenge we are facing.

His Holiness Pope Francisco, who was with us this morning, tell us in his Encyclical Letter "*Laudato Si*" that the interdependence of our era should make us think on a common project. To think of a single world requires us to act as a one.

In this spirit, we have already taken decisive steps which give us hope thanks to the Millennium Agenda initiated 15 years ago. However, development is not, and has never been, a uniform process and its achievement is neither guaranteed. Wars as in Syria, natural disasters like the earthquake in Nepal or epidemics like Ebola can undo decades of progress achieved by developing countries and they demand our solidarity and sustained attention.

Even in the more developed countries, the experience of the recent global crisis has exposed the fragility of many realities which we considered almost indestructible. And, above all, it alerted us that no one is immune of the weaknesses of a growth model that we now have to fix and improve while preserving its strengths and eliminating its excesses.

The globalization of finance, technology or information should be accompanied with the globalization of solidarity, knowledge, equity, liberty, and human dignity.

The Agenda which we adopt today is universal and we are all responsible for its successful culmination. Spain will contribute to this goal. My country has already supported the Millennium Development Goals in a firmly manner through the MDG Fund, with the largest contribution made by one single country towards achieving these Goals.

We are definitely committed with the new Sustainable Development Goals Agenda and our commitment is supported by deeds. We have constituted, with the United Nations Development Programme, the first Sustainable Development Goals Fund which is already financing projects in more than seventeen countries.

Our cooperation policy is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The Official Development Assistance is one of its pillars and we are committed, together with the European Union, with the objective to dedicate to the mentioned Assistance 0.7% of our GDP by the year 2030 and making an emphasis on the least developed countries. We cannot forget that an important share of poverty and exclusion is concentrated in middle income countries. Thus, we will continue to dedicate part of our attention and resources to them.

It is essential to attain equitable development, genuine and effective enjoyment of rights and equal opportunity for all. Therefore it is necessary to generate opportunities, both in education (and hence the importance of knowledge, innovation and technology) and in the creation of employment, especially in youth employment, an area where Spain is particularly sensitive.

It is essential to ensure equal opportunities for women. They must have the same role as men at the workplace as well as in the exercise of their political and social rights and in society in general.

Mr. President, the idea that we are all part of a global community ruled by law and oriented towards the common good was put forward by some of the best Spanish minds since the beginning of modernity, among them we can find Father Francisco de Vitoria, one of the founders of International Law. 70 years ago, with the creation of this organization, the world took a giant step towards the fulfillment of that dream. Then, as now, the objective which unites us is to create a community of citizens, conscious of our responsibility with our neighbours and with the planet that we inhabit.

We, Spaniards of the XXI century believe in this dream and would like to make it a reality. It is our conviction. It is our commitment.

Thank you.