



Spain's General Statement

on the occasion of the

2020 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

organised under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council
(ECOSOC)

(7-17 July 2020)

This High-Level Political Forum is being held under exceptional circumstances due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has triggered an unprecedented health, social and economic crisis that has shaken the entire world. This pandemic has forced us to acknowledge certain truths we already knew: that we must urgently reorient our social, economic and financial model; that we need just, inclusive and sustainable globalization.

It is irrefutable that what we are going through now is a multidimensional crisis. Yes, of course, it is a health crisis, but one with environmental, social and economic facets. It is, therefore, imperative that our response for coming out of this crisis is founded on a commitment to step up the actions necessary to transform our world in the manner envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Today, it is more necessary than ever that we implement the proposals of the 2030 Agenda, including those relating to financing, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To carry out the transformations that are so urgently required, we need strengthened social and sustainable global governance. The Covid-19

pandemic has shown us that global challenges know no borders, and that we are stronger when we act together, united.

We need robust and coordinated multilateralism if we are to achieve global sustainable development. The pandemic, but also the climate emergency, the threat to biodiversity, poverty and inequalities have underscored the need for us to work together to manage the global problems affecting us all. It is a tragic reminder of the deep connections that bind us all to one another.

The virus has laid bare the interrelation between the degradation of ecosystems and the impacts thereof and our possibilities of survival as a species. The United Nations can and must play a leading role to address the core issues and the political, social, economic and environmental transformations called for by “the day after”, putting People and Planet at the centre. We must respond to the pandemic, and work towards a socio-economic recovery that builds our resilience while leaving no one behind, to prevent and reduce the risk of future crises. We must ensure that our response takes vulnerable people into account, prioritizes those suffering from poverty and exclusion, and respects environmental limits; and to do so we need a revitalized and strengthened global governance.

But at the same time, the commitment to the 2030 Agenda will not be credible if it is not accompanied by a commitment to cooperation with developing countries, to the eradication of poverty in all its dimensions, to reducing inequalities, to just and sustainable globalization. In short, a commitment to a world-scale sustainable development policy, in which cooperation and development assistance play a fundamental role.

If we, as global governance leaders and institutions, are not capable of tackling this emergency and its long-term impacts with transformative policies and measures such as those demanded of us by the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, we will have failed to take advantage of a unique opportunity to resolve the structural problems affecting all countries: inequality in all its manifestations, poverty, and climate change. If there is something we can learn from this devastating pandemic, it is that sustainability, resilience and social justice are our only valid options for coming out of this crisis. Today, in this “day after” we need the 2030 Agenda more than ever.

Thank you,