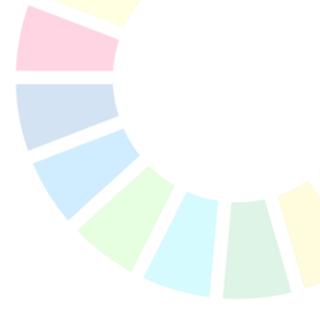




# SPAIN'S REPORT FOR THE 2018 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW





## A national blueprint

*The world we live in is increasingly interconnected, complex, unstable, and fast-changing. New challenges have emerged, while familiar challenges remain: the persistence of poverty in the world; the rise in inequalities in all parts of the globe; climate change; new and old forms of violence and insecurity; digitalization and robotization. These challenges often provoke fear and uncertainty, along with rejection of differences and of those who are different, engendering populist “us first” narratives, new forms of discrimination, aporophobia, violence, totalitarianism, human rights violations, forced migration, closure of borders, and new forms of protectionism.*

*Today, more than ever, we must state firmly and with conviction that an alternative does exist. That a different response is possible. How we address the greatest challenges that we face as a country, as a society, as humankind, cannot be guided by fear. Our responses must be based on the universal values of justice, equality, solidarity, and human rights. It is our aspiration and our duty to craft a response that puts people first, irrespective of their origin or status; that respects our planet and the rights of future generations; that sustains shared, safe and sustainable progress; that builds peace and justice; that belongs to all of us, as partners.*

*The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the Government of Spain has adopted with enthusiasm and conviction, encapsulate this response. It is both an ethical and operating framework, for all governments and for all citizens. A new global social contract. The strongest foundation on which to build the Europe—and the world—to which we aspire.*

*It is, moreover, a great opportunity for Spain. Analysis of the economic crisis, and of its lasting effects, teaches us important lessons. We need to change our production model; undertake a profound ecological transition of our economy; ensure that the benefits of economic growth deliver a reduction in poverty and greater equality; and safeguard human rights and our social State under the rule of law.*

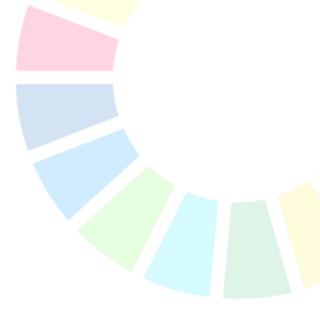
*Spain has competitive advantages and capabilities in both the public and private sectors to formulate public policies and collective action on the basis of the new global agenda for sustainable development.*

*A Spain that has achieved the SDGs by 2030 will be the country we all dream of. This is why the 2030 Agenda is already at the heart of Spain’s government action, and of a vision shared across the political spectrum. It imbues our conduct on the world stage.*

*In short, a national blueprint.*

*No more, no less.*

Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón  
President of the Government



## Key messages

The 2030 Agenda is driving an unprecedented mobilization in Spain of all our national, regional and local administrations, our citizens, social stakeholders, companies, universities, research centres, and civil society organizations, focused on a shared vision. Since the Agenda's adoption, this movement has grown and expanded, incorporating different social sectors, disciplines and levels of the administration, and has served as the basis for agreements and consensus in a complex economic and political context. Thus, in addition to public entities, civil society, academia, and the private sector, the parliamentary groups of the Congress of Deputies, highly active in monitoring the Agenda's progress and in their demands for accountability, have urged the Government of Spain to coordinate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through agreements endorsed by practically all the political parties, so that "the Agenda is established, in short, as a cross-cutting element of all government action".

It is absolutely vital that Spain's commitment to the Agenda be reflected in basic agreements between the political, economic, and social powers, acknowledging the necessity for a long-term vision and the promotion of sustainability in its broadest sense. The efforts made in recent years have been greatly reinforced by the arrival of the new Government in June 2018; the 2030 Agenda now forms part of the very essence of Spain's new Government and of its national blueprint.

In fact, a number of decisions have already been made in the few weeks that the new Government has been in power, setting Spain on the path to focusing its public policies and political priorities on achieving the SDGs. The Government itself has a majority of women ministers—11 out of 17. The new Government has created the figure of a High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, who shall report directly to the President of the Government, as well as a High Commissioner for Child Poverty. It has also created a Ministry of Ecological Transition, responsible for energy, the environment, and climate change. We shifted immediately from deeply conservative to highly ambitious positions as regards commitments of the European Union (EU) to compliance with the Paris Agreement. The Ministry of Equality has been reinstated, headed by the Vice-President of the Government. The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities has been created. Moreover, universal health coverage is now being extended to one and all, including irregular migrants. The new Government of Spain has also declared its intention to reorient employment policy through social dialogue, so that economic growth does not compound inequality. Spain has shown its solidarity, as well as its commitment to human rights and to a just, sustainable, and inclusive world order, by welcoming the rescue ship *Aquarius* into our territory: an action that unequivocally demonstrated Spain's renewed commitment to global solidarity. It also showed that the 2030 Agenda is clearly stamped on Spain's international calling card, and our commitment to the SDGs, both within our territory and with respect to all the world's citizens, has become a core feature of the role that Spain wishes to play in the world. Likewise, it showed that the 2030 Agenda is a meeting point for dialogue and collaboration among Spain's 17 Autonomous Communities (regional

administrations) and its local entities, strengthening their leadership and the efforts that they have already made to localize the Agenda (already an international benchmark on how to implement the SDGs in cities and territories) in their respective spheres—from the bottom up.

The steps taken to prepare the Voluntary National Review have facilitated the efforts to launch implementation of the Agenda in Spain. A High-Level Group (HLG) for interministerial coordination has been created. All Spanish ministries will participate in this Group, which has also convened the regional administrations and local entities. A programmatic Action Plan has been approved for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; this Plan will cover a transition from the urgent launch of the Agenda's implementation to the formulation of a long-term Sustainable Development Strategy for Spain. It also covers a transition from the outgoing Government of Spain, which began and developed the approach to this implementation, and the incoming Government, whose actions will be very largely focused on the SDGs and sustainable development.

The Action Plan will immediately promote new policies, measures, and approaches to governance and working methods, leading—as one of its main outcomes—to the adoption of a 2020–2030 Sustainable Development Strategy that represents a national blueprint with broad support and a vision shared across the political spectrum. A strategy whose drafting, deliberation, and negotiation must start now, and be addressed calmly and in a participatory manner over the coming months.

The Plan also compiles all of the actions carried out by a wide range of actors and stakeholders, as well as the actions that shall be carried out immediately by Spain's Central Administration—a robust, multiparty governance structure ranging up to the highest level of government—and a system for accountability in which Parliament shall play a central role.

The Plan has been debated intensely over the past few months with civil society and private sector organizations, universities, think-tanks, and professional associations, whose contributions have been included in the Plan, thus promoting steady partnership-building. The close collaboration amongst public entities and the participative nature of the efforts undertaken have enabled robust progress, including the definition of an ambitious multi-stakeholder, multi-level governance system incorporating all sectors.

The Plan assigns responsibilities for each of the SDGs and their targets to the different ministries, which thus become focal points. The policies and laws aimed at advancing towards each SDG are described in detail, establishing the corresponding baselines and indicators. The Plan identifies priority areas of action in which to implement accelerator policies: preventing and combating poverty and social exclusion, and promoting the circular economy and the social economy; equal opportunities, scientific and technical research, open government, and Spanish Cooperation; Spain's Urban Agenda; and the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act. The horizontal measures defined include ambitious policies and the reforms required to remain securely on the path towards 2030, supported by specific and measurable commitments relating to many areas: the qualification of government officials, the educational system, awareness-raising among citizens and in the culture, multi-stakeholder partnerships, public budgets, public procurement, analysis of the impact of public policy on the SDGs, as well as their connection to the national reform programme in the context of the European Union.

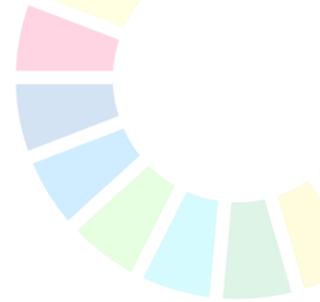
Spain was previously very active in the implementation of the SDGs, creating the Millennium Fund in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—which has undertaken its implementation—and has become highly involved once again, both in prior consultations and discussion of the Agenda in the High-Level Group and in its implementation. At the United Nations (UN), Spain became the first donor to commit its support to the new Joint Fund for the 2030 Agenda. Spain has also been unwavering in its support of the Agenda within the European Union; in the debates of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); in the G20; and in the Ibero-American sphere, through the Ibero-American Conference and its General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

There is, thus, among the stakeholders a commitment to the dynamics created, along with tension and expectation due to the scope and complexity of the challenge, and the need for collaboration, both at the national and international levels—and a need, too, for decisive political leadership based on political consensus and on solid technical and scientific foundations.

The challenge is enormous, and it is therefore crucial that we act urgently to champion the necessary policies aimed at seriously tackling the multiple manifestations of poverty, inequality, unemployment, and the degradation of our natural environment. To face this challenge we must have the support of each of the stakeholders involved, and create political spaces for consensus and accountability.

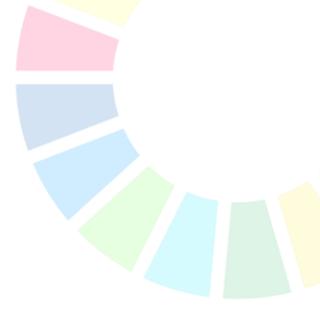
## Acronyms

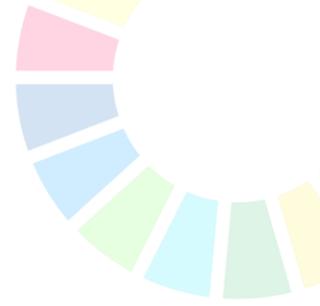
|         |   |
|---------|---|
| AAAA    | Addis Ababa Action Agenda   |
| AECID   | Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation            |
| AROPE   | at risk of poverty and/or exclusion                                 |
| CDGAE   | Delegate Commission for Economic Affairs of the Government of Spain |
| CEOE    | Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain                  |
| CEPYME  | Confederation of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises of Spain       |
| COFIDES | Spanish Development Finance Company                                 |
| CRUE    | Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities                       |
| CSR     | corporate social responsibility                                     |
| DAC     | Development Assistance Committee                                    |
| ECLAC   | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean             |
| ETS     | Emissions Trading System  |
| EU      | European Union  |
| FEAD    | Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived                          |
| FEMP    | Federation of Municipalities and Provinces of Spain                 |
| HLG     | High-Level Group  |
| HLPF    | United Nations High-Level Political Forum                           |
| ICEX    | Spanish Export and Investment Agency                                |
| LCCYTE  | Climate Change and Energy Transition Act                            |
| LOIEMH  | Organic Law 3/2007 on the Effective Equality of Women and Men       |
| MAPA    | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food                         |
| MAUC    | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation     |
| MEE     | Ministry of Economy and Business                                    |
| MICT    | Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism                             |
| MINFOM  | Ministry of Infrastructure  |
| MITECO  | Ministry of Ecological Transition                                   |
| MSCBS   | Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare             |
| MTMSS   | Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security                   |
| NGDO    | Non-Governmental Development Organization                           |
| NUA     | New Urban Agenda  |
| OECD    | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development               |
| PCSD    | policy coherence for sustainable development                        |
| PNACC   | National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change                      |
| REDS    | Sustainable Development Solutions Network of Spain                  |
| SDGs    | Sustainable Development Goals                                       |
| SWG     | Standing Working Group  |
| UN      | United Nations  |
| UNDP    | United Nations Development Programme                                |
| UNICEF  | United Nations Children's Fund                                      |
| VNR     | Voluntary National Review   |
| WWF     | World Wildlife Fund   |



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# THE PROCESS



## 1. Introduction

Spain is firmly committed to the vision, spirit and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and is determined to see the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) become a reality. This commitment has been shown by our citizens; by civil society; by many companies, universities and trade unions; and also by Spain's regional administrations and local entities. In their respective spheres of action, and in their diverse missions, roles and areas of responsibility, all of them have taken firm, ambitious and sustained steps towards substantially transforming their long-term strategies, policies and practices, to make headway in meeting the targets of the Agenda. Their combined efforts are unequivocally crucial to achieving what will therefore be a collective success.

It goes without saying, however, that it is incumbent upon Spain's public administrations, government entities, and Parliament to exercise the necessary leadership and assume responsibility for promoting these efforts. The SDGs' implementation shall be coordinated by the Central Administration of the Government of Spain, and by the regional governments and local entities at their respective levels of responsibility.

It is vital that Spain's commitment to the Agenda be reflected in basic agreements between the political, economic, and social powers, acknowledging the necessity for a long-term vision and the promotion of sustainability in its broadest sense. The SDGs can be adopted as an authentic national blueprint if parliamentary consensus is reached to accept the 2030 Agenda as an essential benchmark for our public policies, with the concerted action of all stakeholders. Such consensus must not, of course, evade debate and dissent as regards the most appropriate and efficient policies by which to advance continuously towards the SDGs. This movement towards consensus among the political parties is already reflected in several parliamentary initiatives, in the presentation of studies on the 2030 Agenda, and in the unanimous agreement to create a Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda (involving the Congress of Deputies and the Senate), which is currently before Parliament.

The Government of Spain took the first steps towards promoting the 2030 Agenda and advanced in the preparation of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2017 and the first few months of 2018. With the appointment of the new President of the Government on 1 June 2018, the 2030 Agenda has acquired a fresh impetus in Spain, and is now at the heart of the Government's vision and action. Giving continuity to the implementation of the SDGs as comprising an agenda transcending political cycles, the new Government has immediately taken clear steps and specific decisions and issued clear messages on the importance of the 2030 Agenda in its policies, closely linked to progress towards key SDGs: universal health coverage, gender equality, renewable energy, ecological transition, employment policy, international governance, solidarity, and commitment to human rights, as well as eradicating child poverty, reducing inequalities, and combating climate change.

Our commitment is reflected in the Action Plan supporting this Report, which sets the implementation of the 2030 Agenda squarely on the political agenda as a core element of public policy, adopting specific commitments and urgent measures, and laying the foundations for the

formulation—within the next few months—of a Sustainable Development Strategy to be applied until 2030.

At the session held on 26 June—which included the participation of the central, regional, and local administrations, as well as social stakeholders and the High-Level Group for the 2030 Agenda (the highest authority for promoting the Agenda in Spain)—the Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was unanimously adopted, agreeing that it be raised to the Council of Ministers for its formal approval by the Government of Spain.

This Report includes the main contents of the Action Plan. It is, indisputably, extensive. Spain is a country with a high degree of decentralization and regional autonomy, with 17 Autonomous Communities, two autonomous cities, and over 8,000 municipalities; therefore, we considered it appropriate to reflect all of the country's commitments in the Report, in all their wealth and diversity, even at the cost of making the Report that much longer. The Report is divided into sections to facilitate its analysis and understanding.

### 1.1. The commitment of Spain's citizenry: Essential foundations

Last year, the Government of Spain decided to undergo this VNR, a decision that was formally communicated to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). In so doing, Spain joined the ranks of the 65 countries that were reviewed in 2016 and 2017, and of the other 47 that will be reviewed in 2018. The change in the Government of Spain in June has not affected this decision. On the contrary, the commitment to submit the VNR has been confirmed, and the ambition and alignment of the action sustaining it has been reinforced.

This decision bolstered a commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to sustainable development which Spain had already clearly demonstrated during the validity period of the Millennium Development Goals, doubling the percentage of our Gross National Income (GNI) allocated to Official Development Assistance over the period from 2004 to 2010. A highlight was Spain's creation of the Millennium Fund in collaboration with the UNDP, which has undertaken its implementation. Additionally, Spain was recognized as a key player during the lengthy gestation and design process of the SDGs. Of particular note in this regard is Spain's leadership at the global consultations on hunger, food security, and nutrition, including a successful High-Level Meeting held in Madrid, as well as the consultations on the post-2015 Agenda and the private sector. Spain also participated actively in the Open Working Group on SDGs, and in the successive inter-governmental meetings to negotiate the text of the 2030 Agenda.

Spain's decision to present the VNR has set in motion essential processes for the implementation of the Agenda at the national level and for the achievement of the SDGs. These processes could not be activated previously, due to the complex political situation when Spain had a caretaker government for a good part of 2016.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, Spain's citizenry, as well as different public and private stakeholders, have embarked upon its implementation in a number of different ways. The new Government of Spain was thus met with an encouraging outlook as regards its partners and allies for facing this challenge. In Spain's Central Administration, several ministries had already begun internal processes for learning, reflection, and action. For

example, the then Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and the Environment (MAPAMA) had already conducted an in-depth analysis of its many responsibilities and challenges in relation to the Agenda in accordance with its scope of authority. Additionally, the Ministry of Infrastructure (MINFOM) had made considerable progress on the design of the new Urban Agenda, in compliance with what was agreed at the UN Habitat III conference.

The Agenda has generated broad political consensus from the outset. In the Spanish Parliament, the International Development Cooperation Committees of both Houses followed its global implementation closely, allowing for rapid mobilization and the necessary political impetus. The debate among all the groups represented by the Congress of Deputies' International Development Cooperation Committee, and the subsequent approval by unanimous vote on 12 December 2017 of *Non-Legislative Motion 161/001253 for political guidance from the Government in defining the national strategy to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development*, brought the Agenda to the centre of parliamentary debate, as well as leading to the creation of a guide for decision-making by all stakeholders, and in particular by governmental bodies. This initial political consensus provided guidance to the Government on three aspects: 1) the institutional structure and parliamentary position required in Spain to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; 2) the priorities—in Spain—as regards the SDGs and their different targets to achieve the 2030 Agenda; 3) material, financial, and human resources required to implement the Agenda.

Moreover, several regional administrations had already commenced their implementation process with interesting mapping exercises, which intersected their key policies with the SDGs and their targets, in addition to strategic planning decisions aimed at achieving the SDGs. As regards local entities, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) had already established the localization of the Agenda as a priority line of action, which had also been adopted by many specific local entities with impetus and resolve.

There was also, from the outset, a mass mobilization among non-public stakeholders. In civil society, networks and groups focused expressly on the Agenda had already been created and mobilized. These included *Futuro en Común* (The Future in Common), Spain's Sustainable Development Solution Network (REDS), and the platform comprising the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Oxfam Intermón, whose reports on the 2030 Agenda and its proposed indicators have served as a benchmark for several stakeholders and a good number of decisions. In the private business sector, the business platforms addressing corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability had already begun to focus on the Agenda, and many companies were already taking decisions seeking heightened impact as regards the achievement of the SDGs. Spain's UN Global Compact Network has diverse initiatives to comply with its foundational mandate. As regards Spain's universities, some had created research groups and begun applied research, while the corresponding committees of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) had begun adapting to the Agenda.

The involvement of all these stakeholders greatly facilitated the start-up of the Agenda's implementation, due to the social mobilization and content enrichment it provided. Each of the stakeholders, with their position papers and their advocacy, contributed to identifying the

challenges faced by Spain in achieving the SDGs and their targets across the three dimensions—social, economic, and environmental—and as regards their implementation and cross-cutting nature.

## 1.2. The Government of Spain's efforts to implement the Agenda

The Government of Spain made a number of significant initial decisions. In May 2017, the Council of Ministers approved the appointment of an Ambassador-at-Large for the 2030 Agenda. A few months later (September 2017), the HLG was created by the Spanish Government's Delegate Commission for Economic Affairs (CDGAE), as a working group for this issue. This Delegate Commission has the authority to examine issues in the general economic sphere relating to several ministries, as well as relevant proposals on economic matters affecting the Spanish economy as a whole, or significant sectors, irrespective of the formal instrument in which they are detailed. The Commission is chaired by the President of the Government and formed by the Vice-President of the Government and the principal ministers in the economic sphere, among others.

The HLG is an institutional mechanism that coordinates all of the ministries at the highest level with the dual objective of harmonizing Spain's position and the necessary actions to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, and to prepare the evaluations presented by Spain to the HLPF. Its mission is, therefore, broad and ambitious, both in terms of its timeframe and content. The HLG is the entity that has promoted and coordinated the issues relating to the 2030 Agenda within Spain's Central Administration, and has brought together the different ministries from the comprehensive perspective of the SDGs. From its creation until the investiture of the current President of the Government, the HLG was chaired by the then Foreign Minister, supported by two Vice-Chairs (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food [MAPA] and MINFOM), and formed by all the top-ranking officials of these three ministries, from the category of Director-General up, as well as by the Director of the Economic Office of the President of the Government, the Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Under-Secretary of MAPAMA, and the Secretary of State for Infrastructure, Transportation and Housing, of MINFOM. Additionally, meetings on issues relating to regional administrations and local entities were also attended by the Secretary of State for the Territorial Administrations.

With a view to ambitiously promoting sustainable development, the HLG decided to formulate an Action Plan for 2018-2019 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This Action Plan needed to be more than just a status report; it needed to be well-defined, realistic and credible, it needed to be negotiated with social stakeholders and forge broad and robust consensus. Moreover, it needed to establish the immediate implementation of the Agenda, setting its sights on the possible preparation of a Sustainable Development Strategy for Spain. We already had such a strategy in 2007; now, faced with new challenges, in a different world, and following the Rio+20 Summit and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, it must be updated to define a longer-term vision of the transformations that will bring us closer to the SDGs and contribute effectively to their achievement worldwide. The Plan was to be presented internationally in the VNR for 2018.

Finally, and as a definitive measure, Spain's recent change in Government led to the creation on 19 June 2018 of the position of High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda. This official will report directly to the President of the Government and will coordinate actions for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, a Directorate-General has been created to support the High Commissioner.

## 2. The process and methodology for preparing the VNR: Action-oriented and mobilizing Spanish society

### 2.1. Starting point and approach

The preparation of the VNR stemmed from a core decision by the Spanish Government and from other complementary decisions aimed at promoting and integrating the contributions of stakeholders that were already involved in the process, and adding those that were not yet present, with a long-term outlook towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, properly assessing each phase, awareness-raising and ownership, diagnoses and cumulative exercises, and thoroughly calibrating the most strategic and change-generating decisions.

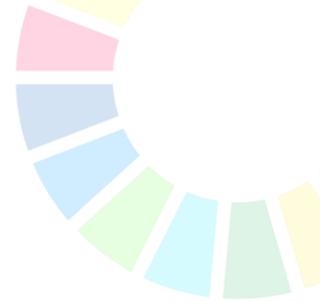
These foundations have led to an intense Agenda-driven first semester of 2018, enabling us to reach the VNR in a promising scenario. Undoubtedly, work still needs to be done for Spain to achieve the SDGs domestically and to contribute effectively at the international level, but good headway has already been made.

A methodological aspect should be noted here, one that highlights, on the one hand, the importance of the short-term instrumental exercise conducted over the past few months, and, on the other, Spain's commitment to a long-term strategic vision of the entire Agenda, from its principles to each and every one of its targets and indicators.

All the stakeholders agree that the ultimate purpose of the process is to meet—and, if possible, surpass—the SDGs and each of their targets by 2030. Given their ambition and their cross-cutting nature, these challenges require high-level State commitments, as part of coherent planning, resulting from shared work and consensus.

Therefore, from the outset of this journey, the aim has not been to reach the VNR with a fully defined and closed roadmap of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. Quite the opposite—the aim has been to prepare the VNR through a three-stage exercise, which has in turn generated knowledge, ownership and consensus, and which we could summarize as follows:

An initial, eminently technical stage, focused on mapping what has already been done by the ministries, with a cumulative approach: i) diagnosis of the situation and baseline of each of the Agenda's targets; ii) diagnosis of the main challenges and constraints facing decision-making with a view to fulfilling the targets; iii) diagnosis of the situation of each of the main stakeholders involved. The main outcomes of this stage have been the public access database with the map of the contribution of Spain's Central Administration to each SDG, the framework

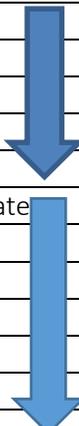
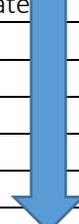


documents for each SDG as at May 2018, and each stakeholder’s position paper, drafted and approved by each of them.

A second stage, based on the knowledge generated in the previous stage, and consisting in a shift from the cumulative to the analytic and decision-based, focusing on the identification of transformative policies and measures that will enable the speedy launching of actions with a great impact on the entire Agenda, as well as the necessary short-term requirements for undertaking commitments and making decisions regarding their implementation. The main outcome of this stage has been the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Lastly, a third stage, with a strategic and decision-making approach, aimed at generating long-term commitments for the definitive implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain and for effective contribution vis-à-vis third countries. The key outcome of this stage will be the national Sustainable Development Strategy. A new VNR is scheduled for 2020-2021, providing accountability to the HLPF as regards the implementation of the Plan and the presentation of the Strategy.

This Report describes the first and second stages, and establishes guidelines for the third stage, which will generate interest and lead to decisions in forthcoming years, and will show the strategic commitment of the Spanish Government and of all the other stakeholders. The work in these past months has not revolved specifically around the Report, but rather, around the diagnosis and the baselines, the identification of transformative policies and measures, dialogue with all the stakeholders, and the drafting of the Action Plan. This Report only includes the most noteworthy steps that will be conveyed to the HLPF and to the other countries. They can find more information in the Appendices and in the reference documents.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 2015 Approval of the 2030 Agenda   |  |
| 2017 Spain’s VNR decision  |   |
| 2017-2018 Drafting of the Action Plan and preparation of the VNR                     |   |
| 2018 Approval of the 2018-2020 Action Plan   |   |
| 2018 VNR   |   |
| 2018-2020 Implementation of the Action Plan and preparation of the national Strategy |   |
| 2019 Approval of the 2020-2030 national Strategy                                     |   |
| 2020-2021 VNR  |   |
| 2021-2030 Implementation of the national Strategy                                    |   |
| 2025 VNR   |   |
| 2030 VNR   |  |
| 2030 Fulfilment of the SDGs  |   |

## 2.2. The process

In the Spanish Parliament, new decisions have been added to the aforementioned non-legislative motion. The Senate’s International Development Cooperation Committee has launched the *Study Paper for the Definition, Drafting and Coordination of the Spanish Strategy to Achieve the SDGs*, in which key stakeholders from different spheres have explained their contribution, their vision, their expectations and their proposals regarding the implementation

of the Agenda in Spain. At the Committee's initiative, an important seminar was organized to present to all of the senators the work of the HLG and of the other public stakeholders. Other speakers and attendees included senior officials from Spain's Central Administration, regional administrations and local entities.

The creation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee has also been proposed, to coordinate and monitor Spain's SDG Strategy.

In April, the Congress of Deputies held one of its most important working sessions on the 2030 Agenda, organized by civil society and closed by the Speaker of the Congress of Deputies.

Previously, in January 2017, the Vice-President of the Government announced in Soria that the Government of Spain was committed to the 2030 Agenda "in its great ambition as a State policy", and added that "all levels of public administration will make it a priority as a core element in designing and launching their public policies". This message has been put into practice through the HLG, which has met on eight occasions since its creation, fulfilling its obligation to prepare the report and *coordinate Spain's position and the necessary actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals*. The HLG has been complemented by the Standing Working Group (SWG), created as technical and operational support to respond to and follow up on any decisions taken. The SWG meets once a month, and enjoys a high level of participation and involvement from all the ministries; this has enabled progress in the work plan and the schedule defined by common agreement.

The Foreign Minister, as Chair of the HLG, and, in particular, the Directorate-General for Sustainable Development Policies and the Ambassador-at-Large and his team, have all worked hard in liaising with and coordinating all the ministries. The HLG and SWG sessions have been reinforced by specific meetings with those responsible for the focal points within each ministry, and by participation in dissemination, internal training and horizontal dialogue activities, fostering knowledge and optimal organization of the process.

The mapping of what had already been done by the ministries, as set forth in the HLG's foundational agreement, has laid the groundwork for a situation diagnosis. All the ministries were consulted about policies, strategies, plans, laws and regulations in place, or in an advanced drafting stage, with a decisive impact on one or more of the 169 targets. In addition, they were asked for information about which ministerial unit was responsible, links with global and European processes, the main indicators, monitoring mechanisms, vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms, budget allocation, the impact on foreign action, and, where appropriate, links with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on Financing for Development. This consultation generated interesting internal dynamics in the ministries that were least advanced in the ownership and implementation of the Agenda, and led Spain's Central Administration to reach a similar pace in involvement and commitment.

The analysis of the results of this mapping was included in the Action Plan, and a summary is presented in this Report. All of the information, with more than 500 entries, has been organized in a public access database, created and developed especially for this purpose. This database will become a very useful tool for knowledge management and accountability.



After this mapping, it was necessary to study each SDG and its targets in an organized manner, taking each ministry's responsibilities and powers as a benchmark. To foster ownership, commitment to effectiveness, and facilitate coordination, the HLG approved the creation of the figure of focal point ministry: each SDG must have at least one.

On the basis of this figure, the following steps in the process were taken: the drafting of a framework document for each SDG, coordinated by each focal point ministry, in which a general assessment of the SDG is made, each of the targets is analysed in detail, and, starting from the current situation, an achievement horizon is sketched out, with medium- and long-term commitments and implementation resources, also paying attention to the least covered targets. This work was the prelude to identifying the main transformative policies and measures.

This exercise has involved extremely close coordination among ministries. The integrated and inclusive nature of the Agenda does not make it possible to achieve any SDG, or practically any of their targets, without the involvement of multiple stakeholders or without interconnections with other targets. A very fruitful dialogue has been generated, making it possible to combine and highlight the responsibilities and commitments of all the ministries towards achieving the SDGs. This network has created an interesting map of relations and complementarities among ministries, which is also included in the Action Plan.

After the incoming Government's reconfiguration of the ministries, the Central Administration has reviewed the architecture of the 2030 Agenda's focal points, linking each SDG's targets and indicators to the current ministerial powers, paying particular attention to newly created ministries which, not by coincidence, will have a decisive impact on the implementation of the Agenda.

In parallel, strategic efforts have been made to select and define indicators, led by Spain's National Statistics Institute (INE), a member of the SWG, and in close collaboration with the statistics units of all the ministries within the framework of the Interministerial Statistics Commission.

Using the global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda's goals and targets proposed by the UN, together with the framework proposed by the EU through its statistical office (Eurostat), as a benchmark, the indicators most appropriate for measuring progress in our country have been identified. Moreover, as set forth in the Agenda's monitoring and accountability system, the possibility of Spain proposing indicators that are particularly relevant and complementary to the aforementioned framework has also been studied. Proposals made by civil society platforms such as *Futuro en Común*, Spain's Sustainable Development Solution Network (REDS) and UNICEF/WWF/Oxfam Intermón have also been analysed, as set forth in the non-legislative motion.

Noteworthy in this regard is the coordination among all the stakeholders involved. Each of the UN and EU indicators was analysed, and the closest national indicator was identified, as well as its appropriateness for monitoring and measuring the implementation of the Agenda. Key to this was the identification of the national body responsible for drafting the indicator. The work done jointly with the ministries has made it possible to establish national indicators complementary to those proposed by the UN. The data on all of the indicators finally selected

was analysed, and the focal points took the decision to undertake—at least initially and until the national Sustainable Development Strategy is produced—those regarding each of their targets.

This resulted in a scorecard of indicators, which will be adjusted as more indicators are identified and more data is available. The scorecard is attached to this Report, and additionally, the indicators can be seen in context in the target-by-target review included in the framework document for each SDG drafted by the corresponding focal point.

Accelerator policies and transformative measures constitute an interesting and clarifying bridge between the work of these past few months—more focused on diagnosis and baselines, with a cumulative approach—and the medium-term exercise, with a long-term decision-making approach aimed at the national Sustainable Development Strategy. While the conditions for analysis, dialogue and consensus for decision-making on the strategy are being generated, accelerator policies and transformative measures will play a key role in the implementation of the Agenda and the mobilization of all the stakeholders. It is once again necessary to highlight the involvement of all the ministries in the identification and drafting phases, as well as in the implementation of the Agenda and the achievement of results, strengthening the mainstreaming of the Agenda and its inclusive and indivisible nature, as it is the outcome of joint action.

In the target-by-target analysis included in the framework documents for each SDG, all of the targets with foreign action content have also, naturally, been identified, and Spain's Foreign Ministry, together with its international development cooperation units, has undertaken its corresponding responsibilities, in coordination with the other Central Administration units involved.

The first consolidated outcome of this process—the first draft of the Action Plan—was made public in early April, and constituted significant input for reflection with the different stakeholders who, in April and May, organized working meetings for this purpose, and for communication and dissemination; articles were published in different media, contributing to dissemination and discussion of the Agenda. Successive reviews of the text were drafted in May, and the definitive version was approved in June.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation (MAUC), Spain's regional administrations and local entities were invited to participate in the HLG as of its second meeting, at the highest level, through FEMP in the case of local entities.

The participation of the regional administrations has been constant. This has provided them with timely information on the drafting process of the Action Plan by the Central Administration and on the preparation of the VNR, enabling them to contribute their designs and experiences, in some cases truly significant and at an advanced implementation stage. In parallel, the regional administrations have been invited to the SWG and to different forums for reflection and training organized by stakeholders, and, in turn, the Central Administration has participated in diverse public forums for disseminating the Agenda at the regional, provincial and municipal levels, as well as in workshops for designing strategies and policies.

It must be noted that in addition to participating in the HLG, representatives from the Central Administration, the regional administrations, local entities and all the other stakeholders have

participated in a considerable number of formal and informal working sessions. Examples of this participation include the presentation of the process to implement the Agenda at the Senate, as it is the House of territorial representation; the four major seminars organized by FEMP to promote the localization of the Agenda in Spain; the major event organized by civil society in the Congress of Deputies; and the many events organized by the regional administrations and local entities.

FEMP has proved to be one of the most active stakeholders in designing and implementing the Agenda, focusing on the key task of localization. It has helped both the HLG and the SWG, and has presented good municipal practices of great interest. The constant presence of Central Administration representatives in high-impact dissemination and training forums organized by FEMP has led to abundant and constructive learning.

Dialogue with all the other stakeholders has also been abundant and fruitful. Noteworthy in this regard was their participation, in late May and June, in two special HLG sessions for consultation and sharing, as well as in the sessions on the Senate's Study Paper.

### 2.3. Ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals

After briefly describing the process followed by Spain's Parliament and different—central, regional and local—public administrations, the spotlight will now focus on work with civil society, the private business sector, universities, think-tanks and professional associations, each of which have their own specific characteristics, but which are similar in format and outcomes.

In fact, there has been no need to make a special effort to inform and involve these stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda, because they were already fully engaged. Work has focused on defining the appropriate representation and communication channels to learn about and share their experience, lessons learned, expectations of and demands on government, and to include their contributions.

As regards **civil society**, the organizations most closely linked to international development cooperation were the first to learn about and take steps in relation to the Agenda; as a result, platforms for dialogue and collaboration with all sectors appeared, such as the joint partnership Oxfam Intermón-Unicef Spanish Committee-WWF, and the platform *Futuro en Común*.

The social action networks and platforms and the trade unions soon adopted the 2030 as a reference framework, and that was the beginning of a highly dynamic process of dialogue and contributions, publications and a variety of public events. This led to the drafting of a common position document, as well as a major event to express the stance of Spain's civil society.

In an outstanding exercise of shared construction, on 9 April the Congress of Deputies hosted the most important event in this process, organized by thirteen networks and platforms, three nationwide trade unions, twenty-five civil society organizations and four university research institutes and study centres. Noteworthy among these organizations is the Third-Sector Platform, which includes Spain's Volunteering Platform, the European Anti-Poverty Network in Spain, the Social Action NGO Platform, the Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities, the Coordination Body for Non-Governmental Development Organizations

(NGDOs), the Platform for Children, the Spanish Red Cross, Caritas, and Spain's National Organization of the Blind (ONCE).

Under the motto *Driving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Spain, what remains to be done?*, the Speaker of the Congress of Deputies, MPs from all parliamentary groups, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment, three Secretaries of State, several Directors-General, and representatives from the Autonomous Communities, local entities and universities engaged in open dialogue with civil society, conveying clear messages to those responsible for defining the implementation of the Agenda.

This exercise resulted in a position document, which, in its first draft, has been formally distributed to all of the HLG members as a benchmark document for analysing the SDGs and their targets. The full document is attached to this Report as an Appendix, of which the following is worth highlighting:

*Spain's level of human development has been ranked as very high by the United Nations Development Programme. However, it still faces urgent challenges regarding the SDGs. Some of these challenges are: 1. High levels of social inequality (Gini index on income: 0.35), among the highest in the EU, and on the rise (SDG 10). 2. High levels of risk of poverty or social exclusion: 12.9 million people are at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Spain (27.9% of the population), with particular impact on children (2.7 million children are at risk of poverty) (SDG 1). 3. High levels of unemployment and, especially, of youth unemployment (48.3% in 2015 for people under the age of 25) (SDG 8). 4. Deplorable levels of gender violence, wide wage gap between women and men (SDG 5), and insufficient provision of affordable quality services to care for children and other dependent persons, shortcomings which affect women most of all. 5. Low social expenditure as compared with EU averages (SDG 10). 6. Low investment in R&D (1.22% of GDP in 2014) (SDG 9). 7. High levels of corruption (SDG 16). 8. Ethnic/racial discrimination (SDG 16). 9. High levels of greenhouse gas emissions (change with regard to 1990: 13% increase in 2016) (SDG 13). 10. Shortcomings in sustainable water management (44% of water bodies classed as "worse than good" in 2016) (SDG 6). 11. Development assistance efforts (ODA in 2015: 0.12% of GNI), far below the average of the EU (0.51% of GNI) and of the DAC (0.32% of GNI) (SDG 17). Overcoming these problems, among others, would make it possible for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to relaunch a national blueprint focusing on the problems of people and of the planet.*

### **Organized civil society: *Futuro en Común*'s vision of the Action Plan**

*Futuro en Común* is an innovative intersector dialogue platform, working towards sustainable development, human rights and the strengthening of the civic democratic space. It comprises more than 50 organizations with different focuses, including the environment, human rights, social action, feminism, childhood, disability, alternative economy, human mobility, and labour issues. It works using a systemic, cross-cutting approach, to generate proposals for policy change, awareness-raising and mobilization. Considering the commitments regarding the 2030 Agenda undertaken by the international community in September 2015 as a historic

opportunity to advance towards the aforementioned objectives, organized civil society decided to participate in driving the Agenda in Spain, aware that governments are ultimately responsible for its implementation. In early 2016, the SDG Observatory was created, for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the Agenda in Spain—both in its domestic and in its international dimension—and raising public awareness of its transformative potential to promote sustainable development focusing on people and on nature and guaranteeing the exercise of human rights under the motto “leave no one behind”. Moreover, from the outset *Futuro en Común* joined SDG Watch Europe, where it participates in driving the Agenda at the European level. Lastly, it has taken steps to be present in local/regional dialogue, together with local and regional organizations. Its contribution to a transformative 2030 Agenda therefore stems from the platform’s experience in intersector dialogue (with its international and domestic vision), and from the change in working culture (at the local, regional, national, European and global levels) that it promotes. *Futuro en Común* works in collaboration with other civil society stakeholders at different levels, in an open and cooperative manner, in what is known as the “SDG ecosystem”, seeking to build bridges for change.

As a result of a wide-ranging debate process to assess the Review exercise, *Futuro en Común* has considered that:

*In the Spanish Review, even though dialogue with the public administration has been positive, the consultation process conducted with the former Government of Spain did not meet the desired expectations regarding participation. Even so, Futuro en Común was able to share its assessment of the Action Plan, which did not reach the approval stage. The incoming Government, given the circumstances, has not had enough time to formally organize these consultations. However, the final version of the draft Action Plan has been shared before its approval, and civil society has been invited to participate in the High Level Group on 26 June.*

In view of the immediate implementation of the Action Plan, and of the forthcoming launch of a Sustainable Development Strategy for 2020/2030, *Futuro en Común* has expressed its commitment to contributing to promoting it in a robust, coherent and transformative manner, with the following elements:

- *Working together with all the political parties, with officials from every level of public administration, and with other stakeholders, to reach key agreements so that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is transformative, focuses on people and on the planet, and responds to a long-term national blueprint.*
- *Participating actively, as of September 2018 and together with other stakeholders, in any processes established for the construction of a Sustainable Development Strategy.*
- *Contributing to the definition of and debate on the accelerator policies, based on a shared diagnosis that establishes the country’s main priorities, focusing on leaving no one behind and on advancing towards coherent sustainable development policies.*

- *Accompanying and participating in the launch of strategic accelerators, such as education processes for sustainable development, the forging of strategic partnerships, and the definition of methodologies for aligning budgets with the SDGs.*
- *Collaborating constructively in the work of the new leadership, coordination and monitoring structures set forth in the Action Plan, especially engaging in dialogue with the High Commissioner, with the SDG Office, with the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and with the National Statistics Institute. The optimal functioning of these institutions will require active, collaborative and demanding accompaniment by organized civil society.*
- *Participating in a representative manner in a stable and formal participation mechanism, i.e., in a Sustainable Development Council.*
- *Contributing in any institutions and processes necessary to improve the monitoring and review of implementation, e.g. in the process of defining indicators, in the work of the mechanism for coherence of sustainable development policies, and in any consultations necessary for the compulsory review that will be conducted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2019.*
- *Advocating a robust and engaged implementation progress within the European Union, with a view to the Debate on the Future of Europe, the Financial Framework 2021-2027, and the commitments that need to be undertaken for the compulsory review of 2019. In general, we will participate so that Spain may develop active multilateralism focusing on leadership in sustainability processes.*

As regards the **private business sector**, once again we can see resolute involvement in the Agenda, especially by the largest companies. To coordinate this involvement, and to promote the dissemination of the Agenda throughout the sector, collaboration was established with the Global Compact Spanish Network, and institutions whose aims include promoting actions to support the UN's general goals, including the SDGs, and whose key role in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting sustainable development and the eradication of poverty has been recognized by the UN General Assembly.

As a working platform, a focal point was created comprising Spain's two major business confederations: the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE)—which includes the Confederation of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (CEPYME) and the Confederation of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs (CEAT)—and the Spanish Confederation of Social Enterprises (CEPES), as well as the major networks and platforms of enterprises and business foundations committed to social responsibility and sustainability: the Spanish Association of Foundations, the Sustainability Excellence Club, Corporate Excellence, the Spanish Association of Social Responsibility Executives (DIRSE), Forética, SERES and Spainsif.

The platform's main milestones have been a national survey on *Business and the 2030 Agenda*, and a participatory seminar, aimed at compiling the information gathered through the survey, comparing it with the different business sectors' perspectives, and reflecting it in a position

document—the main outcome of the platform’s activities—which is attached to this Report as an Appendix.

In the 40 days during which the survey was open, 1,320 responses were received, of which 894 (0.3% of Spain’s business community) were considered valid and entered into the database. Approximately 100 of these engaged stakeholders participated in the seminar held on 9 May. This input led to the drafting of the position document, which has become the framework of reference for the private business sector’s participation in the implementation of the Agenda and for dialogue with Spain’s Central Administration and with the other stakeholders.

The document includes five elements that summarize the enterprises’ vision of their role in the Agenda, five categories of commitments that summarize the initial position of the enterprises surveyed, and five categories of requests that the participating enterprises address to the public administration so that Spain’s private sector may contribute effectively to the achievement of the SDGs.

In addition, the document includes reflections and proposals regarding the appropriateness of working in partnerships, providing three approaches to the role played, to the commitments undertaken and to the requests made by the enterprises surveyed in order to further SDG 17. By way of example, the document lists 56 best practices by Spanish companies, as proof of the contributions that our country’s private business sector is already making to the 2030 Agenda.

In particular, the document states that:

*Spain’s companies invite the Central Administration to:*

*a) Draft a national sustainable development strategy and adopt policies and stable legal frameworks aimed at sustainable development. b) Disseminate resources and tools to facilitate contribution to and communication of progress made regarding the SDGs, especially for SMEs. c) Launch awareness-raising campaigns to inform Spain’s business sector and general public. d) Incorporate sustainable criteria into public procurement and give incentives to enterprises that adopt sustainability criteria in line with the SDGs. e) Create spaces for dialogue and collaboration among the private sector, the public administration, civil society, and the scientific and academic community, to channel collaborative action towards the SDGs.*

Spain’s most representative **trade unions** have expressed their support for the 2030 Agenda and have incorporated it into their priorities.

Trade unions are global stakeholders, organized at the international, European (and other regional), national, subnational and local levels, representing the interests of millions of workers, with the capacity to make proposals, have an impact and achieve mobilization towards the achievement of a more sustainable, inclusive and rights-based development and production model. As a United Nations Major Group, trade unions have participated from the outset in the construction of the 2030 Agenda, playing a key role, together with other stakeholders, in the definition of SDG 8.

Trade unions’ scope of action covers the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: economic, social and environmental. Human rights, trade union rights, collective bargaining, social

dialogue, social protection and gender equality all constitute pillars of democracy and are necessary for sustainable economic growth.

In Spain, the efforts made by trade unions in collective bargaining and social dialogue is key to advancing towards achievement of the SDGs, basically in the domestic sphere, although it must be underlined that progress is being made in European collective bargaining, and that global framework agreements with multinational enterprises are gaining increasing importance, and having a crucial impact on improving working conditions in developing countries.

As for **universities**, ongoing dialogue has been taking place, through the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE).

The CRUE has been actively working on launching the Agenda in the areas within its powers: university education and training, research, transfer, outreach, and management. This could be seen in the survey conducted by the CRUE in early 2018, in which 67% of the 76 universities stated that they had adopted or were working on a specific strategy regarding the 2030 Agenda.

After several intense seminars, a meeting was held on 16 May at the University of Barcelona. The meeting was jointly chaired by the University of Barcelona Rector and Chair of CRUE-Internationalization and Cooperation, and by the University of Oviedo Rector and Chair of CRUE-Sustainability, and it focused on discussing universities' contributions and position vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda. The input document drafted by members from Spain's entire university community, and agreed by CRUE, reflects the following commitments:

- 1. Mainstreaming sustainable development principles, values and goals into the mission, policies and activities of universities and of the CRUE.*
- 2. A firm commitment to including skills relating to sustainable and inclusive development, necessary for building global citizenship, into the training of all students, teaching and research staff, and administration and service staff.*
- 3. The generation and transfer of knowledge committed to sustainable development, including the knowledge necessary to shape and monitor the 2030 Agenda itself.*
- 4. The capitalization of the unique spaces offered by university communities for launching innovative projects to address the challenges involved in the 2030 Agenda on a controlled scale.*
- 5. The strengthening of ties between universities and other social agents ranging from public administrations to social stakeholders, not to mention enterprises and other groups, maximizing their experience in creating and consolidating partnerships at different levels, including international research and cooperation networks, and raising the profile and promoting the inclusion of minority groups.*
- 6. The shaping of open public debate about sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda, and its own governance in the national and international context.*
- 7. The commitment of universities to report on their teaching, research and transfer impacts, aligning them with each of the SDGs.*

Work has also been carried out with **think-tanks and other study and analysis centres**. Noteworthy here was a specific debate session held in May.

Lastly, relations with **professional associations** constitute another space for dialogue that is worth highlighting. A collaboration framework has been established with the Professional Union (UP) and the Professional Union of Associations of Engineers (UPCI), two nationwide bodies comprising Spain's professional associations. In a format similar to that of other stakeholders, they have held a working session aimed at defining channels for dialogue, and generated a position statement, including the following highlights:

*For the purpose of enabling the Professional Union, professions, and their representative bodies to participate in a structured manner in the Sustainable Development Goals, and to optimize their contribution, we ask the Government of Spain to:*

- *Guarantee the creation of a robust horizontal network, a space for relations where civil society in general, and professional associations in particular, may convey their views to the Government, ensuring that it actively and permanently listens to the needs of professionals and, by extension, of citizens.*
- *Provide tangible and intangible resources for this space for relations to be adapted to civil society's needs.*

*As well as making these requests, we undertake to:*

- *Actively incorporate the SDGs into our professional values and association culture.*
- *Disseminate the need to develop the SDGs in our professional environment and in society as a whole.*
- *Raise public awareness, through the associations' structures, of the importance of the SDGs.*

*The Professional Union undertakes to work intensely on all of the above, as well as on any other aspect that may arise, to guarantee our ultimate commitment, which is none other than social justice and people's equality and dignity.*

The HLG has held a great many meetings with all the aforementioned stakeholders, which have led to generating in all of them a sense of ownership of and commitment to the Agenda.

These spaces for dialogue provide wide-ranging channels to reach the public. For instance, the Third-Sector Platform comprises 20 organizations and represents nearly 30,000 entities, including 645,000 workers and 1,300,000 volunteers. As for the private business sector, the CEOE Confederation alone has a voluntary membership of two million enterprises and self-employed entrepreneurs from every sector of activity, and they are linked to the Confederation through more than 4,500 associations. The CRUE comprises 50 public and 26 private universities, with more than 1,300,000 students. The UP represents 1,000 professional associations, and 1,500,000 liberal professionals all over Spain. Partnerships created with these institutions, their interest in implementing the Agenda, and the joint commitments they have undertaken in a short time all strengthen communication with our society, and ownership and dissemination of the Agenda.

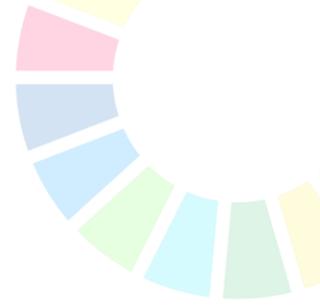
As an essential complement, a **2030 Agenda Communication Plan** has been designed, as a core instrument for ownership of the Agenda in Spain.

The HLG has created a specific working group on communication, in order to facilitate the coordination of the communication and dissemination activities of all of the ministries and Central Administration units. This working group is led by MAUC and is responsible for developing and coordinating work involving the dissemination and communication of the 2030 Agenda. Through this group, different instruments have been made available to the stakeholders involved, to showcase the Agenda's contents and to convey to society, in a coordinated manner, the need to generate joint commitment as the only way to achieve the SDGs.

The purpose of the Communication Plan is two-fold. Firstly, a channel has been established to disseminate the HLG's work through MAUC's Directorate-General for Communication and Diplomatic Information. Thanks to existing communication instruments, information about the HLG's work has been published on the Foreign Ministry's website and on social media, media requests have been answered, and informational publications have been generated. The Plan's second pillar is to create collective commitment. To this end, actions addressing the public have been planned, with the collaboration of the different stakeholders involved in the HLG.

In addition to the communication pact that will be fostered by the Action Plan, other actions had already been implemented, promoted by different stakeholders. Noteworthy for its high impact is the *COMPANIES4SDGs, 12 Months to Learn About, Understand and Live the SDGs* campaign, promoted by the Global Compact Spanish Network and the ATRESMEDIA media company. The TV commercial for the campaign has been viewed by more than 31 million people, 73.8% of Spain's population, and the radio commercial has been heard by more than 6 million people, 15.21% of the population.

These actions will make it possible to improve the very positive data recorded by Spain's Centre for Sociological Research in its study on attitudes regarding international cooperation, commissioned by the Foreign Ministry and published in the first quarter of 2016. According to this study, when asked the question "Are you familiar with or have you heard about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to eradicate poverty in the world and promote sustainable and equitable development by 2030?", 35% of those surveyed answered "Yes, I am familiar with or have heard about them". This is a promising figure, given that the Agenda had been approved only a few months earlier.



# THE SDGs IN SPAIN



### 3. The current situation of the SDGs in Spain

According to non-legislative motion PNL 161/001253, “in order to provide an initial statement of accountability on progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Spain, at the 2018 High Level Political Forum, it is of urgent necessity to prepare and publish a situation diagnosis and thus describe the extent to which Spain is complying with the Agenda”.

This section summarizes the situation in Spain for each SDG, and complements it with the statistical data that make up the scorecard for monitoring the current status of SDGs in Spain (Annex 2: Statistical Annex). In the development and implementation of the Action Plan, consideration may be given to other indicators of interest that civil society organizations may contribute.

The main sources for the following summary are the framework documents prepared and coordinated for each SDG by the corresponding ministry. These documents provide a general assessment of the SDG, analyse each of its targets in detail and, taking into account the current situation, outline a timetable of compliance with commitments and a stipulate the means to be employed for their implementation in the medium to long term.



#### 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 1 seeks an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to guarantee social protection for persons in situations of poverty or social vulnerability, to enhance access to basic services and to help those affected by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental problems.

The eradication of extreme poverty—the threshold for which is currently defined as a daily income of 1.25 US dollars—which is a central plank of the SDGs, has been achieved in Spain. However, serious problems of poverty persist in this country, particularly with respect to children, a matter of the utmost priority.

SDG 1 is one of the basic foundations of Spain’s commitment to development cooperation. The latest global estimates suggest that 10.9% of the world’s population (783 million people, over half of these in sub-Saharan Africa) suffer extreme poverty. This commitment by Spain to the eradication of extreme poverty, in all its dimensions and in all the countries affected, is set out in the national policy for development cooperation, described in the Action Plan as one of the accelerator policies to be applied for speedy achievement of the SDGs.

In Spain, this goal is in line with those included in the National Reform Programme undertaken by the Government to achieve target 5 of the European 2020 Strategy, namely to reduce the number of people in or at risk of poverty/social exclusion by 1.4 (in Spain alone), with respect to the base year 2008.

In Spain, the economic crisis and the resulting jump in unemployment provoked an increase in situations of exclusion and social inequality and changed the profiles of persons in these situations.

However, the incipient economic recovery and the creation of employment are not decreasing the numbers of those hit by poverty and inequality. In any event, returning to pre-recession levels will be a long, complex task, calling for joint endeavours by central, regional and local administrations, as well as by third-sector organizations. The situation is illustrated in Table 1, where indicator 1.2.1 refers to the population living below the national poverty line. This statistic shows that in 2017 (with income data for 2016), 21.6% of the Spanish population were living below the national poverty line (60% of average income) and that the long recession has increased the numbers of persons in all age groups living below the national threshold, to 31% of those aged under 16, to 21.9% of those aged 16-64, and to 14.8% of those aged over 65.

A notable finding is the 1.8 point increase in the population aged over 65 years living below the poverty line. Among those aged under 16 years, the corresponding figure was 28.1%, which is 6.5 points higher than for the population as a whole. The peak year in this respect for women was 2017 (when 22.2% of this population were affected) and for those under 18 years it was 2014, when 30.5% of those aged under 18 were living below the poverty line.

• **Table 1. Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line (%)**

|       | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| All   | 19.8 | 20.4 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 20.8 | 20.4 | 22.2 | 22.1 | 22.3 | 21.6 |
| Men   | 18.4 | 19.4 | 20.1 | 19.9 | 20.7 | 20.9 | 22.4 | 22.5 | 22.6 | 21.0 |
| Women | 21.2 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 21.4 | 20.9 | 19.9 | 22.1 | 21.8 | 22.1 | 22.2 |

Source: Spanish Institute of Statistics (INE), Living Conditions Survey

• **Table 2. Proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, by age (%)**

| Age            | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Under 16 years | 26.8 | 28.9 | 28.8 | 27.2 | 26.9 | 26.7 | 30.1 | 28.8 | 28.9 | 28.1 |
| 16 - 29 years  | 18.1 | 18.3 | 21.4 | 22.3 | 25.3 | 24.2 | 27.6 | 29.2 | 29.6 | 28.5 |
| 30 - 44 years  | 17.6 | 18.5 | 18.8 | 19.7 | 21.2 | 20.7 | 22.9 | 21.8 | 21.3 | 19.7 |
| 45 - 64 years  | 15.2 | 16.0 | 16.4 | 17.1 | 18.0 | 19.0 | 21.0 | 21.4 | 21.9 | 20.6 |
| 65 and over    | 25.5 | 23.8 | 21.8 | 19.8 | 14.8 | 12.7 | 11.4 | 12.3 | 13.0 | 14.8 |

Source: INE, Living Conditions Survey

By Autonomous Community, according to the 2017 INE Living Conditions Survey (based on income during 2016), the highest rates of poverty risk (without taking into account the imputed value of rented property) were recorded in Extremadura (38.8%), Ceuta (32.5%), Andalusia (31%) and Canary Islands (30.5%). The lowest ones were in the Basque Country (9.7%), Navarre (8.3%) and La Rioja (9.7%).

Taking **2013 as the base year** and considering the type of household, in the annual surveys conducted from 2008 to 2017 (base year 2013), the highest rates of poverty risk were found in households formed by a single adult with dependent children.

• *Table 3. Rates of poverty risk by type of household (%)*

| Type of household                                   | 2008        | 2009        | 2010        | 2011        | 2012        | 2013        | 2014        | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>1 adult with 1 or more dependent children</b>    | 36.8        | 44.2        | 49.2        | 42.1        | 37.5        | 38.0        | 42.0        | 37.5        | 42.2        | 40.6        |
| <b>Other households with dependent children</b>     | 24.7        | 22.7        | 24.1        | 22.6        | 28.0        | 30.8        | 30.7        | 31.4        | 30.6        | 30          |
| <b>2 adults with 1 or more dependent children</b>   | 22.0        | 24.8        | 24.2        | 23.1        | 24.2        | 23.3        | 25.8        | 25.3        | 25.5        | 24.1        |
| <b>One-person households</b>                        | 30.6        | 30.1        | 28.9        | 27.9        | 20.6        | 19.2        | 20.7        | 20.3        | 19.6        | 21.8        |
| <b>2 adults, with no dependent children</b>         | 17.9        | 17.3        | 15.6        | 16.4        | 16.2        | 14.8        | 14.8        | 15.2        | 16.6        | 16.3        |
| <b>Other households, with no dependent children</b> | 8.3         | 7.9         | 10.7        | 13.1        | 12.2        | 11.8        | 15.6        | 16.8        | 15.5        | 14.5        |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>19.8</b> | <b>20.4</b> | <b>20.7</b> | <b>20.6</b> | <b>20.8</b> | <b>20.4</b> | <b>22.2</b> | <b>22.1</b> | <b>22.3</b> | <b>21.6</b> |

Source: INE, Living Conditions Survey

By level of education, and with respect to the population aged over 16 years, the highest levels of poverty risk recorded in the above surveys (2008-2017, base 2013) corresponded to persons with only the lowest levels of primary education or less (26.5%) and those with initial-level secondary education (27.1%). In the 2017 survey, for persons with the second level of secondary education, the corresponding figure was 19.9%, while for those with higher education, it was just 9.7%.

By nationality, the highest values recorded in the surveys (2008-2017, base 2013) corresponded to persons with non-EU foreign nationality. Thus, according to the 2017 INE Survey of Living Conditions, the poverty risk rate for the non-EU foreign population (“Rest of the world”) was 52.1%, while for those with EU foreign nationality it was 39.2% and for those with Spanish nationality it was 18%.

By degree of urbanization in the place of residence, the highest proportions of poverty risk in the surveys (2008-2017, base 2013) corresponded to sparsely-populated areas. According to the 2016 survey, the level of population at risk of poverty was 28.1% in sparsely-populated areas, 20.8% in moderately-populated areas and 20.1% in densely-populated areas.

The indicator of economic poverty is complemented and expanded by the European Union’s indicator of those at risk of poverty and/or exclusion (AROPE).

As can be observed in Table 4, there has been a change in trend in the latest AROPE indicator, according to which 26.6% of the population resident in Spain was at risk, compared to 27.9% the previous year. The overall reduction in the AROPE rate took place in its three components: the proportion of the population who were severely materially deprived decreased from 5.8%

to 5.1%, that of those living in very low work intensity fell from 14.9 to 12.8% and that of those at risk of poverty from 22.3% to 21.6%.

In addition, one of the three sub-indicators of the AROPE rate, that of severe material deprivation, decreased again in Spain in 2017, continuing the pattern of previous years, having fallen from 6.4% in 2015 to 5.8% in 2016. This trend is still continuing, as shown by the advance data provided by Eurostat (albeit still provisional), according to which this sub-indicator presented a value of 5.1% in 2017, a fall of 0.7 percentage points in the last year.

By sex, the poverty risk is slightly lower among women than men, except in severe material deprivation. Age is a determining factor in the risk of poverty and exclusion. Thus, young adults (aged 16-19 years) are at most risk (37.60%), followed by the child population (31.70%). In other words, nearly one in three children is at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion. This value, although very high, has been decreasing since 2015. It should also be noted that 9.9% of the population aged under 18 are still living in conditions of severe poverty.

*Table 4. Risk of poverty and/or social exclusion (AROPE), by components (%)*

|  | 2008        | 2009        | 2010        | 2011        | 2012        | 2013        | 2014        | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Poverty threshold, at risk of poverty (income during the year before the interview) | 19.8        | 20.4        | 20.7        | 20.6        | 20.8        | 20.4        | 22.2        | 22.1        | 22.3        | 21.6        |
| 2. Severely materially deprived  | 3.6         | 4.5         | 4.9         | 4.5         | 5.8         | 6.2         | 7.1         | 6.4         | 5.8         | 5.1         |
| 3. Living in a household with very low work intensity (aged 0 to 59 years)             | 6.6         | 7.6         | 10.8        | 13.4        | 14.3        | 15.7        | 17.1        | 15.4        | 14.9        | 12.8        |
| <b>Risk of poverty and/or social exclusion (AROPE indicator)</b>                       | <b>23.8</b> | <b>24.7</b> | <b>26.1</b> | <b>26.7</b> | <b>27.2</b> | <b>27.3</b> | <b>29.2</b> | <b>28.6</b> | <b>27.9</b> | <b>26.6</b> |

Source: INE, Living Conditions Survey

The benchmarks for these variables show that the tide has turned, since 2014, but that we remain very far from the pre-recession situation.

### Leaving no one behind

“Leave no one behind” is one of the fundamental principles of the 2030 Agenda. In Spain, with the aim of meeting the challenges identified in the Europe 2020 Strategy and improving the living conditions of the population, various measures of social and economic significance have been adopted. For example, the statutory minimum wage has been raised significantly, by 8% in 2017, the highest such increase in the last 30 years, and by 4% in 2018. This measure will have an important impact on low-paid workers. In addition, the duration of paternity leave has now been extended to four uninterrupted weeks, which can be taken on a full or part-time basis, with a minimum of 50%, on agreement with the employer. This benefit is compatible with and

independent of shared periods of maternity leave. Other measures to support families in situations of energy poverty have also been improved, with a clear definition of persons presenting severe vulnerability and the prohibition of suspending electricity supply to such vulnerable consumers, who are at risk of social exclusion and who are being assisted by social services. Tax measures have also been approved to reduce the economic burden on families, especially those with children or other dependents. Finally, and no less importantly, various urgent measures have been adopted to protect mortgage debtors without resources and to favour access to housing for those most in need, including the approval of the 2018/2021 National Housing Plan, composed of nine different programmes of assistance, with a total budget of up to 1.833 billion euros, to be administered by the Autonomous Communities in the form of grants guaranteeing access to housing for all.

In addition to the above support, resources are provided to families in situations of social emergency through the 2014-2020 Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), which finances the provision of food for people in need and which now includes measures of social accompaniment.

It should also be noted that increased strategic attention has been paid in recent years to actions and budget credits for the benefit of children, especially regarding attention for families with children in situations of severe material deprivation. In 2014, a special fund was created for the fight against child poverty, focusing on social intervention projects aimed at families with dependent children, living in situations of severe material deprivation. This facility has been enlarged over the years, rising to 100 million euros in 2017, dedicated to the Family Protection Programme, Action on Childhood Poverty and Basic Social Services, and Support for Family and Children. This sum represents an increase of 32.6% over the previous year. This fund has been retained in the draft version of the 2018 National Budget Act.

In the near future, further measures expected include the prompt adoption of the 2017-2020 National Strategy to Prevent and Reduce Poverty and Social Exclusion, as well as the continuation of the Action Plan within the 2014-2020 Spanish Strategy for Persons with Disability. In addition, the ongoing 2015-2020 Comprehensive National Strategy for Homeless Persons will be further developed, and a new Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities will aim to reduce the inequalities between women and men that persist in employment and in the economy.

The 2030 Agenda proposes various indicators to measure the achievement of Target 1.2. The first is the poverty risk threshold or poverty rate (defined as 60% of the median income per consumption unit of all households nationwide). According to INE estimates, the poverty risk threshold for a one-person household in 2017 was 8,522 euros, 3.8% higher than the previous year. In households composed of two adults and two children aged under 14 years, this threshold was 17,896 euros in 2017.

As mentioned above, in Spain the poverty risk rate, greatly worsened by the recession, stood at 21.6% of the resident population in 2017, compared to 22.3% the previous year. Detailed analysis reveals the following.

By age groups, the poverty risk rate fell by 1.4 points among those aged 16-64 years and by 0.8 points among those aged under 16 years. On the contrary, it rose by 1.8 points among those aged over 65 years.

By gender, the highest levels of risk of poverty and/or social exclusion for women (2017 figures) were among the youngest age groups (31.5% in those under 16 years and 36.5% in those aged 16-29). The lowest rates corresponded to women over 65 (17.8%). Among men, the younger population also comprised the largest risk groups: 33.2% of those aged 16-29 and 30.6% of those aged under 16. The men least at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion were those over 65 (14.5%).

By family situation, the largest group of households at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion in 2017 were those formed by one adult with one or more dependent children (47.9%). These were followed by other households with dependent children (35.5%) and by one-person households (26.9%). The households least at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion were those formed by two adults without dependent children (22.1%).

In 2016, most women at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion were those who were unemployed (59.5%), followed by those who were economically inactive (32.7%). Among men, too, most of those at risk in this respect were unemployed (70.9%), followed by those who were economically inactive (46.8%).

In 2016, without taking into account the income quintile, in homes without dependent children the largest group of households at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion were those formed by an individual aged under 65 years (34.9%), followed by those with two adults, both aged under 65 years (25.2%). In income quintile 3, the highest value (11.1%) corresponded to households formed by one adult aged under 65 years.

Without taking into account the income quintile, in households with dependent children the largest proportion of households at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion were those composed of one adult and at least one dependent child (53.3%). The second largest was the group consisting of two adults with three or more dependent children (43.6%). In quintile 3 of income, the highest value corresponded to the households formed by one adult with at least one dependent child (12.7%). The largest group of women at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion (33.7%) corresponded to those with the lowest levels of education (levels 0-2). This percentage decreased as the level of education increased. The men with the lowest levels of education (levels 0-2) recorded the highest levels of risk of poverty and/or social exclusion (35%), and in this case, too, the percentage decreased as the level of education increased.

### **An independent analysis**

In 2017, the FOESSA Foundation, which has a long history of social research in Spain, conducted a survey on resilience in Spanish households, reporting that 20% were at particular risk of falling behind their obligations.

The households in question presented the following characteristics: low work intensity (risk of social exclusion: 55%); with one or more unemployed members (risk of social exclusion: 44%);

with members of non-EU origin (risk of social exclusion: 49%); located in a degraded or marginal neighbourhood, with inadequate and/or insecure housing and poor access to basic services (risk of social exclusion: 32%).

Households with children aged under 18 years are at greater risk of social exclusion (32%) than the national average. Single-parent (usually, single-mother) households present serious risks, too (29%). In the case of extended families, this value rises to 32%.

According to the FOESSA Foundation studies, the risk of being left behind is also related to the population's social and demographic characteristics. In this respect, the following conclusions have been drawn:

- The ethnic gypsy minority is at very high risk of social exclusion (72%), with important deficits of social integration and persistent problems of discrimination.
- The unemployed are also at high risk of exclusion (50%). Among those in a situation of long-term unemployment, the rate is 55%, while for those with irregular jobs, it is 57%. An important factor is the “chronification of unemployment” associated with the large population of persons who are long or very long-term unemployed, together with high rates of youth unemployment and insufficient welfare protection against unemployment.
- Immigrants of non-EU origin have a 53% risk of social exclusion, due to integration difficulties, human rights violations and inadequate social support networks, both formal and informal.
- Among persons aged under 18, the risk of exclusion is 35%. In this context, in addition to the situation of unaccompanied minors, exclusion can affect families with minors, who receive insufficient measures of protection and childcare assistance. It should be emphasized that social support networks of families and friends constitute an important basic component of household protection, and that following the economic crisis this resource has been weakened in 26.1% of homes.

A notable finding is that the risk of economic problems in families with children is significantly greater than in any other family configuration. In Spanish households, the rate of social exclusion is 50% higher when the family has one or more children aged under 18, and 150% higher for large families. This problem is particularly serious from the perspective of breaking the vicious circle of poverty. As stated in the Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty report (FOESSA, 2016), 80% of those who experience serious economic difficulties in childhood-adolescence continue to do so as adults.

## *2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*

The aims of SDG 2 are to put an end to hunger, to achieve food security, to improve nutrition and to promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. These targets are primarily focused on improving nutrition by facilitating universal access to a healthy, nutritious and sufficient diet and



by eradicating all forms of malnutrition. Other areas to be addressed are those of food production, agriculture and the food system in general.

According to the INE Living Conditions Survey, the proportion of the population experiencing significant food deficiency, defined as those unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish at least once every two days, reached a peak value in 2017, at 3.7%. By sex, women were slightly worse off than men (3.8% vs. 3.5%). By age, the most severely affected groups in this respect were those of minors (3.4%) and persons aged over 65 years. Among the latter, this rate increased from 2.2% in 2016 to 3.3% in 2017.

*Table 5. Percentage of persons experiencing significant food deficiency: “Unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish at least once every two days”*

|       | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| All   | 2.2  | 2.1  | 2.6  | 3.2  | 2.6  | 3.5  | 3.3  | 2.6  | 2.9  | 3.7  |
| Men   | 2.4  | 2.1  | 2.6  | 3.1  | 2.8  | 3.4  | 3.4  | 2.7  | 2.8  | 3.5  |
| Women | 2.0  | 2.1  | 2.6  | 3.2  | 2.3  | 3.5  | 3.2  | 2.5  | 3.0  | 3.8  |

Source: INE, Living Conditions Survey

*Table 6. Percentage of persons, by age, experiencing significant food deficiency: “Unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish at least once every two days”*

|                  | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Under 16 years   | 2.4  | 2.4  | 2.8  | 2.8  | 2.5  | 3.6  | 4.2  | 3.2  | 3.2  | 3.4  |
| Under 18 years   | 2.5  | 2.4  | 2.9  | 2.8  | 2.6  | 3.7  | 4.3  | 3.2  | 3.2  | 3.4  |
| 18 - 64 years    | 2.0  | 2.0  | 2.5  | 3.2  | 2.5  | 3.5  | 3.4  | 2.7  | 2.9  | 3.8  |
| 65 years or more | 2.5  | 2.5  | 2.9  | 3.5  | 2.7  | 3.1  | 1.8  | 1.8  | 2.2  | 3.3  |
| Total            | 2.2  | 2.1  | 2.6  | 3.2  | 2.6  | 3.5  | 3.3  | 2.6  | 2.9  | 3.7  |

Source: INE, Living Conditions Survey

Action will be taken to overcome the situations of inequality that generate problems of hunger in Spain, via the development of social services and support networks for this purpose. In Spain, hunger and inequality are fundamentally caused by poverty, social vulnerability and marginalization. Inequality includes social exclusion, which undoubtedly influences nutrition, but also refers to aspects such as unsustainable consumption patterns and unhealthy lifestyles.

In Spain, this SDG forms part of the competences of three Ministries; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA); Health, Consumer Affairs and Welfare (MSCBS); and Education and Science

(MEC). MSCBS has a fundamental responsibility in the management of these targets, but MAPA also implements policies related to the supervision of food quality, the development of mechanisms to improve food availability and the promotion of healthy eating, activities that undoubtedly impact on the achievement or otherwise of the SDGs. The third of these actions is also addressed within the education system, via the Ministry of Education.

The measures adopted regarding the first two targets of this SDG present strong synergies with those described in SDG 1, concerning the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and in SDG 3 on improving public health. In view of the significant relationships between vulnerability, poverty, social exclusion and food-related problems, it seems clear that coordinated action, taking into account the human right to food, is one of the most effective methods that can be employed to resolve problems concerning hunger and malnutrition.

One such approach is that taken by FEAD, which finances material assistance for disadvantaged persons. Another is the Spanish Strategy for Obstetric Care within the National Health System, which among other activities encourages the Autonomous Communities to promote best practices regarding breastfeeding and infant nutrition.

Actions taken to address situations in which food problems coexist with unhealthy lifestyles are complementary to those adopted in the framework of SDG 12, concerning the reduction of food waste and, especially, the promotion of sustainable, responsible consumption. There is also a high degree of complementarity with some actions carried out in the education system, and therefore with SDG 4 targets. This is one of the most important areas in which to tackle problems of childhood malnutrition and to educate young people on healthy eating. Actions taken in this respect include the “Know what you eat” campaign and various programmes to promote the consumption of fruits, vegetables and milk in schools, to combat problems such as childhood obesity and to promote other healthy living habits such as physical exercise.

In 2014, according to MSCBS and data from the European Health Survey (Eurostat), 16.9% of the population were obese and 35.7% overweight. At the opposite end of the scale, 2.2% had insufficient weight. These figures are slightly above the EU average. Since 2014, the Ministry has been implementing the Strategy for the promotion of health and for disease prevention in the National Health System, which was approved in December 2013. This Strategy takes a lifelong health approach, to foster public health and welfare, promote healthy environments and lifestyles and strengthen health security. An area in which special attention is needed is that of the current increase in diseases related to poor nutrition, overweight and obesity, such as diabetes, cancers and cardiovascular diseases.

For all of these reasons, and with particular regard to Target 2.2, efforts are being made to promote a healthy diet based on fresh products, without additives, to favour the consumption of locally-sourced products, to highlight the importance of agro-ecology and to combat bad eating habits, which often begin in childhood. The latter area of attention requires coordinated action from the educational system and from families, focusing in particular on minors at risk of exclusion, who are most likely to be affected and who encounter most difficulty in accessing a healthy diet. Accordingly, coordinated actions should be undertaken on the sectoral, health-

related, agricultural and educational aspects of food, and cooperation mechanisms among the relevant Ministries should be strengthened and extended.

The second group of targets is related to food production, agriculture and to the food system in general. Actions have been proposed to improve the food system by raising the productivity, quality and efficiency of agriculture, stabilizing or increasing the incomes of producers (especially small-scale ones), fostering sustainable agrifood systems and maintaining agricultural diversity (of seeds, cultivated plants and farm and domesticated animals). In this set of targets, most of the management responsibility corresponds to MAPA, in the framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy and other programmes related to agricultural production and sustainability, rural development and the management of food chains and the environment.

Target 2.3 aims to protect and promote family farming (coinciding with the UN Decade of Family Farming), improving its economic dimension, supporting productive local investment and the sustainable management of resources. In Spain, family farming is usually non-intensive and is often related to sustainable patterns of production and consumption (extensive systems, traditional techniques, production in disadvantaged areas enabling protection for land, flora and fauna of high ecological value). Therefore, the protection and maintenance of family farming is a crucial element of sustainable development. In this regard, many of the measures proposed among policies for rural development facilitate the modernization of farms and the implementation of productive investments, allowing family farms and small producers to remain competitive against globalized agricultural concerns.

Target 2.4 seeks to promote sustainable consumption and to raise awareness among farmers of the challenges posed by climate change and related environmental problems such as desertification and extreme weather events, thus reinforcing their adaptive capabilities. Actions foreseen in this context include the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) and the 2018-2022 National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Phytosanitary Products. Proposals have also been made to promote integrated agricultural production and ecological agriculture and livestock farming, via the Strategy for Ecological Production, for example through agreements with the Autonomous Communities and local governments within the framework of existing legislation promoting the sustainable development of the rural environment. Another factor relevant to this target is the category of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), established by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In 2017, Spain achieved the recognition of two GIAHS sites, the first such in Europe, thanks to the hard work done by the corresponding Autonomous Communities, local entities and producers' associations and other bodies, as well as support from MAPA. These sites are dedicated to the production of salt (in the Salado de Añana valley, Álava province) and muscatel grapes (in the Axarquía valley, Málaga province).

In Spain, 2,018,802 hectares are dedicated to ecological farming, the largest such area in any EU country, equivalent to 8.24% of all agricultural land in 2015, according to Eurostat data. In the EU as a whole, 16.9% of all ecological land use is located in Spain. Furthermore, this type of farming has increased significantly, from 5.3% in 2008 to 7.5% in 2011 and 8.2% today. However, the majority of this production is exported, since the growth rate of national

ecological consumption has been much lower, and therefore strategies are needed to consolidate and support the domestic market.

Another important challenge is that of conserving agricultural, animal and plant biodiversity, a question that may be related to the practices employed in traditional agrarian systems. Spain, due to its biogeographic position and the diversity of ecologies and agrarian systems in its territory, contains a wealth of resources, both plant and animal, and of practices associated with the traditional management of agrarian systems. With this in mind, strategies have been adopted, first to identify and inventory the genetic and cultural resources related to agricultural diversity, and then to establish conservation measures and develop sustainable models of diversified, ecological agricultural production, using these resources. Relevant policy measures in this respect include the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, the National Programme for the Conservation, Improvement and Promotion of Livestock Breeds and the National Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture and Food.

In recent years, there has been growing involvement by consumers in the assessment of environmental behaviour, favouring production methods that contribute social value or in which there are more direct relationships between the consumer and the producer. However, a major challenge remains to be addressed, that of transmitting information to consumers about the environmental impact of sectors whose products are of a more industrial nature or that are not supplied directly to the final consumer, such as livestock feed.

In this regard, certain measures concerning not so much production techniques or even the transformation of products, but rather the establishment and promotion of short distribution chains, could significantly help family farms and small-medium sized producers to achieve higher incomes and thus bring consumers closer to sustainable, high-quality methods of production.

In addition to the above, MAPA has carried out actions regarding health, hygiene and traceability, seeking to ensure that food production is safe, in terms of public health, at every stage of the food chain. Among the actions taken in this field are the issuing of specific regulations, the publication of guidelines on best practices and the organization of events to raise consumer awareness. These initiatives will be complemented with others aimed at promoting the supply of healthy food, at reducing food losses and waste and at minimizing environmental damage, through the promotion of local, seasonal and agro-ecological products. In this context, too, labelling and traceability must be taken into consideration.

Finally, special mention should be made of policies for rural development. Sustainable development must be based on a territorial balance, in which rural areas, cities and towns are all prosperous, populated and connected.

### *3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

SDG 3 seeks to ensure healthy living and to promote universal well-being, an objective that is closely related to the previous one. In view of the fact that the diseases causing the death of



most Europeans are the result of poor diet, an appropriate healthcare system must incorporate the necessary measures to promote a type of diet that prevents these diseases, as discussed in the previous section.

In fact, health is one of the areas where multiple interactions among the SDGs are reflected. Urban pollution is an example of a situation producing negative impacts on health. An example from the opposite perspective is the promotion of sports, both as an element of physical activity related to a healthy lifestyle and, also as an educational and cultural space that has an important impact on gender and integration issues. From everyday practice to high-level competition, sport occupies a transversal space in today's society, affecting areas such as health, education, culture, gender issues and integration. Sustainable development must take this reality into account and make good use of the possibilities offered.

In Spain, public health is defined under current legislation (Act 33/2011, of 4 October, on public health) as the set of activities organized by all levels of public administration, with the participation of society in general, to prevent disease and to protect, promote and restore human health, both individually and collectively, through therapeutic, sectoral and cross-cutting actions. Public health occupies a central place in the 2030 Agenda, as human health is a public good to be sought because of its intrinsic value, and also as a means to achieve other objectives.

The World Health Organization, at its 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in 2017, presented the Secretariat Report on Progress in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as incontrovertible evidence of the incorporation of this Agenda into the planning frameworks, processes and functions that correspond to this body.

Spain's Health Ministry has expressed its willingness to contribute to mainstreaming the contents of the 2030 Agenda in the field of public health and to help achieve the progressive implementation of the "health in all policies" goal, seeking to act not only in disease prevention but also in promoting individual and collective health within the healthiest possible environment. It has been affirmed that the definition made of public health should integrate all the dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: social, economic, environmental and governance. These dimensions are determinants of the population's health (in addition to the biological concept and the focus adopted within the healthcare services). Therefore, in the health sector, these dimensions should all be addressed as a natural and harmonious part of public policies regarding health care. In addition, social well-being must be taken into account, with special concern for particularly vulnerable areas of the population such as persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Furthermore, measures should be adopted to prevent and respond appropriately to disabilities, reducing their impact on individual health, and promoting quality of life and integration into the activities of society. Moreover, the need for preventive measures should not be limited to individual interventions. The social sphere exerts a decisive influence on the life of individuals, and so interventions in this area must also adopt a collective scope, and therefore address a much more extensive and heterogeneous environment. Hence, disease prevention activities must be focused on the entire life cycle, from before birth until the end of life, and should be considered indispensable in all areas of human existence, including the family, education,

employment, health care, leisure activities and much more. But in addition, preventive measures must be given a global component, to ensure their presence in the spaces that impact on the social collective, such as awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle (in areas such as avoiding tobacco and alcohol, taking exercise and consuming a healthy diet), of consumption in general and of environmental conditions.

In consequence, the overall aim of the Strategy for the promotion of health and for disease prevention in the National Health System, which was approved by the Inter-territorial Council of the National Health System (CISNS) on 18 December 2013, is to promote the health and well-being of the population by fostering healthy environments and lifestyles and the avoidance of injuries. This Strategy provides an opportunity to integrate and coordinate health promotion and disease prevention efforts at all levels and among all the sectors and stakeholders involved.

The Strategy includes actions focused on populations, on specific environments and on factors to be addressed. With regard to populations, an initial phase of the Strategy prioritizes attention for children (aged under 15) and for persons aged over 50. In interventions aimed at health promotion and disease prevention, it is emphasized that actions should be integrated, addressing not only the main health/risk factors and their interactions, but also the different contexts in which each population lives. Thus, for the population aged under 15, education and community contexts have been identified as priority areas for intervention, in addition to health care. On the other hand, for the population aged over 50, the main aspects addressed correspond to health care and the community.

The factors targeted in this Strategy are those considered most important from the standpoint of approaches to chronicity, such as healthy eating, physical activity, the consumption of tobacco and alcohol, emotional well-being and the safety of the environment (e.g., accident prevention). This approach represents an advance in comprehensive health intervention, strengthening primary disease prevention and health promotion, reinforcing interventions in universal primary care and promoting and coordinating community interventions in different environments (health, social, educational and community), with a view to reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases to minimal levels.

Other collaborative strategies, too, have been approved by CISNS, to improve the approach adopted towards problems of public health. All of these interventions are based on the fundamental principles of comprehensiveness, scientific evidence, cohesion, participation, evaluation, health-in-all-policies and fairness.

Spain has always argued that policies regarding illegal drugs should be applied under a balanced approach, in which actions to reduce demand (prevention, treatment and reinsertion) are combined with those to limit supply (targeting manufacturing and trafficking, related money laundering, and international judicial and police cooperation). There is a self-evident relationship between this aspect of SDG 3 and SDG 16. One of the factors addressed in international policies on the drug problem, and which is incorporated into the Spanish Strategy on Addictions, is that of gender issues, taking into account the special situation of female consumers. Therefore, there is also an interrelation with SDG 5. Moreover, in view of the

overriding importance of education as an instrument of prevention, especially among the young, SDG 4 must also be considered as a point of reference.

The Spanish government is committed to maintaining the universal, public and charge-free nature of the health system, and to guaranteeing its sustainability. To do so, current legislation and regulations are constantly reviewed, seeking to optimize the provision of public health services. Appropriate updating of the portfolio of healthcare services has led to the incorporation of new techniques and preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, as well as the elimination of those which have become obsolete. The creation of a Spanish network of agencies to assess the technologies and benefits of the National Health System is a significant contribution to enhancing the quality, fairness, efficiency and cohesion of the system.

Finally, the health problems of the twenty-first century related to demographic, socioeconomic, environmental, epidemiological and technological changes will require health and social welfare personnel to adapt themselves to providing integrated, people-centred social services throughout the attention process. Accordingly, importance should be granted to expanding scientific research and to improving the technological capacity of industrial sectors, worldwide but especially in developing countries, thereby encouraging innovation and greatly increasing the number of R&D personnel and levels of public and private spending in this regard by 2030.

R&D&i policies are viewed as fundamental supports to the definition, development and application of health and social policies. Therefore, the 2017-2020 National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation seeks to encourage R&D&i activities, as a necessary response to new challenges arising in areas of society such as health, demographic change and well-being. The R&D&i activities funded under this Plan are expected to contribute to unprecedented advances in scientific and technological knowledge in the field of biomedical research, in public research organizations, in the business sector and in the National Health System.

Finally, making all levels of the health system more inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities will also reduce inequalities and unmet health needs (WHO World Report on Disability, 2011).



#### *4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*

SDG 4 seeks to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. It is of paramount importance to increase efforts to strengthen the role of education in fully realizing human rights, peace, the responsible exercise of local and global citizenship, gender equality, sustainable development and health.

According to Spanish legislation (Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May), the Spanish educational system is governed by the principles of quality, cooperation, fairness, freedom of teaching, merit, equal opportunities, non-discrimination, efficiency in the allocation of public resources, transparency and accountability.

The results presented by studies such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), in all which Spain is a participant, show that the performance of Spanish students has improved in recent years with respect to that of the other countries participating in these studies. According to the findings of the Active Population Survey, the rate of premature school leaving fell from 26.3% in 2011 to 18.3% in 2017, mainly due to the implementation of specific plans and programmes in this respect. These initiatives have been carefully monitored to ensure that policies are maintained or reoriented, as appropriate, or new measures proposed to achieve this target.

Statistics published by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports for the academic year 2015-16 show that students receiving support for special educational needs accounted for 2.6% of the total student population and that 83.0% of them attended conventional schools and institutions, although there is some variability in the rate of integration according to the type of disability presented. Thus, among students with visual disability or behavioural/personality disorders, integration rates of 95.1% and 96.8%, respectively, have been achieved. It can be concluded, therefore, that students with special educational needs are normally incorporated into conventional schools, where they are given the necessary support for effective inclusion, as required under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified by Spain in 2008.

Children with disabilities need effective technical, material and human support. The lack of such support has a significant negative impact on their daily activities, both in the classroom and in after-school activities. Apart from academic questions, the issue of these students' coexistence with their peers must be addressed, recognizing that situations of bullying may arise and must be eradicated.

Innovations made in order to achieve SDG 4 include the progressive implementation of the new modality of dual-track vocational training, a reform that helps make the skills and knowledge imparted more relevant and valuable to the productive sector.

In the Spanish university system, there remains a gender gap in technical and scientific studies, despite the fact that (according to Education Ministry data) women currently represent 54.3% of the student population and 58.5% of those graduating from university. The Ministry is working to narrow this gender gap through the provision of accurate, timely information to pre-university students.

In this respect, too, the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities sets out measures to promote university studies by girls and women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

It is of paramount importance that greater efforts be made to strengthen the role played by education in achieving the full realization of human rights, peace, the responsible exercise of local and global citizenship, gender equality, sustainable development and health. The contents of this education must be appropriate and address both cognitive and non-cognitive aspects of learning. Appropriate knowledge, skills, values and attitudes are needed to live a fruitful life, to make informed decisions and to play an active role, locally and globally, in addressing and

overcoming planetary problems. And these capabilities can only be acquired through education for sustainable development, for global citizenship, for peace and human rights and for intercultural and international understanding.

The educational model applied must provide an appropriate response to the SDG commitments made, preparing children and young people to live in this complex, interconnected world. Thus, study plans should include mechanisms that equip students to understand the world, providing them with socio-affective skills and with critical capabilities, and promoting values such as human dignity, equality, justice, solidarity and participation, which underlie and support peaceful democratic coexistence.

For these reasons, all levels of the education system must transmit competences related to ethical values, thus fostering social, environmental and economic sustainability. To do so, measures will be adopted in Spain to introduce education for global citizenship and education for sustainable development, as stipulated in the corresponding transformative measure.



## *5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

SDG 5 seeks to achieve real equality between women and men, a universal legal principle that is recognized in international human rights texts, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks the commitment of the international community to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls both through a specific objective and transversally via other objectives. In Spain, achieving Target 5.6, that of ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, is viewed as an essential target for achieving the SDG.

Equality between women and men is a fundamental European value, reflected in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. In this regard, the European Commission approved the 2016-2019 Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality, in line with the 2011-2020 European Pact for Gender Equality.

Within the framework of the Council of Europe, and taking into account Spain's view that an essential aspect of our political action is to combat gender violence, it is important to note that Spain has signed and ratified the CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul Convention), which is the first binding instrument on the matter in the European context.

Article 1 of the Spanish Constitution states that equality ranks among the highest values of the legal system. Under Article 9.2, public powers are required to promote conditions to ensure that the freedom and equality of the individual is real and effective. Article 14 goes on to establish the principle of equality before the law, barring all forms of gender discrimination. Following the approval of the Constitution, legislative reforms have been introduced in civil, criminal, labour, economic and educational spheres, among others, to introduce equality of treatment and opportunities and to eliminate gender discrimination.

In Spain important advances towards real and effective equality have been achieved in recent years, as reflected in the following data.

Women have a high educational level: 60.12% of university students who graduated in 2015-2016 were women; 38.4% of women aged 25-64 years have a higher education degree, compared to 33.0% of men. In 2017, only 14.5% of girls left school prematurely, compared to 21.8% of boys.

In the workplace, too, women are well placed; at present, almost 8.5 million women are affiliated with the Social Security system. The rate of unemployment among women has fallen significantly, to 18.35% in the fourth quarter of 2017. However, 58% of all persons registered as unemployed are women.

Despite the above, inequality persists between women and men in all walks of life: 75% of part-time employees are women, and women are more likely than men to be in temporary employment. The average annual salary of women is €5,941 lower than that of men. In later life, this wage inequality is transferred to the retirement pensions received by women and men. Protests by hotel workers, domestic workers and seasonal agricultural workers have highlighted situations of inequality that are exclusive to women, and have led to this issue becoming a political priority.

Surveys show that men and women make very different uses of their time; thus, women still spend more than twice as much time as men on tasks related to home and family, and have less free time.

There remains a significant digital breach in women's access to careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the "STEM" jobs). Moreover, the presence of women in the information and communication technology sector, in all areas and professional categories, has barely increased in almost 20 years, from 33% in 1999 to 37.4% in 2017 (data from the study 'Wages and employment policies in the ICT hypersector 2017-2018', published by AMETIC, the Spanish federation of employers in the technological and digital sector).

According to data from the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, in Spain, only 7% of university students go on to a technological career, and within this group, only 28% are women. These figures are even lower in the engineering sector, where women only represent 20% of all students. The situation is similar in the field of vocational training.

Migrant women are especially vulnerable, as their migrant status is experienced in addition to the inequalities facing all women.

With respect to SDG 5, the government intends further legislation to ensure equal pay, equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men in employment and occupation.

In Spanish legislation, Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, on the Effective Equality of Women and Men (LOIEMH, Spanish acronym), was a milestone in the achievement of equality. This law established a legal framework to ensure equal treatment and opportunities for women and men and the elimination of discrimination based on sex, in all areas of life, particularly in the political, civil, labour, economic, social and cultural spheres. This law also transposed the corresponding EU directives on equal treatment and opportunities for women and men.

The LOIEMH expresses the cross-cutting nature of the principle of equal treatment for women and men, applicable to the actions of all public authorities and to be integrated into all public

policies. The Strategic Plan for Equality of Opportunities, described in Article 17 of the LOIEMH, states that “... *in areas within the competence of the Central Administration, a Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities will be approved periodically. This Plan will include measures to achieve the goal of equality between women and men and of eliminating discrimination based on sex*”.

The 2016 World Bank report “Women, Business and the Law” recognizes that Spain has a regulatory framework guaranteeing full equality of opportunities under law. This framework is modern and progressive, and makes Spain one of only 18 countries where there is no legal restriction on women’s access to employment.

Nevertheless, our society is still confronted with fundamental challenges to real and effective equality. Despite the notional equality declared in the Constitution and in our legal system, and the significant progress made in recent years, discrimination persists, ranging from the most extreme forms—such as those suffered by women who are victims of violence—to those which are less perceptible but suffered every day, in all areas. Accordingly, it is essential to assist those who are victims of multiple discrimination (a population group that is too often ignored), such as women and girls with disabilities.

Finally, it is especially important to highlight the Second Equality Plan of Spain’s Central Administration and the public entities under its aegis whose staff comprises civil servants or contracted staff, pursuant to Article 64 of the LOIEMH.

The most serious manifestation of inequality between women and men is undoubtedly that of gender violence. Since data records in this respect began in 2003, 935 women, victims of gender violence, have been murdered in Spain. In addition, 25 children have been murdered and since 2013 these, too, are considered victims of gender violence. Moreover, since 2012 the existence of disability has also been taken into consideration. Thus, between 2012 and July 2017, 26 persons with disabilities were killed. In 2017, 13,500 complaints of gender violence were recorded, which highlights the urgent and continuing need for Spain to address the question of violence against women.

In terms of combating gender violence, Spain took a very significant step with the approval of Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December, on comprehensive measures of protection against gender violence. This legislation, which was among the first of its kind in Europe, took a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach, and included provisions related to awareness-raising and to measures for preventing and detecting gender violence (via campaigns in areas such as education, health, advertising and the media), as well as considering victims’ rights, institutional protection and criminal and judicial responses.

Regional and local governments in Spain have also established legal and regulatory frameworks addressing gender violence.

The above pioneering Act was later complemented by the National Pact against Gender Violence, adopted in September 2017. These two measures constitute the road map with which we hope to achieve a country free of violence against women.

Disability is another factor that heightens women's risk of social exclusion, in areas such as health conditions, access to education, justice and employment, and in their level of participation in the society of which they are part.

Jointly, these aspects can produce the phenomenon of multiple discrimination, placing women with disabilities in a position of even greater vulnerability to violence and limitations to their sexual and reproductive rights, as well as exacerbating inequalities in social issues, education, employment, and health.

The National Pact is composed of the reports presented by the subcommittees of the Congress of Deputies and of the Senate, which include 214 and 267 measures, respectively, to achieve the elimination of all violence against women. This Pact has also been approved by the Government, the leaders of the Autonomous Communities, and the National Observatory on Violence against Women, which highlights the consensus achieved at the political, territorial and social levels.

The 2015-2018 Comprehensive Plan to combat trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation is of capital importance. This Plan includes 143 measures, based on five areas of priority. In addition, the former General Secretariat for Immigration and Emigration issued a protocol to detect and take action against possible cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation; this protocol is another important practical mechanism to combat trafficking.

The re-establishment of the Ministry of Equality and its integration into the Vice-Presidency of the Government situates equality between women and men as a matter of national policy, placing it at the forefront of government action and ensuring the application of gender equality in all policies and government decision-making. This political reform will contribute to the implementation of Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December, on comprehensive measures of protection against gender violence, of the National Pact against gender violence and of Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, on the effective equality of women and men.

The new Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities, which will be approved in the near future, will contribute to achieving the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

In addition, the Second National Strategy for the Eradication of Violence against Women is currently being prepared for the period 2018-2022.

Finally, another aspect of great importance is the Second Equality Plan, to be applied within all levels of government and related public bodies, regarding all employees, as provided for in Article 64 of the LOIEMH.



## 6. *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*

SDG 6 seeks to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The guarantee of water supply in sufficient quantity and quality is fundamental for the development of society and for the fight against poverty and disease around the world. The transversal nature of water supply and consumption makes it a fundamental resource for sustainable development at economic, social and environmental levels.

Water, therefore, is an economic reality and an essential resource in the preservation of ecosystems, but above all it is an essential right for the life and dignity of human beings.

In July 2010, the UN General Assembly proclaimed basic access to water and sanitation as a **human right**, one that is directly related to the condition of water as a public good, the basis of life and of the economy and the guarantor of universal well-being.

In Spain, 86% of the population has access to water of acceptable quality, according to the regulatory parameters established in this respect. Moreover, 99.5% of the water supplied is fit for consumption and 98.4% of the population live in households connected to wastewater treatment plants.

The most pressing problem facing our country is that of water stress (the ratio between the resources used and the total long-term resources available, which is reflected in indicator 6.4.1). Currently this value is 20.6%, one of the highest in the European Union. Annual water consumption in Spain is 30,169.38 Hm<sup>3</sup> of which 78% is for agricultural use, 18% for domestic use and 4% for industrial use.

Forecasts regarding this problem are not promising. Climate change is exacerbating the shortage of water in our country. According to the Spanish Meteorological Agency, from 1980 to 2010 the total volume of rainfall decreased by 18%, exceeding the predictions derived from climate models.

This SDG's targets are structured into three main areas of concern.

The first is that of achieving universal, fair access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene services, one of the major challenges identified in the UN 2030 Agenda. In general terms, these targets have been reached in Spain, for the vast majority of the population. Urban water services are provided at generally affordable prices, although the economic crisis provoked a surge in the number of families unable to pay their water bills.

The second area includes targets concerning water quality and the efficient and sustainable use of water resources, including the implementation of an integrated management of water resources and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.

In this area, Spain has an extensive regulatory framework addressing various aspects of water quantity and quality, at all levels. Thus, the overall structure is considered in the National Hydrological Plan, the Revised Text of the Water Act and regulations on the public hydraulic domain, among others, while targeted legislation regulates specific issues such as the

treatment and reuse of urban wastewater, the assessment of quality in bodies of water and the regulation of waste discharges.

Also noteworthy, given their relevance to achieving the goals for sanitation and water treatment in Spain, is the Plan of Measures for Growth, Competitiveness and Efficiency and the stipulations of hydrological plans regarding sanitation and water treatment. These plans detail all the investments made in this area by the Central Administration, the Autonomous Communities and local governments.

Finally, there has been considerable improvement in technical efficiency, both in urban distribution networks and in irrigation, and also in the maintenance and conservation of water infrastructure. This is a strategic area of action that can achieve very significant water savings and, consequently, one where good management of this vital resource will produce visible results.

The third area of concern, within the framework of FCAS (the Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation) and FONPRODE (the Spanish Fund for the Promotion of Development), is that of enhancing cooperation and international support, and of increasing the capacity of programmes related to water, ranging from collection, distribution and use to treatment. Spain has promoted two important initiatives in this field, the Ibero-American Water Directors Conference (CODIA), in which Spain holds the Permanent Secretariat, and the Water Strategy in the Western Mediterranean, as part of the 5 + 5 Dialogue, currently chaired by Spain.

Despite Spain's experience in the administration of water resources and its prominence in the field of technologies associated with obtaining, treating and making efficient use of water, it has not yet adapted to the change of paradigm that took place in 2000 with the publication of the European Water Framework Directive, which called for optimum ecological status for all bodies of water, for the integrated management of surface water, groundwater and coastal waters (including demand management and analysis of the impact of the costs associated with water consumption) and for public participation and transparency in decision-making regarding these issues.

More needs to be done to implement this approach, taking into account the value of water as a human right, and therefore to protect the nature of water as a public good, to ensure its sustainable use and to guarantee access, avoiding situations of social exclusion. Moreover, these goals must be sought via consensus and on the basis of permanent dialogue with all involved in the planning, management and use of this basic resource.

Given the semi-arid or arid nature of much of Spain and the growing problem of desertification, SDG 6 is closely related to SDG 13, on combating climate change. Water management is a major challenge, and one that is expected to become more complex in the context of climate change. Therefore, the management of water resources will be assigned a prominent role within Spanish public policies.

Advances are being made in adapting river basin management plans to take into account climate change. Thus, the last two such plans have incorporated available knowledge on the impact of climate change on the availability of water resources. Similarly, flood risk management plans and actions now take the effects of climate change into consideration. In

particular, under the national strategy of river restoration that was introduced in 2007, the philosophy of morphological restoration has been adopted, under which territory and natural characteristics are returned to rivers to help preserve their dynamics and ecosystems, and thus lessen the risk of flooding.

Another area related to this SDG is the promotion of R&D&i. The 2017-2020 National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation sets out, among the Challenges to Society identified, Challenge 5, “Climate change and the use of natural resources and raw materials”. This Challenge concerns innovation, ensuring the sustainability of water resources, analysing, evaluating and monitoring water resources, forecasting droughts, floods and natural catastrophes, improving the efficiency of use and the quality of water resources, from sanitary and environmental standpoints, implementing the intelligent storage, transport and management of water to achieve efficient consumption, developing innovative infrastructures to optimize the supply and quality of water, and reducing the environmental impacts of waste discharges.

Much of the information needed to report on the corresponding UN indicators for this target is already supplied by Spain, by virtue of its compliance with EU regulations on water and through the existing flows of information to the European Environment Agency and to Eurostat (by way of INE). However, the development and publication of these indicators is an advance of enormous potential, equipping policymakers to expand and adapt the indicators of this SDG to the contexts of Spain and the rest of Europe.



## *7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*

SDG 7 focuses on the energy sector and seeks to guarantee universal access to affordable, safe, sustainable and modern energy. This SDG is very closely related to SDG 13 on the need to adopt urgent measures to combat climate change and its effects. These overlapping goals will be managed, for the first time in Spain, by a single agency, termed the Ministry for Ecological Transition.

For the 2020-2050 planning horizon, the warnings of the scientific community regarding climate change mean that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be the main vector of transformation within the energy sector. Systematic, far-reaching decarbonization of the energy system is the overarching political priority for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Paris Agreement, adopted on 12 December 2015 and subsequently ratified by Spain, is the framework within which energy policies must be developed and carried out, as we move on from debating the climate objective to determining which strategy will enable its achievement, and the implications of the choices made.

Unlike the EU as a whole, Spain has not yet succeeded in decoupling (in absolute terms) the growth of its economy from that of greenhouse gas emissions. A look at the Spanish energy mix makes this relationship apparent.

In Spain, fossil fuels are at the heart of the energy system, accounting for 74% of primary energy supplies. Renewable energies account for 14% and nuclear power, the remaining 12%. Hence, the vast majority of greenhouse gas emissions are derived from the energy system (77% in 2015 and 75% in 2016). Within this segment, the two areas producing most emissions are transport (28% of total emissions) and electricity generation (18%).

Coal, which is the fossil fuel that emits by far the most CO<sub>2</sub>, contributes 12% of primary energy and 17% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Oil accounts for 42% of primary energy and generates 52% of total emissions. Finally, natural gas contributes 20% of primary energy and generates 15% of total emissions. Use of this fuel is mainly concentrated in the industrial sector. Its use in electricity generation has fallen dramatically in the last decade, to an average utilization of 1,104 hours in the power plants, which is far below its potential.

The gradual penetration of renewable sources into the energy mix would bring various benefits, both of an environmental nature, in the form of emissions reduction, and in economic terms, through job creation, the existence of a new business fabric, reduced external dependence, improved balance of payments, etc.

Such a transition must be technically feasible and economically efficient. And of course, any such energy transition must be an equitable process; when the closure of an installation affects the development of the area in which it is located, alternatives must be introduced to revitalize the region affected.

For almost a decade, from 2004 until 2011, Spain, together with Denmark and Germany, was a world leader in renewable energy, expanding electricity generation from these sources from 19% to 33%. Despite falling back in recent years, Spain continues to be the second largest producer of wind energy in Europe, and in 2015 was fourth in the world in installed wind power.

In this regard, perhaps one of the most positive features of the last two decades has been the evolution of the energy intensity of the Spanish economy. The energy intensity remained stable from 1995 to 2005, when a sharp improvement began. The amount of energy needed to generate a unit of economic output has fallen considerably, reflecting improved energy efficiency in the economy, although it remains below the European average. Thus, between 2000 and 2016, primary energy intensity in the EU-15 was reduced by 24%, but in Spain only by 14%.

To conclude this review of the Spanish energy system, we must refer to the high level of energy dependence (73%), which is well above the EU average (54%). In 2016, the national energy bill was 20.4 billion euros and that of 2017, almost 30 billion euros. Therefore, there are powerful reasons, concerning not only climate change but also energy security and the external balance, to redirect this dependence towards a more efficient energy system based on renewable energies, especially as these resources (wind, sun, biomass and water) are generously available in our territory.

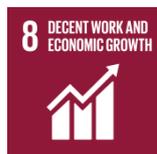
The fact that 58% of total emissions originate in the so-called diffuse sectors (transport, heating/cooling, waste and agriculture) means that the committed involvement of the majority of society and of all levels of government will be essential if decarbonization of the economy and the desired energy transition are to be achieved.

The transformation of our model of mobility and transport is an essential aspect of energy transition. Decarbonization of the sector is a daunting challenge, in the face of which investment in public transport must be prioritized, with particular emphasis on support for non-motorized modes, pedestrianizing town centres, electrifying mobility in cities and encouraging the transfer of freight from the roads to more sustainable means of transport (rail and ship), among other actions.

Regarding energy aspects of the construction industry, Spain has over 25 million homes with inadequate average energy quality. In fact, 53% of the housing stock was built before 1979 and lacks thermal insulation. Only 7% of the housing complies with the regulations established in the 2006 Technical Building Code and just 1% meets the standards currently required. In this regard, the systematic electrification of urban environments, combining the balanced distribution of generation with the use of economies of scale derived from large renewable-energy facilities, will be one of the lines of transformation through which energy transition will become a reality.

In order to guarantee universal access to energy, the service must be made affordable. In 2016, 6.8 million persons in Spain, 15% of the population, suffered from energy poverty, that is, they were unable to set the temperature of their house at an adequate level or were unable to pay an energy bill on time. This is one of the areas of the SDG in which there have been setbacks in recent years, something that must be corrected urgently.

Finally, environmental taxation should be employed as a tool for managing energy use. Far-reaching reform in this respect, introducing transversal environmental taxation, is of crucial importance to the competitiveness of our economy. However, such a change in the taxation model must be accompanied, at least in the short and medium term, by compensatory social measures. The modernization of our economic activity must address and reflect environmental concerns, but also take social justice into consideration, in fairness to those who will be faced by most difficulties in this area.



## *8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*

SDG 8 is directly related to the field of work and affects several ministerial departments, within the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security (MTMSS) and the Ministry of Economy in particular.

Reducing the rate of unemployment (especially among the young and among unskilled older workers), improving working conditions, increasing labour productivity and improving access to services and financial benefits are essential components of inclusive economic growth and are the main targets of this SDG. Living standards cannot be improved without achieving constant, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with productive employment and decent working conditions.

Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is among the most urgent challenges facing our society. The destruction of employment in Spain due to the economic crisis and the creation of employment in precarious conditions are the main causes of the increase in inequality and the changing profiles of poverty and social exclusion. During the recession, youth unemployment practically doubled, from 499,900 in the first quarter of 2008 to 981,400 in the third quarter of 2012. The number of long-term unemployed increased sevenfold between the first quarter of 2008 and the first of 2013. The number of households in which all their members were out of work rose almost four-fold, from 526,510 in the first quarter of 2008 to 2,013,480 in the first quarter of 2013.

The Spanish economy ended 2017 having recorded four consecutive years of job creation, at a rate of 2.6%, and with 490,300 more men and women in work. From the first quarter of 2014 to the fourth quarter of 2017, the total number of persons in employment increased by 2,047,800. Moreover, for the fourth consecutive year, the unemployment rate fell, to a year-end value of 16.55%, a level below that of 2009. In absolute terms, the jobless population decreased by 471,100. Between 2014 and 2016, almost three quarters (72.9%, Eurostat) of EU inhabitants emerging from a situation of poverty were Spanish.

However, important challenges remain. Analysis of the situation taking into account disaggregated data (INE, 2018)—in line with the principle of “Leave no one behind”—reveals the following:

- Unemployment continues to be very high. And a large proportion of this population, although below the EU average, are long-term unemployed. Many have no training beyond compulsory secondary education. The rate of premature school leaving has fallen significantly in recent years, but remains well above the European average.
- Although in 2017 female unemployment decreased more rapidly than in 2016 (at a rate of -11.3%), this was still inferior to the improvement recorded in male employment, and so the gender gap with respect to unemployment has widened. Nevertheless, this difference is currently one point less than that for 2008. Moreover, among workers aged under 25, the rate of female unemployment is lower than that for men. In this respect, convergence between the sexes has practically been achieved for those aged 20-29 years and for those aged over 55.
- Since 2014, the rate of female unemployment in Spain has been falling to approach the Eurozone average, and this trend continued in 2017, but a difference of almost ten points persists.
- Women experiencing long-term unemployment, i.e., lasting more than twelve months, continue to form a majority (58%) of the jobless, although ten years ago this proportion was two thirds. In terms of wages, further progress is still needed, but in the last five years Spain has done more than any other country in the Eurozone to reduce the gender wage gap, and the difference is now below the EU average.
- The most notable feature of the population sector comprising persons with disabilities (SDG indicators 8.5.1 and 8.5.2.)—which in 2016 included more than 1.84 million persons aged between 16 and 64—is their low level of participation in the labour market. Their activity rate is lower than that of the population as a whole, although it has risen during the last three years. In

the same line, unemployment among those with disabilities has fallen since 2014; nevertheless, it continues to be notably higher than the overall rate. The proportion of those in work has also grown in recent years. There is almost no gender gap between men and women with disabilities; thus, the unemployment rate among women with disabilities is only one point higher than that for men.

Another area in which a major challenge must be faced is that of young people (aged 15-24) who are neither studying, nor in work, nor in vocational training (SDG indicator 8.6.1). Although the size of this group has fallen since 2013, it continues to be unacceptably high and is a source of concern. Therefore, continuing efforts are needed to ensure that these young persons are not excluded from the labour market.

The 2018 Spanish National Reform Programme seeks to create jobs and to promote indefinite hiring, in order to continue improving the stability and quality of employment. It also modifies the formats for employment contracts and enables their simplification, if necessary. The principle of causality in temporary hiring will also be reinforced, as will the penalties imposed when temporary contracts are abusive and/or unjustified. Efforts will continue to ensure equal wages between men and women, to achieve greater transparency on remuneration, to detect situations of unjustified inequality and to reduce the gender wage gap. In addition, unemployment assistance benefits will be reorganized.

Finally, the Government and Trade Unions Agreement will continue to be implemented to improve the quality of employment. The stated aim of this Agreement is to reduce temporary employment in the public sector to 8% over the next two years.

The following administrative and legislative measures are relevant to achieving the principal targets proposed in this SDG:

- The 2017-2020 Strategy for Employment Activation (MTMSS), which sets out strategic objectives of active employment policies, in coordination with the Autonomous Communities.
- The 2014-2020 Strategy for Corporate Social Responsibility and the 2017-2020 Strategy for Social Economy.
- Act 31/2015, of 9 September, to modify and update the regulations on self-employment and to adopt measures to promote self-employment and the social economy.
- The 2015-2020 Strategy for Safety and Health at Work.
- The Master Plan to combat labour exploitation, which has recently been announced as one of the Government's priorities.
- The 2017-2020 National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation (drawn up by the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness). The aim of this Plan is to help promote the country's scientific and technological leadership and its capabilities in the field of innovation, as essential elements in the creation of quality employment and added value.
- The 2018-2020 Strategic Plan for Labour Inspection and Social Security (MTMSS) defines the Inspectorate as a public service institution, whose mission is to enhance quality in

employment, in the broad sense of not only avoiding abusive hiring situations, but also that of achieving fairer labour relations, with proper social protection and appropriate safety and health conditions, i.e., what is termed “decent work” by the ILO.

- The 2018-2021 Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities, still in the consultation phase, will include measures to narrow the gender wage gap.

To contribute to equality and non-discrimination, both in access to employment and in the employment relationship, the Labour and Social Security Inspectorate is applying various measures, such as improved systems to detect gender, racial or ethnic discrimination (or that due to other personal or social circumstances), improving the training of inspectors and conducting specific inspection campaigns. The Strategic Plan also foresees measures to raise the quality of employment and makes a clear commitment to digitization in order to improve the effectiveness of its actions.

Significant initiatives are also being implemented by other ministries, such as MAPA, which is taking action to favour rural development and modernization, to promote quality in agricultural production and to improve the management of water resources. All of these areas are of key importance to sustainable economic development and, moreover, will create and maintain jobs in rural areas.

With regard to the international dimension, the other outstanding element of SDG 8, the Spanish Development Finance Company (COFIDES) has taken important actions to support the internationalization of Spanish companies as a vector of economic growth, to be achieved by diversification and modernization in the countries where investment is made, and by innovation in the Spanish private sector. No less important is the support provided for the development and integration of new digital technologies in many industrial and sectorial applications, which play a decisive role in raising productivity, in improving the competitiveness of the Spanish economy and in promoting sustainable, inclusive growth.

As part of the 2017-2020 National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation, the Strategic Action in Digital Society and Economy is expected to be a key instrument in the promotion of R&D&i in this field.

Spain has ratified the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (No. 29), which will come into force in September 2018. This Convention addresses the root causes of slavery, to eliminate it once and for all, through what is termed the effective and sustained suppression of forced or compulsory labour. This action will be effected at three levels: prevention, protection and compensation. Employers will be required to act with “due diligence” to avoid modern slavery in their business practices and supply chains. Accordingly, all workers in all sectors must be protected by legislation to prevent forced labour. Moreover, labour inspection and other services that protect workers from exploitation must be strengthened and additional measures adopted to educate and inform people and communities about crimes such as human trafficking. Spain will report regularly on the specific measures adopted.

The overall objective of the 2017-2027 Strategy for the Internationalization of the Spanish Economy, prepared by the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness, is to promote the internationalization of the Spanish economy, thus consolidating the positive contribution of

the external sector to Spain's economic growth. This structural advance will enable job creation, thanks to improved competitiveness and the greater presence of our companies abroad. The National Contact Point, as an interministerial collegiate body chaired by the Secretary of State for Trade, is committed to promoting compliance by Spanish companies with direct investments abroad with the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct and on the SDGs.

Finally, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security, aware of the importance of youth employment, is supporting the launch of the ILO Global Initiative on Decent Employment for Young People, in the view that an international approach is necessary to properly address the problem of youth employment. This support is both financial and technical, through the recent incorporation of an expert from the Ministry in the international technical team of the project at the ILO headquarters.

### **The importance of social dialogue as an accelerator, engine and instrument of governance to promote sustainable development**

According to the ILO, social dialogue includes "... any type of negotiation, consultation or simple exchange of information between the representatives of governments, employers' organizations and trade unions on issues of common interest related to economic and social policies".

The four pillars of the ILO Decent Work Agenda—job creation, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue—are fundamental elements to achieving the SDGs and are essential for patterns of economic growth to be sustainable and inclusive. Another vital function of social dialogue is to offer a structure of worker-employer relations that goes beyond the individual, to address a democratic deficit or imbalance of power within this relationship.

Social dialogue is a fundamental instrument in orientating labour, social and economic policies towards greater social inclusion, full coverage of social protection and, ultimately, to the redistribution of wealth. It is, therefore, an essential accelerator to achieving SDGs 1, 8 and 10, and also those related to the provision of essential public services, with respect to fundamental human rights, e.g., access to health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6) and housing (SDG 11), among others.

In Spain, the successful outcomes of social dialogue show that this mechanism plays a real part in helping achieve the SDGs. This is exemplified by the round tables of social dialogue proposed by Spanish trade unions; these round tables were established by law in 2005, and enabled social partners to participate in the preparation and supervision of the National Plan for the allocation of emissions rights.

Social dialogue is also included as a priority area of action for accelerator policies to combat inequalities, as highlighted by the 2018-2020 Minimum Wage Agreement with the participation of the trade unions CCOO and UGT and the employers federations CEOE and CEPYME.

In this context, too, Act 43/2015, of 9 October, on the Third Sector, establishes a regulatory framework for social action. The activity of the third sector in the field of social action, by its

organizations and by their members, arises from their commitment to human rights and is founded on the values of solidarity, equality of opportunities, inclusion and participation. The exercise of these values produces a balanced social development, social cohesion and an organizational model in which economic activity takes place for the benefit of society.



## *9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation*

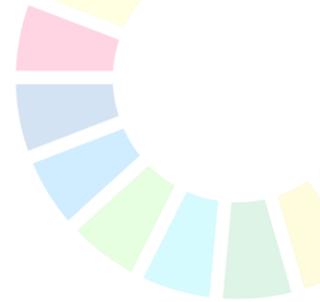
One of the factors that reflect a country's level of development is the state of its infrastructure and its degree of industrialization. To achieve a competitive economic model with a strong element of innovation, there must be a network of appropriate infrastructures. The development of reliable, sustainable and quality infrastructure will stimulate economic recovery, the quality of life and the creation of employment. Moreover, it constitutes a guarantee of territorial structuring, social cohesion and equal opportunities.

To achieve a competitive economic model emphasizing innovation, it is necessary to have an adequate infrastructure network. Indeed, the development of reliable, sustainable, quality infrastructure represents a stimulus for economic recovery, quality of life, and job creation. Moreover, it ensures territorial coordination, social cohesion, and equality of opportunities.

Since the 1980s, transport infrastructure in Spain has been substantially recapitalized, through large-scale, ongoing investments. Planners of this new infrastructure aimed to satisfy the real mobility needs of society and investment and thus foster the development of a competitive and innovative domestic industry. The investments made have led to greater specialization and knowledge in many fields, including engineering and construction, and among manufacturers and suppliers, which have become world leaders in their respective fields.

The rapidly expanding network of infrastructure shows how society's transport requirements are being met. Spain now has a rail network with more than 5,000 trains, 11,000 km of conventional rail, 3,000 km of high-speed rail (the world's largest system); 165,483 km of roads; 47 airports, 46 ports and 2 heliports. The 2017-2020 Innovation Plan for transport and infrastructure has the following objectives: a) to accelerate the incorporation of technology to benefit society, with particular regard to innovation in security, accessibility and sustainability; b) to increase the economic and social profitability of investments, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of public and private investment; c) to make Spain a more attractive place for companies and for innovative investments in the field of mobility and transport; d) to attract investment and technology from beyond our own borders and to consolidate our international leadership.

In the first years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the relative weight of the industrial sector in the Spanish economy (by GDP) continued to regress, in line with the pattern of the previous century, due to structural factors and to the economic crisis. Thus, the value added by this sector decreased from 16.4% of GDP in 2008 to only 14.5% in 2016. In the conviction that Spain needs a model of sustainable economic growth and a productive system based on more innovation, competitiveness and industry, thus promoting recovery and job creation, successive Spanish



Governments, within a broader context of structural reforms, have promoted an inclusive and environmentally-sustainable industrial policy. One of the pillars of this policy is the Agenda to Strengthen the Industrial Sector in Spain, which was launched in 2014.

The industrial sector maintains and creates skilled employment, with higher wages and greater productivity than other sectors of the economy (industrial employment accounted for 13.8% of the total in Spain in 2016). It is the main producer and user of innovation and technological development, generating numerous positive external effects on the economy as a whole, and is of great strategic importance due to its invaluable export potential.

The strategic value of the manufacturing sector, therefore, goes beyond its quantitative importance and its contribution to GDP and employment. For this reason, Spain is promoting a strategy for industrial revitalization in which high priority is granted to the domestic production of manufactured goods and associated services in the value chain.

The aim of significantly increasing the contribution of industry to employment and GDP means that the sector must overcome the major challenges arising from the joint impact of various macro-trends, including the rapid pace of technological progress, with disruptive innovations that pose enormous challenges to industry, and the profound transformation of the economic system towards one that is decarbonized, circular and more sustainable, with a much greater presence of renewable energies. In consequence, the Spanish industrial sector must become increasingly sustainable, which is the only strategy that will ensure its viability, and moreover it must successfully implement a digital transformation, to create an industry 4.0.

Furthermore, to achieve an industrial sector that is both inclusive and environmentally sustainable, the outcomes of the R&D&i activities performed by the agencies within the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation (SECTI) must be transferred to industry, in the form of innovative solutions, and for this to be achieved it will be necessary not only to design the instruments to facilitate such a transfer, but first and foremost to enhance scientific research and technological capabilities.

In 2012, SECTI was experiencing serious difficulties. It was faced with major challenges; profound reforms were needed and new instruments adopted for the promotion of R&D&i. Funding was a critical problem, but this was not the only issue. Growing international competition in terms of talent and knowledge, evident differences in innovation and the weaknesses of a system that had one of the lowest rates of business participation in R&D&i in Europe were all of crucial importance. Therefore, Spanish policymakers needed to establish a strategic framework for R&D&i policies that would promote structural reforms, define incentives and determine the objectives and inputs needed to create the R&D&i capabilities that would make Spain more innovative and thus contribute to the country's social and economic progress.

This strategic framework was the 2013-2020 Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation, approved in 2012. Within this framework, which represents a fundamental tool for the administration to develop goals for science and technology and to facilitate their achievement, special mention should be made of the National Plans for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation, with the one approved in 2017 corresponding to the period 2017-

2020. These National Plans introduced an integrated vision of research, technological development and innovation; they made it possible to design financial assistance to promote public-private collaboration with the aim of narrowing the gap observed between research capabilities (mainly within public sector institutions, including universities) and technological development and innovation, which are associated, above all, with companies and other technological agents that act in close proximity to the market.

As part of the Plan, and since 2013, the National Programme for R&D&i focused on the Challenges to Society has fostered the integration of the knowledge and technologies needed to seek and obtain solutions to complex problems associated with major social challenges, specifically those facing Spanish society, incorporating for this purpose basic research, technological and experimental development, and innovation, in a broad sense.

Innovation will occupy an important place in the EU strategy to generate growth and employment. It is also strongly linked to other transversal policy areas such as competitiveness, the environment, industry and energy. The role of innovation must be to convert the results of research into new and better services and products, to keep Spain competitive in the global market and to improve people's quality of life, throughout the world.

Since the publication of the first European Innovation Scoreboard in 2010, Spain has featured as a moderately innovative country, a level at which it has remained, with small annual variations mainly stemming from the favourable development of some components of the indicator that served to measure performance in the area of innovation used as a reference.

The causes of this low level of innovation are structural, and reside especially in the existence of high rates of business mortality and the impact of this factor on innovative companies; moreover, very few ground-breaking, internationally competitive companies are systematically active in R&D; many SMEs have a low capacity to absorb knowledge and technologies, which limits their ability to adopt advanced technologies and to collaborate effectively with universities and public research centres; finally, there are few alternative sources of financing, and this is especially true with respect to venture capital in the launch phase and with funding required to ensure business growth.

Finally, Spanish industry is closely engaged with an unprecedented globalized framework. Since September 2017, the Spanish Export and Investment Agency (ICEX) and COFIDES have been co-signatories of the UN Global Compact and members of its Spanish Network, thus becoming key players in the active contribution of Spanish companies to local processes of innovation and of sustainable and inclusive development in the markets where they operate, thus strengthening the role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs. The financial activity by COFIDES in support of the private sector reinforces competitiveness in Spain and contributes to innovation, knowledge transfer and the creation of employment, both at home and abroad.

Spain currently has the most extensive fibre optic network in Europe, with 35 million accesses installed. According to the European Commission, 83.6% of the population has internet coverage with an access speed exceeding 100 Mbit/s, compared to an average of 55.1% in the European Union. There has also been significant growth in the adoption of very high speed

connections; thus, in September 2017 the number of users who connected to the Internet by fibre exceeded that of those using traditional ADSL copper networks.

Although ultra-fast fixed broadband infrastructure has been deployed, basically, with private investment, since 2013 the public administration has supported the extension of networks with offers of public aid through the New Generation Broadband Extension Programme (PEBA-NGA). From 2013 to 2017, this programme provided 216 million euros of public funding for projects to install fibre in 3,586,311 homes and business premises and in 4,064 small-to-medium sized population centres that had previously had no coverage.

Spain has also made significant improvements in the coverage of networks offering mobile high-performance broadband communication. Thanks to major investments by private operators, 4G coverage now reaches 97.2% of the population, while 3.5G has 99.9% coverage. The 2018-20 National Plan for 5G, currently under development, aims to make Spain one of the most advanced countries in the world in this respect, so that when it reaches technological and commercial maturity, our country will be able to take full advantage of the opportunities of this fundamental paradigm for digital transformation.



## 10. Reduce income inequality within and among countries

SDG 10 seeks to reduce the inequality caused by factors such as sex, age, disability, race, ethnicity and religion, both within Spain and among countries, through the adoption of relevant policies and legislation. Special attention will be paid to the case of persons with disabilities, who experience significant financial inequality due to the additional expenses their condition provokes in daily life, such as those of the technical means and support needed to ensure personal autonomy and independent living. This SDG also aims to improve the regulation and control of financial markets and institutions.

Article 1 of the Spanish Constitution states that Spain “is established as a social and democratic State, subject to the rule of law”, and that the supreme values of its legal system are “liberty, justice, equality, and political pluralism”. Article 41 goes on to state that “the public authorities shall maintain a public social security system for all citizens that guarantees sufficient assistance and social benefits in situations of need, especially in the case of unemployment” and moreover that “complementary assistance and benefits shall be free of charge”.

The data referred to in indicator 1.2.1 of the 2017 Living Conditions Survey show that the inequality indicators are becoming slightly more favourable. However, this is not the case for the S80/S20 ratio, which measures inequality in terms of the ratios between percentiles, with particular respect to annual household income. This ratio increased from 5.6 in 2008 to 6.6 in 2016, and remained at the same level in 2017.

The other indicator of inequality presents a similar trend. The Gini index, which reflects the degree of inequality in income distribution, increased by 1.6 points between 2008 and 2017, from 32.4 to 34.1, reaching a maximum value of 34.7 in 2014. Nevertheless, since 2015 it has decreased slightly, by 0.1 point in 2015 and 2016, and by 0.4 point in 2017.

Reforms enabling the jobless to enter the labour market are among the most effective means of combating poverty and social exclusion. As mentioned in SDG 1, the current situation of the Spanish economy shows that the mere creation of employment, if is precarious and not accompanied by other policies, does not guarantee that inequality will decrease.

In line with the “leave no one behind” goal, the 2012-2020 National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of the Gypsy Population, with its corresponding operational programmes, will be continued.

Multiannual programmes to combat poverty and exclusion will continue to be implemented. These programmes are based on the national strategy to prevent and fight against poverty and social exclusion, which includes the fight against poverty and inequality, especially severe poverty and child poverty, and the forthcoming Strategic Plan for Equality of Opportunities (PEIO), which will apply measures to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination.

To combat job insecurity, the government has approved a Royal Decree setting the statutory minimum wage for 2018 at 735.9 euros per month, an increase of 4% on the previous year. This decision was reached following the 2018-2020 Social Agreement on this question reached between the government, the trade unions CCOO and UGT and the employers federations CEOE and CEPYME.

The Social Agreement also calls for the minimum wage to be raised by 5% in 2019 and by 10% in 2020, provided that the economy achieves real GDP growth of at least 2.5% and that the number of affiliates to the Social Security system rises by 450,000 each year.

In the field of development cooperation, only Official Development Assistance (ODA) is monitored. The introduction of a new concept, total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD), which goes beyond ODA and offers a broader and more comprehensive picture of all the funding sources available to support sustainable development strategies, will require appropriate adaptation of our financing and accounting schemes.

Finally, the development and implementation of a safe, orderly and regular migration policy, one that takes into account the needs of the Spanish labour market and also those of the country of origin, will contribute to reducing inequality among countries, since migration is a key element of development. Accordingly, we will analyse means of promoting migration, for employment, study, research or training, paying special attention to the diaspora and its contribution through remittances, both financial and knowledge-based, to the economic and social development of the respective countries of origin. As set out in the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, we will also work to institutionally strengthen the countries of origin, addressing the root causes of migration.

In addition to the above, our immigration policy must always take into consideration the need to take action in solidarity with those who are forced to leave their countries and for whose sake the developed countries must adopt appropriate measures.



## 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

The traditional Spanish urban model (“the Mediterranean city”) is compact, reasonably dense, complex, mixed-use, medium-sized, and features safe, healthy, good-quality urban spaces that foster coexistence and social diversity. Such cities are attractive both for their inhabitants and for those who visit them. Such factors are the most important means of attaining SDG 11, which, through the UN’s New Urban Agenda, on the creation of inclusive cities, seeks to create positive feedback between urbanization and development, and to create human settlements based on fairness, justice and peace, under the overarching principle of “Leave no one behind”. This New Urban Agenda aims to be strong and effective, with empowered local and regional governments, to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs both locally and globally.

However, the Spanish model does not escape certain problems and dysfunctions that have provoked severe fissures in this model of compact, safe and healthy cities, characterized by coexistence, diversity and social complexity. The emergence of models of dispersed growth has led to the appearance of low-density residential developments, with a high consumption of land, very evident separation or zoning by uses and strong dependence on private transport, with all the social, environmental and energy impact that this produces. This change has taken place despite the fact that only 3.9% of the Spanish land surface is urbanized, a figure that is lower than the European average (4.13%). Factors that have decisively influenced the changing patterns of urban planning in Spain include legislation that encouraged the liberalization of land use (in 1998); the extraordinary facilities for access to mortgage loans and the abuse of their concession (which had a very direct impact on the housing boom); the absence of territorial management strategies and instruments in many Autonomous Communities (although they are the only levels of government that may exercise these powers) and the financing dynamics of local governments, which obtain significant funding from urban activity and the capital gains it generates.

The above are not the only challenges facing towns and cities. The following areas also provoke great concern.

*Social challenges:* Spain has a rapidly aging population and a high rate of rural depopulation, producing important territorial imbalances. According to INE figures, this problem affects 22 of the 50 provinces, and is critical in 14, where over 80% of municipalities are at risk of extinction because they have fewer than 1000 inhabitants, most of whom are elderly. The risk of poverty and social exclusion has also increased, especially in urban environments. Moreover, despite improvements in the situation, effective equality between men and women has not yet been achieved.

*Environmental challenges:* Spain is extremely vulnerable to climate change; much remains to be done to mitigate its risks and to adapt to changing circumstances. The priorities for action in this respect are to reduce the negative environmental impact of cities, paying particular attention to air quality and waste management, to cushion the negative effects of disasters, in terms of

material and human damage, with special attention to vulnerable populations, and to protect the cultural and natural heritage.

*Economic challenges:* Cities are the driving force of the economy. Although half of the jobs destroyed by the recession have now been recovered, there is still much to be done and cities must play a fundamental role in economic revitalization, through the renovation of historic centres (attracting tourism and generating diversified economic activity), the promotion of activity in town centres and areas for logistics, and the creation of decentralized zones for economic activities, according to need.

*Instrumental challenges:* Although Spain's regulations, planning and financing structures may appear adequate, there is a pressing need for action in at least four areas. *Regulations:* Due to Spain's decentralized system of government, in terms of urban and territorial planning, there are 18 legislative bodies, with overlapping jurisdictional frameworks and responsibilities for territorial issues (sectorial or horizontal) and town planning. In total, there are almost ninety urban planning and land use regulations in force, including laws and other rules and regulations, as well as 5,330 municipal ordinances related to building or construction. *Planning:* 82.03% of Spanish municipalities have a general urban plan, but in many cases it is not flexible and is excessively formalized, requiring over four years for each full revision, and up to three just to be modified. At the same time, only ten (of the seventeen) Autonomous Communities have a regional-level instrument of spatial planning, to provide a strategic framework for urban planning. *Governance:* The different levels of the Spanish administrative system enjoy broad autonomy to manage their respective interests. Their competences are distributed according to a complex system detailed in Articles 140, 148 and 149 of the Constitution and in the Statutes of each Autonomous Community. Inevitably, this has generated some dysfunctions, such as the duplication of roles, an absence of shared or integrated planning processes, funding deficits for policies or services and the insufficient development of shared information systems. In this context, areas of communication and exchange such as the Metropolitan Observatory of Mobility, the Urban Information System and the Observatory of Vulnerable Neighbourhoods (dependent on the Ministry of Development) are particularly important. Moreover, citizen participation in territorial and urban planning processes, and even in urban management, is fully guaranteed from a legal standpoint. However, in practice, the absence of a public culture of participation in matters related to urban planning and development prevents this public service from achieving its full potential. *Finance:* Local corporations continually request more funds, with the argument that this level of administration is closest to the citizen, to provide the services required of them. However, in 2017, for the fourth consecutive year, local administrations presented surpluses in their public accounts and recognized having their own sources of income (such as taxes on property), in addition to significant transfers from other areas of government.

*The challenge of accessibility.* Cities are increasingly working to adapt their infrastructures and services to people with disabilities. Issues such as urban constructions, public spaces, transport, housing and related infrastructure, information and communication are of crucial importance in determining the accessibility or otherwise of a city, an issue that presents a significant challenge

to the provision of social inclusion. Investments in accessibility always generate multiple benefits that are enjoyed by all citizens, regardless of whether they have a disability.

*The challenge of sustainability* is acknowledged in Article 3 of the Consolidated Urban Land and Rehabilitation Act, in which the section entitled “The principle of sustainable urban and territorial development” requires all public authorities, without exception, to formulate and implement, in the urban environment, the policies for which they are responsible, “in accordance with the principles of competitiveness and economic, social and environmental sustainability, territorial cohesion, energy efficiency and functional complexity, ensuring that appropriate equipment is provided and that the land is occupied efficiently, combining uses in a functional way”. To complement this legislative requirement, in October 2017 the Government began preparation of the Spanish Urban Agenda. This document is currently at a very advanced stage, and has received contributions from all concerned, thus allowing all areas of opinion to be taken into account. This Agenda will help us meet the challenge of recovering a traditional urban model that worked very well for decades, while presenting suggestions for improvement in response to the diverse, complex reality of the Spanish territorial and urban landscape. This reality means we must strive to preserve the balance between urban and rural environments, whilst attending to the needs of cities and metropolitan areas, which continue to present many areas of inequality.

In summary, the basic characteristics of all the SDG 11 targets are present in the traditional Spanish model of urban development; our basic legislation recognizes the principle of sustainable territorial and urban development; and the strategic framework being designed will create, for all of the stakeholders involved, an Urban Agenda that is in line not only with the 2030 Agenda, but also with the international agendas of the European Union and the United Nations. The Spanish Urban Agenda, moreover, will prioritize the integrated, parallel development of territorial and urban planning, with a sustainable outlook taking into account diagnostics, strategic objectives, lines of action, monitoring indicators and the need for sufficient financing. In other words, Action Plans will be developed in accordance with the Spanish Urban Agenda, as appropriate for each of the stakeholders involved in their implementation.

These challenges are undeniable and must be addressed; but the supreme challenge is that of realizing that the actions of public bodies must be focused on the public good, on citizens’ welfare and rights. This should be the sole objective of public policies, within a context of global challenges and a plural society, one that is in constant evolution and one of which local governments are a fundamental part. The 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs mark the path we have all taken together.



## *12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

This SDG seeks to promote the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, reduce the generation of waste (including food waste) and promote the environmentally-appropriate management of chemical products. It also aims to foster the implementation of

sustainable practices in the business world and to enable universal access to information about ecological lifestyles.

This is one of the most cross-cutting SDGs in the Agenda and also one of the most important for developed countries, as it pursues a transition from traditional (wasteful) economic, productive and consumer models towards those based on sustainability.

Sustainable consumption and production will be promoted through the implementation of appropriate strategies, policies and regulations. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), proposed at the Rio+20 Conference, is being applied through a package of measures spanning the five programmes included in this framework.

A fundamental role must be played by all stakeholders in the value chain if the targets of SDG 12 are to be achieved. Therefore, it will be essential to raise awareness of these issues among society as a whole, to generate structural changes in patterns of production and consumption, and thus orient supply and demand towards products and services that have minimal environmental impact, in line with the Spanish Strategy for a Circular Economy (EEEC), which is expected to be approved in 2018. In this respect, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and the Ministry for Ecological Transition (MITECO) will have a cross-cutting impact on efforts to improve patterns of environmental behaviour, in all areas from production and distribution to consumption. In this respect, agrifood companies bear an additional sectoral responsibility.

Working with the different stakeholders involved in this process means that different areas of action must be addressed. One of the most important is the promotion of sustainability policies and of environmental improvement by corporations. Crucial aspects of these strategies include innovation, inter-sectoral and inter-governmental cooperation and the transfer of knowledge and technologies. In recent years, economic agents have realized that they must play an active role in developing sustainability, and that this change of direction, highlighted in the 2030 Agenda, presents new opportunities for expanding economic activity and generating employment. In this respect, changing attitudes are reflected in the high level of participation in mechanisms established to design new policies for sustainability and in the leadership exercised in applying these mechanisms.

Consumers are of fundamental importance to SDG 12. According to 2017 data issued by the Panel for quantifying food waste in Spanish households, 1.2 billion kg of food waste is generated annually, an average of 23.6 million kg per week, or 4.3% of all food purchases. Of these food losses, 87.5% are unprocessed products that were not used, and 12.5% are from home cooking, leftovers discarded directly from the plate or after refrigeration. Nevertheless, these figures represent a decrease of 4% in the volume of food waste with respect to the data compiled in 2015, which is promising. However, much more needs to be done to make SDG 12 a reality.

In view of these findings, it is essential to provide consumers with information to enable them to take informed decisions that will produce changes in the productive sectors. In fact, the producer-distributor-consumer relationship has been characterized by significant feedback in

recent years, which has supported the regulatory and planning measures adopted by different levels of public administration.

Another important area for action is that of education. The inclusion of sustainability-related issues in study plans, including sustainable forms of production and consumption, is a major challenge. These questions should also be considered in fields such as vocational training, refresher courses and lifelong learning.

Concerning the proper management of hazardous waste, 2.56 million tons of waste were generated in Spain in 2015, equivalent to 55.0 kg per capita. Nevertheless, this is less than the 58.5 kg per capita recorded in 2010, and the total volume of waste produced annually decreased by 7.1% during this period. By type of treatment, recovery accounted for 71.4%, landfill deposit for 22.1% and incineration, the remaining 6.5%. In the period 2010-2015, recovery advanced by 12.5 points, while landfill deposit and incineration fell, by 10.8 and 1.7 points respectively. These changing patterns of waste treatment provide a clear indicator of the improved management systems being applied.

Another indicator of improvement in the prevention and management of waste in Spain (also relevant to Target 12.5) is the national rate of municipal waste recycling, which had risen to 30.0% by 2015, an increase of 2.7 percentage points since 2010. Likewise, according to official Spanish statistics on waste collection and treatment (compiled by INE in collaboration with MITECO), the total volume of waste in 2015 was 21.16 million tons, fully 11% lower than in 2010.

The most important challenge currently facing us in this area is that of adopting policies to promote a circular economy. We must raise awareness of the importance of this question among those who generate waste, making individuals and corporations realize that preventing the generation of waste and promoting strategies of recycling, recovery and reuse is desirable not only from an environmental standpoint but also from an economic one. At the municipal level, too, the challenge is to improve waste management and to integrate these policies and measures into strategies based on a circular economy.

Although progress has been made, further advances are needed in this field to make individuals aware of its importance and to incorporate environmental management priorities into business activities, with the collaboration of employees, managers and public administrations.

Sustainability should also be addressed within the framework of business internationalization. In this area, ICEX, a government agency established to support the internationalization of Spanish business, has created a strategic line of action focused on sustainability and which includes the factors of competitiveness and internationalization. Accordingly, various business models have been developed that are inclusive of or conditional on support for sustainability. These models are aimed at innovative projects in the field of environmental concern and the fight against climate change, and in other sectors that seek solutions to global problems.

In the regulatory field, Act 9/2017, of 8 November, on public sector contracts (transposing EU Directive 2014/24 on public procurement into domestic law) has as a fundamental goal that of clarifying the regulations in force, to enhance legal security and to ensure that public procurement is used as an instrument favouring EU and national policies regarding

environmental issues, as well as in the social field (hiring persons with disabilities and at risk of exclusion) and in ethical matters (such as ensuring respect for human rights throughout the production chain, as supported by the Fair Trade movement). In this respect, too, Royal Decree 6/2018, published in the Spanish Official Gazette on 22 January 2018, created the Interministerial Commission for the incorporation of ecological criteria into public procurement. The remit of this Commission, with representatives from every ministry, was to prepare an ecological plan for public procurement by national and regional public agencies. The Commission will monitor the above plan, prepare informative and training programmes for the personnel involved and promote the use of products bearing the EU Ecological Label in public procurement. The Government also intends to reinforce the Spanish registry of carbon footprint, offsetting and CO<sub>2</sub> removal (established by Royal Decree 163/2014, of 14 March) as a tool for the benefit of public procurement procedures. The public procurement plan is focused on the 20 groups of products considered of priority importance by the European Commission; these includes services and resources such as the interior lighting, electricity supply, construction and maintenance of buildings.

Another area of great importance is that of the generation of knowledge and technologies to assure sustainable production, simultaneously improving efficiency and sustainability in traditional value chains and creating new, competitive ones based on the use of renewable resources. These activities are considered essential in the 2017-2020 National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation.

This National Plan also seeks to promote research in areas such as the comprehensive, sustainable conservation and management of agro-ecological systems and of agroforestry, water and fishery resources, and to improve the competitiveness and environmental, economic and social sustainability of production systems, in agriculture, livestock farming, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, through the introduction of processes and technologies that will raise efficiency and achieve sustainable intensification.



### *13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

SDG 13 focuses on the need to combat climate change and its effects, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to new realities. These responses are of great importance to Spain, which is adopting the measures needed to address its responsibilities and facilitate a prosperous future, one inspired by solidarity and that is compatible with climate security and the limits of the planet, in line with the objectives and values of the European Union and the United Nations. Spain's aims in this respect are to prepare for the impacts of climate change, to lay the foundations of an emissions-neutral economy and to provide the necessary assistance to those who are most vulnerable in this transition. The change will involve all types of public administration and all stakeholders in civil society and in the academic and scientific worlds.

To achieve SDG 13's targets, countries must work together to strengthen resilience and their ability to adapt to climate-related risks and extreme weather events. Furthermore, measures must be reflected in national strategies, policies and plans to alleviate the effects of climate change, and to adapt to those which are inevitable.

The Spanish Office for Climate Change, within the Ministry for Ecological Transition, is responsible for formulating national policy in this area, in accordance with the corresponding international and EU regulations, and for developing planning instruments and administrative measures to facilitate compliance with the goals established, especially with respect to reducing emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change. This Office is also responsible for monitoring international agreements in the areas of its competence and represents Spanish concerns in dealings with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The cross-cutting nature of the fight against climate change means that coordination with other ministerial departments and levels of government (both local and regional) are fundamental aspects of the design and implementation of policies intended to have a direct impact on climate-related action. In this field, special importance is granted to economic, tax and industrial policies aimed at mitigating climate change and at adapting to its effects. Sectors affected by these policies include tourism, water resources, agriculture, urban and rural development and training and research programmes.

In Spain, these policies to combat climate change form part of the overall strategy aimed at achieving low carbon, climate-resilient development. As part of this strategy, the PNACC is the main instrument employed by the central public administration to design and coordinate actions to increase resilience to the effects of climate change. The PNACC places special emphasis on designing and implementing measures to reduce the risk of climate-associated disasters.

Taking into account that Spain is one of the countries presenting greatest vulnerability to climate change, the PNACC has identified the agriculture, tourism, water and energy sectors as being of particular economic and territorial importance and, at the same time, especially vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

Measures to alleviate climate change (such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon trapping) and related policies are determined according to the needs and circumstances of each economic sector and are integrated into the design of sectoral policies, taking into account the commitments adopted under the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the EU regulatory framework.

European regulations in this respect include the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) for certain activity sectors (mainly energy and the industrial sector), while others, termed “diffuse sectors” (residential, transport, agriculture and livestock, waste, fluorinated gases and industry not subject to the ETS, are set overall objectives in addition to national policies on emissions reduction. In Spain, a key role will be played by the “Roadmap for diffuse sectors”, which proposes a series of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the diffuse sectors by 2020. In fact, since 2005 emissions in Spain by the sectors covered by the EU ETS have decreased by 32%. With respect to diffuse sectors, the latest official data from the National Inventory of Greenhouse Gases indicate that Spain is on track to meet its objectives in 2020, and will achieve a reduction of 21% (10 percentage points higher than the original target).

Spain is currently reinforcing and adapting its commitments to the EU and global time horizons and objectives and is updating the Roadmap for diffuse sectors to the year 2030, as part of a National Integrated Plan for Energy and Climate for the period 2021-2030. A new Climate Change and Energy Transition Act is also foreseen. These actions are being undertaken in the view that a serious and generous institutional response is necessary, alleviating the burden on those who are most vulnerable, producing changes that are fair to all and enhancing the coherence of sectoral frameworks for action. By these means, Spain will make good use of the opportunities offered in its responses to the challenge of climate change.

In the transport sector, changes in patterns of use, from road to rail, will be encouraged, an action expected to produce multiple benefits, including the reduction of greenhouse gases and other atmospheric pollutants. In goods transport, emphasis will be placed on increasing the use of trains and medium-distance maritime connections.

In full awareness that public policies and models of development must evolve from models of bilateral cooperation towards a cooperative approach, the Ministry is working to achieve the involvement of the private sector and of civil society in combating climate change. Prominent in this context are initiatives such as the Spanish Group for Green Growth, an alliance of companies to promote a low-carbon economy; the Community for Climate, formed by citizens and entities spurred to action by climate change; and the recently-launched Spanish Platform for Climate Action, a space for public-private collaboration that seeks to accelerate action in response to climate change.

Another of the targets to highlight in this SDG is the need to improve education, to raise awareness and to provide individual and institutional training in reducing and adapting to the impacts of climate change. In Spain, the current study plans for compulsory and post-compulsory secondary education expressly include climate change in several core subjects. It is also present in vocational training courses.

In terms of awareness-raising campaigns and human and institutional capacity-building, great efforts are being made to place the relevant information on climate change before social and economic agents, and the population in general. In this task, governmental agencies and non-profit organizations are playing a vital role. Thus, work is being done to include the challenges of addressing climate change in training programmes at all levels, and to strengthen information provision and awareness-raising mechanisms (for example, providing consumers with information about the carbon footprint of goods and services; and the AdapteCCa platform on impacts and adaptation to climate change).

R&D&i activities to combat climate change are also of fundamental importance, and so efforts are being made to promote the generation of scientific knowledge about the causes and effects of climate change and about its mitigation. In this respect, the 2017-2020 National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation addresses areas such as our vulnerability to the impact of climate change; adaptation to changes in climate patterns; technologies to acquire and manage environmental intelligence, and to analyse and maintain large volumes of data associated with climate variability and its impact; research and experimental development

of low-carbon technologies; waste treatment; and the efficient use of water resources and the preservation of water quality.

This SDG also includes targets involving international cooperation in response to climate change. In this respect, the Spanish Office for Climate Change monitors and quantifies activities related to the provision of financial resources to developing countries to help them combat and adapt to climate change. Information in this respect is compiled with the collaboration of the different departments and organizations with responsibilities in the area, which include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation (MAUC); the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MICT); the Ministry of Economy and Business (MEE); and the Spanish Development Finance Company (COFIDES). According to the latest available data, Spain provided 466 million euros in 2015 and 595 million euros in 2016 to fund climate change-related activities. This financing included major contributions to the Green Climate Fund (Spain's current commitment in this respect is 120 million euros annually).

In this context and in the field of institutional strengthening, Spain supports the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC). In this body, the Spanish Office for Climate Change acts as the secretariat, and coordinates and finances numerous training actions, playing a very prominent role in the fight against climate change in Ibero-America.

Finally, in the area of development cooperation, the 5<sup>th</sup> Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, for the period 2018-2021, includes the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement as key elements with which to align development cooperation policies and actions. In this respect, the AECID supports various programmes, projects, funds and initiatives to be deployed in least-developed countries and small island States, and regarding gender issues and vulnerable communities.



## *14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*

According to SDG 14, by 2030 humanity should be able to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, restore marine ecosystems, minimize the effects of acidification, effectively regulate fishing activities and conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas. Spain faces great challenges in this area, as indicated by the Ocean Health Index (2016) and the recent evaluation reports presented to the Regional Sea Conventions to which Spain is party, namely the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment (IA2017) and the Barcelona Convention Quality Status Report (QSR2017).

All of the targets listed in this SDG are directly related to the competences of various Spanish ministries, especially MAPA and MITECO. The latter is working to improve the management and protection of coastal zones and marine ecosystems through the development and implementation of appropriate regulations. Major efforts are also being made to prevent and reduce the contamination of marine spaces, mainly by reducing pollutant discharges into the sea, by more effective management of ports and fleets (freight, fishing and recreational) and by

conducting awareness-raising campaigns. Sustainable fishing is another focus of attention for MAPA, which ensures activities are performed within the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy, and which acts to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The global and interconnected nature of the planet's seas and oceans means that SDG 14 cannot be attained without international collaboration to underpin scientific research and innovation. In this respect, in addition to encouraging marine and maritime research through the National Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research, Spain participates very actively in international initiatives to reinforce and align research and innovation, seeking solutions to the challenges threatening our oceans, seas and coasts. Spain is strongly involved in the Joint Programming Initiative for Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans<sup>1</sup>, which works to align and optimize the use of national resources for marine and maritime research and innovation, and in the EU BLUEMED Initiative<sup>2</sup>, oriented towards Blue Growth in the Mediterranean through the implementation of its Strategic Research Agenda. The Spanish National Research Agency is a member of the committees and governing councils of both initiatives and, from a more executive standpoint, leads actions of strategic interest for our coasts. Other noteworthy projects are INTEMARES, the largest marine conservation project in Europe, managed by the Biodiversity Foundation, and the ECOMILENIO project, which will assess the capacity of the planet's ecosystems and the biodiversity it harbours to maintain human well-being.

Spain presents remarkable leadership capacity in the international context, by virtue of its effective management of fishery resources, the economic integration of the fishing and industry sectors, and the use of advanced technology in the monitoring and control of environmental problems affecting natural resources within the marine environment. This focus is especially apparent in two key areas for Spanish interests: the Mediterranean and the Atlantic coast of North Africa.

The SDG targets related to the management and protection of coastal zones and marine ecosystems are being addressed through the development of regulations for the integral protection of the coast and the marine environment. Act 41/2010, of 29 December, on the protection of the marine environment, Act 42/2007 on natural heritage and biodiversity, Act 2/2013, on the protection and sustainable use of coastal territories, and the National Marine Parks Act are among the legislative developments being implemented by MITECO. This activity has produced a considerable increase in the extension of protected marine areas. In addition, new Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPA) have been declared in marine zones, while many former SCIs are being re-classified as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). By the end of 2017, MAPA was managing 100 protected marine areas, not counting the protected marine areas, which are regulated by the legislation on fishing.

MITECO is conducting various actions to prevent and reduce pollution in marine and coastal spaces, among the programmes of the Spanish Marine Strategies, the fundamental planning

<sup>1</sup> An intergovernmental initiative open to all EU Member States and Associated Countries (<http://www.jpi-oceans.eu/what-ipi-oceans>).

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bluedmed-initiative.eu/>

instruments for the marine environment. Marine pollution problems are closely related to other SDGs, in particular, numbers 6, 9, and 11. These Strategies also seek to coordinate the management of discharges from watercourses and treatment plants, to prevent/reduce accidental or unmanaged discharges and to monitor the quality of coastal waters. Additionally, a new regulatory framework is being developed, to be completed by 2020, to address the management of ports, coasts and the fishing sector.

Fishing activities are managed and controlled in accordance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy. Some of the measures implemented by Spain are even more ambitious than those proposed by the European Commission, for example, the infractions listed in Spanish legislation are more restrictive than those established by the EU fisheries control regulation, and Spanish legislation is also more severe in relation to breaches of the regulation on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

In relation to the targets referring to the use of research outcomes to achieve SDG 14, great importance is assigned to R&D&i activities aimed at conserving and using water resources in a sustainable manner. Accordingly, the 2017-2020 National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation considers areas such as the search for and adoption of advanced solutions for the conservation and sustainable management of water and fisheries resources. The Plan also seeks to improve the competitiveness and the environmental, economic and social sustainability of fishing and aquaculture production systems, through the introduction of processes and technologies that facilitate the introduction of new, resilient species in the face of climate change. Another fundamental aspect considered in the National Plan is that of marine research and the promotion of Blue Growth, to expand our knowledge of the seabed and marine ecosystems and thus make appropriate use of our seas as a source of food, biomass and raw materials, as well as marine energy. This must be accompanied by proper environmental protection, based on integrated management and compatibility of uses of the seas and coastal areas, to promote growth that is socially and environmentally sustainable.

As in other areas, improving the coordination between the different levels of government is vitally important if joint solutions are to be offered to the challenges that arise. In this regard, there is a particular need to reinforce mechanisms for coordinating water and territorial management, especially regarding two key sectors in this respect: maritime transport and tourism.

The 2030 Agenda could provide an ideal framework for enhancing awareness among society regarding the pollution of our coasts and seas, for strengthening controls over economic activities that generate such pollution and to create an agency to apply measures to prevent and reduce the acidification of the oceans. Improving our understanding of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and providing support for artisanal fishing are further outstanding opportunities. Finally, the creation of a code of good practice promoting a long-term outlook within the fishing industry would directly benefit the sustainability of our ecosystems.



## *15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*

SDG 15 aims to promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and the sustainable management of forest areas, to combat desertification, to halt and reverse land degradation and to curb the loss of biological diversity. In view of Spain's great natural heritage, the diversity of environments in its territory, its biogeographical position and the large extension of sparsely populated areas, it is apparent that the management of its forest area, its biodiversity and its natural heritage is a major challenge. Moreover, the two types of ecosystems to which the 2030 Agenda grants special attention, forests and mountain areas, are of great importance and magnitude in Spain.

According to data for December 2017, Spain has 1,783 protected natural areas, 15 national parks, 182 parks (natural, peri-urban and conservation parks, and leisure, regional and rural parkland), 238 nature reserves, 249 monuments, 57 protected landscapes and over 800 spaces subject to other protective legislation. The National Parks network, composed of 15 spaces distributed throughout the country, has been expanded by more than 400 km<sup>2</sup> since 2012, and now exceeds 3,800 km<sup>2</sup>.

With respect to areas protected by international legislative instruments, Spain has 75 wetlands classified under the Ramsar Convention as being of international importance; thirteen protected areas under the Convention for the protection of the marine environment of the Northeast Atlantic (OSPAR), nine specially-protected areas of Mediterranean importance (SPAMI); eleven UNESCO geoparks and 48 UNESCO biosphere reserves (more than in any other country), and one Council of Europe biogenetic reserve.

Most of the activities contributing to the achievement of SDG 15 in Spain are conducted within the framework of Act 43/2003, of 21 November, on mountain landscapes, and Act 42/2007, of 13 December, on the natural heritage and biodiversity.

Woodlands and, by extension, uplands, are fundamental elements in a country's economic and social development, in environmental protection and in maintaining ecosystem services, especially in rural areas. The mass transfer of rural populations to the cities is generating new challenges in areas that were previously subjected to intensive management to obtain essential natural resources and food. In just a few decades, these areas have been largely abandoned, endangering their stability and diversity, and making woodlands more susceptible to forest fires, pests and diseases.

Act 43/2003 establishes the following principles that are directly relevant to SDG 15: balance the multifunctionality of uplands and respect environmental, economic and social values; conduct forestry planning in the framework of territorial planning; encourage productive activities in woodlands areas and in associated economic sectors; create employment and develop the rural environment; preserve, improve and restore the biodiversity of ecosystems and forest species; ensure the participation in forestry policies of the economic and social sectors affected; apply the precautionary principle in all interventions; adapt upland areas to

climate change; define and treat forests as green infrastructures, in acknowledgment of this natural capital and its value in alleviating the impact of climate change.

Spanish forestry policy is addressed in the following documents, which constitute the basic framework for the management actions taken by the Autonomous Communities: the Spanish Forest Strategy (1999), the Spanish Forest Plan (2002-2032), the Programme for National Action against Desertification (2008), the National Plan for Priority Action to Restore Water and Forest Resources (2001) and the National Plan to Ensure the Legality of Commercialized Wood (2015). In addition, each Autonomous Community has specific planning instruments for its territorial area.

These regulations impose specific obligations concerning the provision of information on forestry activities and resources, some of which are derived from Spain's participation in international agreements, such as the information provided to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as to various European and international bodies in this area (for example, Forest Europe and UNECE-FAO).

The forestry sector is an inseparable part of its rural environment, and this reality is acknowledged in the latest editions of the Common Agricultural Policy, which locate the principle actions taken in the forestry context among the measures addressed by the second pillar of rural development. The CAP, thus, supports the afforestation of agrarian lands, the promotion of agroforestry systems, the protection and restoration of degraded forests, the provision of assistance for both productive and non-productive investments in forests, as well as for silvo-environmental and climatic services, and the conservation of genetic resources within forests. In addition, forestry-related actions may be eligible for funding under the LIFE+ regulation, through its Nature and Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes. In both cases, the integration of multiple objectives is sought, as called for in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Act 42/2007, on natural heritage and biodiversity, provides the general framework for actions related to the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Among many other issues, it establishes instruments for data acquisition and planning with respect to the natural heritage and biodiversity, together with mechanisms and management structures for spaces of high environmental value and for the conservation of wild species. Special attention is paid to threatened species, with the development of strategies for their conservation and to combat the main threats to biodiversity. In short, this law sets out the guidelines for basic policies in Spain regarding the conservation of biodiversity.

In the international context, Spain is party to initiatives, conventions, agreements and strategies related to biodiversity, including the protection and conservation of terrestrial species and ecosystems, the fair distribution of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources, the development of mechanisms to prevent their loss and the management of problems with an international impact.

These international instruments have generated an extensive monitoring and follow-up system that will be used by the UN to evaluate the outcomes of actions related to this SDG. Hence, there is extensive experience in the reporting of these indicators, and considerable information is available. Moreover, in recent years, the Spanish authorities have acquired extensive

experience in coordinating with other agencies and administrations, to constitute solid, reliable data sets. The 2030 Agenda provides the opportunity to present all this information, in a categorised and operational format, as a comprehensive diagnosis that is readily accessible to interested parties. To put this into practice, the Ministry produces and publishes an annual report on natural heritage and biodiversity.

Global environmental problems, especially those of climate change and desertification, and their associated risks, exert additional pressure on natural resources and on biodiversity. For this reason, governments have dedicated increasing efforts to new approaches to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems to climate change, to prevent and if necessary respond to the impacts of climatic change and to their indirect consequences, such as forest fires. Work has been done not only in the general definition of strategies for adapting biodiversity to climate change, but also in the approach taken to certain types of ecosystems with specific characteristics, risks and problems, such as forests, uplands and coastal areas. Strategies have also been focused on research, management and conservation activities, and on economic sectors that exploit natural resources, such as nature tourism.

Spain is also working actively to integrate the values of ecosystems and biodiversity into its development strategies, through national and regional planning instruments in a wide range of sectors (including agriculture and forestry, tourism, energy and transport) and by strengthening mechanisms for the environmental evaluation of programmes, plans and projects so that biodiversity and the effects of climate change are taken into account. In addition, the participation of social and economic stakeholders is encouraged. The success of these policies is reflected in the fact that the significant level of economic development, population growth and infrastructure creation that has been achieved in the last few decades has not been to the detriment of fundamental environmental and landscape values.

Spain's high level of biodiversity means that special attention must be paid to the sustainable use of genetic resources, viewing the natural heritage as a source of innovation within the national economy. At the same time, additional mechanisms are needed to support the financing of conservation policies and biodiversity management. In this regard, the regulations that have been approved and the work carried out by MITECO, in coordination with other ministerial departments and Autonomous Community administrations, in implementing the Nagoya Protocol, represents a significant milestone on the path to achieving this objective.

Another of the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda, and for which the Council of Ministers has adopted a specific Plan, with the participation of five ministries, is to combat poaching and trafficking in protected species of fauna and flora and to combat the illegal demand and supply of wildlife products.

Mechanisms have also been developed to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species and to manage, control and eradicate those detected. The application of Spanish and EU regulations in this area is fundamental to achieving this objective.

The final major aspect in this respect is the need to promote research in this field, to expand our knowledge and to reduce uncertainties. One of the thematic priorities for R&D&i that is reflected in the Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation Plan is to investigate the

impact of climate change, the level of vulnerability detected and the adaptation processes required in the relevant domains—air, sea and land—with particular regard to areas of high biodiversity, coasts, forests, agricultural land, fishing and marine ecosystems, water resources and soils.

Scientific-technical research and technological development associated with biodiversity is of particular importance to our country because, as commented above, Spain is one of the countries with the greatest biological diversity in the European Union. Therefore, research aimed at improving our understanding of ecosystems, their functioning and their interaction with socio-economic systems, and at deriving solutions to emerging problems such as the adaptation of species and ecosystems to climate change or the adaptation of invasive species, are priority areas for attention.



## *16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*

SDG 16 seeks to achieve justice and its corollary, peace, and to facilitate the fundamental right of access to justice for the most disadvantaged, to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking, corruption and transnational organized crime, and to apply new technologies to the administration of justice to make it more rapid, agile and efficient, and thus fulfil its two-fold task of punishing the guilty and contributing to repair the damage caused, without delay.

The challenges posed by poverty, hunger, shrinking natural resources, water scarcity, social inequality, environmental degradation, disease, corruption, racism and xenophobia, among other factors, create obstacles to peace and provide fertile ground for the emergence of conflicts. Sustainable development makes a decisive contribution to weakening and eliminating these causes of conflict, and helps lay the foundations for lasting peace. This, in turn, consolidates the conditions for sustainable development and enables the mobilization of resources with which societies can develop and prosper. Cities and towns are home to millions of people, and the institutions that govern them can play a key role in achieving this SDG.

Spain was a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2015-2016 and a member of the Human Rights Council in 2018-2020, and hence is particularly motivated to implement SDG 16.

With respect to justice and the rule of law, important reforms have been undertaken to provide the legal system with more and better tools with which to combat violence. In fact, Spain has one of the lowest murder rates in the world, at just 0.5 per 100,000 inhabitants each year, compared to a global figure of 5.3. A key factor in this situation is the effectiveness and professionalism of the police and security forces. However, as well as preventing and punishing crime, we must also protect those who suffer the effects of violence. Accordingly, Spain has adopted a pioneering law in this respect: the Victims' Charter.

Safeguarding and promoting the rule of law is at the heart of Spain's foreign policy and is an essential element of its cooperation with other countries, in the view that this is a pillar on which societies depend, and that peace and security, human rights and development are all inter-related and reinforce each other.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation establishes as a priority objective that of promoting peaceful, fair and inclusive societies, free of fear and violence, and of creating a world at peace. The Plan contains various specific actions related to SDG 16.

Another priority addressed in the Plan is that of protecting children, by means of a comprehensive, reformist approach to legislation on child protection, reinforcing the instruments available to public authorities in preventing violence against children.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Strategic Plan for Children and Adolescents (2018-2022) is currently being prepared. This Plan will contain specific text on child vulnerability, and the priority goal of combating human trafficking with minors. Legislation will be adopted to protect children against violence, to redress a situation in which the number of children (aged 0-13 years) suffering abuse in the family home has risen from 13.53 per 100,000 children in 2010 to 26.16 in 2016. In the case of minors aged 14-17 years, the corresponding figure has risen from 101.48 to 131.13.

In the general context of reducing inequality, the promotion of equal access to justice represents a further element of social cohesion. Indeed, it is the basis of a democratic society, because economic, social or educational vulnerability should never be an obstacle to citizens' obtaining the legal protection of the State. Thus, the free legal aid system has been reformed so that disadvantaged groups, such as victims of gender violence, terrorism and trafficking in human beings, and minors and disabled persons who are victims of mistreatment, may benefit from it.

With respect to persons with disabilities, particular concern has been raised about the rising number of hate crimes committed against those with disability. This worrying situation was reported in the 2017 Ombuds Annual Report, together with difficulties in securing access to justice for women with disabilities and for persons with intellectual disabilities. Nevertheless, the Report acknowledges improvements in police treatment towards persons with an intellectual disability who may have suffered criminal victimization (intervention as a witness during the police process, procedural adaptations to ensure access to justice under equal conditions, etc.).

In the international sphere, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is among the Spanish Government's priorities, mindful of the role women play in conflict prevention and resolution and in the construction of peace.

Another area of priority attention is the fight against organized crime. The Asset Recovery and Management Office has been created to work for the recovery of stolen goods. In the new departmental structure, the functions of this Office are assumed by the General Directorate for the Modernization of Justice, Technological Development and Asset Recovery and Management. Thus, the maxim that crime does not pay is made visible. At the same time, the confiscation of stolen goods makes it possible to compensate victims financially or to facilitate social projects in favour of the victims and the fight against organized crime.

Spain has sought to promote the transparency of institutions and to combat institutional corruption. This work is exemplified in the achievements of the Council for Transparency and Good Governance, and in the results of the Plan for Democratic Regeneration, together with the adoption of criminal and procedural measures to combat corruption. Thus, the number of corruption investigations undertaken has risen from 366 in 2010 to more than 1,100 in 2016. Moreover, the number of individuals arrested and/or investigated for corruption has risen from 583 in 2010 to over 2,000 each year since 2014, with 2,126 such persons being arrested or investigated in 2016. In legislative terms, Act 9/2017 on public sector procurement, as well as stating that its first objective is to achieve institutional transparency, provides new judicial instruments to fight corruption, in accordance with the EU mandate, and incorporates cross-cutting, mandatory social and environmental criteria that oblige different levels of government to redesign and reorient their contractual activity towards objectives directly linked to SDG 16.

Actions have been taken at the national level through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Government Plan, which is expected to contribute to compliance with SDG 16 and also to accelerate the achievement of other SDGs.

Government agencies at all levels, throughout the country, should strive to develop an open, collaborative and transparent model of service provision, which is what is meant by open government. This does not only mean making space for society in governmental decision-making, but represents a new way of understanding public governance, in the heart of the institution. Consequently, the definitive advance towards accountability must be taken. An informed society, with transparent, open public administration and institutions and access to proven, solid data is in a position to demand that its government fulfil the commitments made.

The actions of governmental institutions are subject to a legal framework, and organizational measures must be applied to achieve the objectives defined as serving the general interest. In Spain, as elsewhere, the local dimension must also be taken into account. Local government is among the institutions most proximal to citizens, and requires the adoption of mechanisms and instruments providing the human and material resources needed for rules and regulations to have practical effect. Above all, these resources will enable the corresponding public services to be supplied in the best possible way. There can be no equality while differences persist among citizens in the exercise of their rights concerning material and practical issues, and therefore the Plan should consider how to respond appropriately to the new challenges facing transparent, digital administration, in terms of local government accountability.



## *17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*

Working to achieve SDG 17 is fundamental to success with the other sixteen. This SDG seeks to mobilize the necessary resources—financial, public, private, and others—to underpin the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. The agenda in this respect must be broad-based, horizontal, ambitious and multidimensional, and enable the compilation and analysis of relevant information from different areas of government, as well as from the EU and other national and

international stakeholders. Moreover, compliance with the programme to achieve SDG 17 should be monitored to consider its coherence with the AAAA.

The 2030 Agenda highlights the advantages and the potential of alliances, and therefore calls for the creation of a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, through SDG 17—thus supporting sustainable development through the strengthening of global partnerships—with a large number of stakeholders and partners, and the mobilization of knowledge, technical capacity, technology and resources. It is generally agreed that such a global alliance could be transformed into a coalition for action, aimed at reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, which are universal responsibilities.

The promotion of corporate sustainability, which has evolved from the concept of corporate social responsibility, is one of the means by which companies can be encouraged to incorporate the SDGs into their strategies and activities. In fact, there is a close match between the SDGs and the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct. At present, 2,400 Spanish companies and entities form part of the UN Global Compact, illustrating how awareness of the importance of sustainable development may be raised in the private sector.

In this respect, one approach to encouraging closer coordination with the business sector is that of public-private collaboration frameworks for the development of new business models that contribute positively to the objectives of the Sustainable Development Agenda. Experiences in this area, such as those of the Spanish Group for Green Growth (GECV) and the Spanish Platform for Climate Action, are considered to have achieved very positive results.

The 2030 Agenda is an international project, and so international cooperation is essential to its fulfilment. SDG 17, in its entirety, is dedicated to promoting the partnerships necessary for sustainable development. This strategy is expected to reconceptualize the cooperation policies of Spanish government, at all levels, providing spaces for the generation of transnational alliances, south-north-south cooperation and the exchange of experiences.

Although SDG 17 has a very marked external projection, in accordance with many of its targets, it also affects national policies, by addressing issues that are fundamental to the development of any country, as well as interrelationships between factors that affect sustainable development. On the basis of this SDG, therefore, countries should review their political and institutional mechanisms to ensure their coherence with policies for sustainable development. Hence, national policies should be designed and executed taking into account the parameters addressed in the 2030 Agenda which are considered necessary for sustainable development, and take into account that multiple public stakeholders (including national, regional and local government) and private entities must cooperate to this end. In this context, therefore, sustainable development is not solely the responsibility of international development cooperation but is also an inescapable objective for all public actions, including foreign policy. With respect to external investment, the National Contact Point, an interministerial collegiate body chaired by the Secretary of State for Trade, is responsible for ensuring compliance with the SDGs and with the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises on responsible business conduct by Spanish companies that make direct external investments.

To initiate action to achieve SDG 17's targets, previous references and work have been taken into consideration. One preliminary tool available was the Development Policy Coherence Report for 2013 and 2014, which provided some of the information needed to address certain areas described in the targets. Some advances have already been made in this regard, as shown by the Commitment to Development Index (published by the Center for Global Development), which ranks Spain twelfth among the most developed countries. Another interesting document is the Report on Financing for Development, which in response to the commitments made in the European Consensus is published by the European Commission to reflect progress in achieving the AAAA, in support of developing countries, by the EU as a whole and by each of its Member States.

Spain's performance with respect to SDG 17's targets has two immediate points of reference. On the one hand, our status as an EU Member State, which determines national competences and those which have been transferred, and hence involve cooperation with our partners in technology transfer and development cooperation. On the other, there is the legislative context, with laws such as Act 23/1998, of 7 July, on international cooperation for development and Act 2/2014, of 25 March, on the action and external service of the State, as well as the Strategy for External Action and the 5<sup>th</sup> Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation (2018-2021), which focuses on the fight against poverty, on the need for solidarity with developing countries, on the economic and social development of all States, on the defence of the environment and on promoting strong, legitimate, multilateral institutions. In this respect, Spain advocates multilateralism, dialogue and cooperation with all countries as the best response to the global challenges that currently face us.

Spain's commitment to SDG 17 is reflected in the non-legislative motion approved by all political groups in the Congress of Deputies and in the "Leave no one behind" philosophy embodied in the 2030 Agenda. It is also clearly visible in the 5<sup>th</sup> Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, which promotes cooperation strategies differentiated according to the particular circumstances of each country or region, and foresees partnerships with countries at different levels of development, as well as with regional organizations and other international bodies.

SDG 17 poses numerous complex challenges, including the need for further advances, in the national context, regarding all the areas to be addressed, such as comprehensive application of the AAAA, the creation of a system to monitor the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA within an integrated framework incorporating all the implementation resources put into play, and the need to improve the institutional architecture and thus achieve greater coherence in the policies applied for sustainable development.

#### 4. Leaving no one behind

"Leave no one behind" is one of the fundamental principles of the 2030 Agenda.

In Spain, in order to meet the targets established in the Europe 2020 strategy, a number of social and economic measures have been adopted, with the aim of improving living conditions for the population. For example, the minimum wage (*Salario Mínimo Interprofesional*) has been

significantly increased, by 8%, in 2017—the largest increase in the minimum wage in 30 years—and by 4% in 2018. The impact on the workers with the lowest wages will be significant. Furthermore, an initiative has been launched to extend paternity leave to 4 consecutive weeks. This leave can be enjoyed in full-time or part-time (minimum of 50%) formats, subject to agreement with the employer. It is compatible with and separate from the shared enjoyment of maternity leave. In addition, improvements have been made to the measures to support families suffering from energy poverty, defining when a person is considered to be extremely vulnerable and banning disconnection of electricity supply for vulnerable consumers who are at risk of social exclusion and are being assisted by social services. Moreover, fiscal measures have been approved to reduce the financial burden for families, and especially those who have children or dependent persons, enabling an increase in their resources. Lastly, and no less importantly, a significant number of urgent measures have been adopted to protect mortgagors who do not have resources, and to promote access to housing for the most disadvantaged, including approval of the 2018-2021 State Housing Plan, implementing nine different assistance programmes, for a total of more than 1.83 billion euros, which will be managed by Spain's Autonomous Communities, to provide assistance that ensures universal access to housing.

Additional support includes the funds allocated for families in social emergencies through the 2014-2020 Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), which finances the supply of food to people in situations of need and which now includes social assistance measures.

It is also important to note that increases in activities and budgetary appropriation related to childhood have represented a strategic line in recent years, especially as regards assistance for families with children that are suffering from severe material deprivation. Accordingly, in 2014, a special fund was created to combat child poverty, to finance social intervention programmes for families suffering from severe material deprivation that have dependent children. This budget item has evolved over the years, and increased in amount. In 2017, it amounted to 100 million euros, within the Programme of Family Protection and Assistance for Child Poverty, Basic Social Services Benefits, and Support for the Family and for Childhood, representing an increase of 32.6% on the previous year. The General State Budget Bill for 2018 maintains this budget appropriation.

Going forward, planned measures include the upcoming approval of the 2017-2020 National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion, as well as monitoring of the 2014-2020 Spanish Disability Strategy Action Plan. Furthermore, there is already a 2015-2020 Comprehensive National Strategy for Homeless People, which will be further developed. Also, the Strategic Plan for Equal Opportunities will address reducing the inequalities that still exist between women and men in employment and the economy as a whole.

The 2030 Agenda proposes a number of indicators to measure progress regarding Target 1.2. The first is the at-risk-of-poverty threshold or rate (established at 60% of median income per unit of consumption of all households nationally<sup>3</sup>). Spain's National Statistics Office estimated

<sup>3</sup> The figures for the at-risk-of-poverty threshold are usually published for different threshold levels (60%, 70%, 50%, 40%), which are established as percentages of median annual income per unit of consumption. Median income is the amount of income resulting from ordering all individuals in descending order of income, leaving half of the individuals below the median and the other half above.



an at-risk-of-poverty threshold for one-person households of 8,522 euros, 3.8% higher than the estimate for the previous year. In households comprising two adults and two children aged under 14, the threshold was 17,896 euros in 2017.

As mentioned in SDG 1, in Spain the at-risk-of-poverty rate, primarily as a result of the economic crisis and following recession, was 21.6% of the population residing in Spain in 2017, compared to 22.3% in 2016. With further analysis, the following can be observed in the figures:

By age, the at-risk-of-poverty rate dropped by 1.4pp in the 16-64 age group and by 0.8pp for under 16s. Conversely, the rate increase by 1.8 pp in over 65s. Among women, by age groups, in 2017 the highest percentage at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rates were in younger women (31.5% in under 16s and 36.5% those aged 16 to 29). The lowest at-risk percentage was in women aged 65 or more (17.8%). Among men, by age groups, the highest percentages in 2017 were also in the younger age groups (33.2% in 16 to 29 years and 30.6% in under-16s). The lowest at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion percentage was in men aged 65 or more (14.5%).

By type of household, in 2017 the highest at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion percentage was in households comprising 1 adult and 1 or more dependent children (47.9%). The group of households with the second highest rate was other households with dependent children (35.5%), and the third highest rate was in single-person households (26.9%). The lowest at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion percentage was in households comprising 2 adults without dependent children (22.1%).

In 2016, the highest percentage of women at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Spain was in unemployed women (59.5%), and the second highest percentage was in non-working women (32.7%). In 2016, among men, the highest percentage in Spain was in unemployed men (70.9%), and the second highest percentage was in non-working men (46.8%). Given that the unemployment rate among people with disabilities in 2016 was 9.1pp higher than that for those who have no disabilities, and that the participation rate was 42.8pp lower than that for those who have no disabilities, people with disabilities are one of the groups at the greatest risk of poverty or social exclusion.

In 2016, without taking into account income quintiles, in households without dependent children, the highest percentage of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Spain was in those households of one person aged under 65 (34.9%), and the second highest percentage was for households of 2 adults both aged under 65 (25.2%). In the third income quintile, the highest percentage was in households comprising 1 adult aged under 65 (11.1%).

Without taking into account income quintiles, in households with dependent children the highest percentage was in households comprising 1 adult and at least 1 dependent child (53.3%), and the second highest was in households comprising 2 adults with 3 or more dependent children (43.6%). In the third income quintile, the highest percentage was in households comprising 1 adult and at least 1 dependent child (12.7%). In 2016, in Spain, the highest percentage in women was in the group with the lowest level of education (0-2), at 33.7%. The percentage of women at risk of poverty or social exclusion declines as level of

education increases. Men with the lowest level of education (0-2) had the highest percentage at risk of poverty or social exclusion, at 35%. This percentage declines as level of education increases.

### Independent analysis

The FOESSA Foundation (*Fomento de Estudios Sociales y Sociología Aplicada*), which has extensive experience in social research in Spain, has determined that in 2017 the risk of being left behind was particularly high for 20% of Spanish households, based on a survey of households' resilience in Spain.

These households have the following characteristics: low work intensity, social exclusion risk of 55%, and in the case of households that included unemployed people, risk affecting 44%. In households with people of non-EU origin, the risk of social exclusion is 49%. Households in deprived or marginal neighbourhoods are at risk of social exclusion in 32% of cases, primarily in relation to an unsuitable or unsafe house or neighbourhood and inadequate access to basic services.

Households with under-18s suffer from higher risk of social exclusion than average nationally; the risk for such households is 32%. Single-parent households, which are mostly single-mother households, are exposed to serious social risks in 29% of cases, and if the family is large, this percentage is 32%.

According to FOESSA studies, the risk of being left behind is also related to people's social and demographic characteristics:

- People from the ethnic gypsy minority have a very high risk of social exclusion: 72%. This group suffers from significant social integration shortfalls, combined with persistent discrimination problems.
- Unemployed people are at high risk of exclusion, 50%, and in the case of the long-term unemployed the percentage is 55%. For those employed in irregular work this risk is higher, at 57%. It is important to underscore the "chronification of unemployment", which is linked to high percentage of long-term and very long-term unemployed, the high rate of youth unemployment and inadequate protection against unemployment.
- Immigrants of non-EU origin are exposed to 53% risk of social exclusion, caused by difficulties integrating, rights abuses, and inadequate formal and informal social support networks.
- In the case of under-18s, exclusion risk is 35%. When referring to minors, in addition to the problems related to unaccompanied minors, we are also referring to the problems of families that include minors and to insufficient protection measures and parenting assistance. It is important to emphasize that social support networks of relatives and friends are an important basic element of household protection; following the recession, this resource has been weakened in 26.1% of households.

It is also important to highlight that the risk of financial problems for families with minors, which is particularly high when one or more have disabilities, is notably higher than in any other form

of family. The social exclusion rate for households in Spain is 1.5 times higher when families include minors aged under 18 and is 2.5 times higher in large families. This problem is especially serious in terms of breaking the vicious circle of poverty. As the report on Inter-generational Transfer of Poverty (FOESSA, 2016) states, 8 out of 10 people who experienced severe financial difficulties in their childhood or adolescence, repeat the experience as adults.

## 5. Territorial cohesion: Essential to achieving the SDGs

The gap between cities and predominantly rural areas, in terms of inequality of opportunities and of poverty, will impede fulfilment of the SDGs. In a world where 70% of the 9 billion inhabitants are forecast to live in cities by 2050, 2.5 to 3 billion will continue to live in rural areas. The future of sustainable development is clearly being shaped in cities, but it is also true that the SDGs cannot be achieved if rural areas, and their inhabitants, are left behind.

Inequality between people who live in large urban areas and those who live in predominantly rural territories and provinces shows that urban-rural migration does not necessarily result in more sustainable cities or in improved sustainable management of natural resources—quite the opposite. It is crucial to underscore the tremendous paradox of the fact that it is in rural territories—and by the inhabitants thereof—that key goods are produced and supported, to meet the basic needs of society as a whole: food, water, biodiversity, renewable energy and carbon capture by woods and other ecosystems. The 2030 Agenda establishes the basis for appropriate remuneration of these goods by all of society, which forms part of the new social contract—in this case between the rural and urban worlds. In the 2030 Agenda, as a universal and comprehensive framework, there cannot be sustainable cities without sustainable rural areas; it is the territory, as an urban-rural system, that is either sustainable or is not.

The vision of the 2030 Agenda is closer to a diverse territorial system, a network, comprising communities, urban areas, cities and towns, rather than world of megacities that consume resources originating from sparsely populated territories. In Spain and in Europe, as well as in our partner countries in Ibero-America and other regions of the world, we have seen how development policies with territorial approaches are key to closing this gap. We have learned that these policies are effective when they are designed from the bottom up, building on the endogenous capacities of territories, on their social capital and institutions, stimulating innovation and economic diversification. To make this possible, it is essential that there are transfers of resources to rural territories, for the purpose of territorial cohesion and for local economic development.

Territorial development policies, in which small and mid-sized cities play a crucial formulating role, create opportunities in local and rural settings, strengthen city-country relations, and generate added value in territories. Such policies are fundamental to social and territorial cohesion.

In Spain, as in many European countries, interregional and intraregional disparities have increased, reflected in declining industrial areas, in specific territories being affected by a

gradual demographic fall causing large territories—primarily inland—to have serious depopulation problems and little or no competitiveness, as a result of the gradual loss of human capital and limited or non-existent public investment to guarantee equality in the rendering of basic services and opportunities in the social, cultural, environmental and economic spheres. Depopulation of the rural environment is one of the most serious situations that are occurring in this context of national demographic regression. Half of Spain's municipalities are at risk of disappearing. Today, 4,995 of Spain's 8,125 municipalities have fewer than one thousand inhabitants. The vast majority of these almost five thousand municipalities are suffering from ongoing ageing of their population, and little or no generational replacement, with birth rates that are very low or even zero.

All of this affects not only territorial cohesion, giving rise to severe inequalities within the country, but also gravely and irreversibly exacerbates the loss of biodiversity, and of diversity in terms of culture and heritage, as well as the abandonment of traditional activities and the global problem of climate change and environmental conservation. All of this demonstrates that GDP alone is not an indicator of current problems, and that we must include the greatest possible number of variables: ageing, depopulation, lack of infrastructure, poverty, social exclusion, employment, education and wages, among others. Only then will we be able to identify objective, assessable territorial indicators that give us a clear view of the current situation, of the starting point, enabling us to get to work on the territorial management strategy required to remedy these inequalities. To achieve this, the structural extent of the problems must be correctly identified, measured at an appropriate territorial level, with suitable variables and indicators, to determine the focus of policies and to resolve problems from prior periods.

Periods of substantial economic growth have not been reflected equality throughout the EU countries, nor throughout the territories of the EU countries; nor have they had a uniform impact on European society, and as a result social inequality and imbalance have increased, with no true equitable and sustainable development. For all these reasons, we must reflect on the need to formulate the post-2020 Cohesion Funds in a much more effective way, diagnosing the situation well, to enable us to identify the structural extent of the problems. Remedying and substituting development for growth; development considered from a triple viewpoint: social, environmental and civic, rather than purely economic growth.

In this regard, Cohesion Policy, like the 2030 Agenda, must put people at the heart of economic development. Growth in Gross Domestic Product that does not contribute to resolving the specific problems faced by the majority of the population not only makes a meagre contribution to social development, it is also a source of further inequality and frustration.

As reflected in the Resolution approved by a majority of the European Parliament on 14 November, this obliges us to ensure that post-2020 Cohesion Policy not only takes into account economic criteria, but also demographic factors; from the outset, specific sections and recommendations must be included as targets or priorities in subsequent regulations, which are mandatory for Member States in planning and development of strategies to combat depopulation and to manage territories.

In particular, this must be done in the spheres of cohesion, employment and agriculture, as well as in road, rail and technological infrastructure, not to mention R&D, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of the European Union. Similarly, action must be taken on the increasingly complex process of fund management, compliance with targets and monitoring and control of their application. Negotiations must be organized, so that in regulations developed in the future local governments are recognized as beneficiaries and not merely as authorities for delegated management of the funds, thus ensuring that European investment fulfils its objectives as regards action where it is most needed.

For all of these reasons, it is crucial that post-2020 Cohesion Policy is aligned with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs, their localization and their implementation must be financed using structural funds, within the framework of the regulations' objectives and of the priorities in the strategic sphere as regards urban land use management and environmental matters.

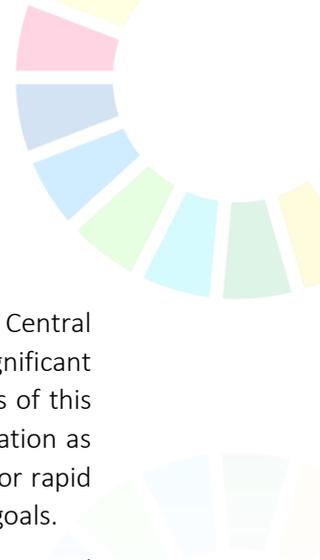
The territorial, urban-rural, bottom up, cohesion policy backbone, the backbone of connection between territories and rural development, must be a key element in the policies required to achieve the SDGs in Spain, in the framework of a long-term sustainable development strategy.

## 6. Mapping and review of public policies

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires systematic and balanced integration of the social, economic and environmental spheres throughout the domestic and international policy cycle. The Agenda requires rethinking the interconnections between policies, and a move beyond traditional formulas for sector-specific work, which are often limited by a compartmentalized vision. It also requires significant participation, promotion of consensus, fostering of ownership by all stakeholders, and adaptation of decision-making processes.

This is why policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) is one of the main challenges as regards implementation of the 2030 Agenda. According to the OECD, the following elements, among others, are needed to move forward with coherence in all policies concerning the SDGs: strengthening of 2030 Agenda institutional mechanisms at the national level; a political commitment at the highest level; linking of sustainable development strategies with national plans; integration of policies to achieve a balance between economic, social and environmental facets; involvement of other stakeholders; long-term planning; and strengthening of monitoring and follow-up systems.

Alignment of public policies with the SDGs—that is, PCSD—takes place in three areas: in domestic actions, to advance the SDGs in Spain; through the international cooperation that Spain undertakes to support third countries in their own efforts; and by ensuring that domestic efforts do not have negative external impacts on other countries or on achievement of global public goods.



As a significant part of preparation of the Action Plan, in 2017 and 2018 Spain’s Central Administration completed a map of resources and competencies, public policies and significant interaction aspects, referring to each of the SDGs and their specific targets. The results of this review, or mapping, represent significant progress in terms of information and organization as regards the implementation requirements of the Agenda, and are a tool which allows for rapid identification of which public policies and management instruments impact each of the goals.

This review was carried out, logically, with regard to the structure of Spain’s Central Administration that was in place during the period in question, i.e., until the new government took office on 2 June 2018. Given the resulting changes in the structure of that Administration, the review will be updated over the coming months, as the new distribution of departments and responsibilities takes shape.

Until this update is possible in full detail, and given the very limited period of time between the change in the structure of the Central Administration and the date of submission of Spain’s Report to the United Nations for its VNR, a summary of the results of the aforesaid mapping exercise is provided, approximately adapted to the new structure of the Administration. In the following tables, the main responsibilities and scope of authority of each ministry are presented, as regards each SDG and its targets.

The new ministerial structure of Spain’s Central Administration is shown in the following table.

| <b>MINISTRIES OF SPAIN</b>  |
|---|
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation (MAUC)                          |
| Ministry of Justice (MJUST)   |
| Ministry of Defence (MDEF)  |
| Ministry of the Treasury (MHAC)   |
| Ministry of the Interior (MINT)   |
| Ministry of Infrastructure (MINFOM)   |
| Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MEFP)  |
| Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security (MTMSS)                                       |
| Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MICT)  |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA)  |
| Ministry of the Presidency of the Government, Relations with Parliament, and Equality (MP-RC-I) |
| Ministry of Territorial Policy and of the Civil Service (MPTFP)                                 |
| Ministry of Ecological Transition (MITECO)  |
| Ministry of Culture and Sport (MCD)   |
| Ministry of Economy and Business (MEE)  |
| Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare (MSCBS)                                 |
| Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (MCIU)   |

This map of public institutions and policies constitutes an enormously valuable database, both as a tool for management and for accountability, which will be available online as part of the open online 2030 Agenda platform.



## MAPPING SDGs IN SPAIN'S CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

Identification of the relations between the different ministries and the SDGs and their targets, through a detailed map of the Central Administrations activities in all of these departments is a required exercise in the NVRs when explaining progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This promotes awareness and ownership of the Agenda within the Central Administration, better training of the Administration's staff, and the instructive work of said staff in society. The suitability of involving Spain's Autonomous Communities and local authorities in a similar exercise is also being considered, taking into account their framework of competencies. Ongoing, parallel work is required as regards the EU and its Member States.

Through leadership for each SDG by the ministry that acts as a focal point, the map was completed for the whole Central Administration, with the participation of almost all of the Directorates-General and State Secretariats. All of the ministries validated or review the information obtained through a preliminary mapping exercise undertaken in 2016, as regards public policies, foreign action, legislation, monitoring mechanisms, indicators, etc., relating to the 17 SDGs and their 168 targets. As previously mentioned, this exercise will have to be updated and checked over the coming months, as the new distribution of ministries and competencies crystallizes.

A preliminary reading of the process and of the data reveals some very positive aspects. The exercise created spaces for dialogue and coordination between different units in each ministry and, consequently, a solid base for subsequent work to implement the Agenda. Participation was high and quality contributions were made to mapping the Central Administration's activity concerning the 2030 Agenda, as regards both domestic policies and its external facets. There has been a great deal of interest and a widespread effort by civil servants to understand the general implications and the implications in terms of the competency structure of each ministry.

The wealth of information obtained will make it necessary to roll out a Knowledge management system that enables processing of the abundance of experiences and permits maximum effectiveness. At the same time, it is also important to highlight the existence of a clear link between the mapping work and PCSD, which is a crucial element if progress is to be made towards achieving the SDGs.

Therefore, we already have a tremendously useful database of impacts which, with sufficient refinement and an appropriate interface in a user-friendly environment, will become a key tool in the management of future implementation of the Agenda.

Given the changeable nature of the structure of the Public Administration, the distribution of competencies within it, and the range of potential public policies and instruments, the map must be conceived as a dynamic tool, as a database that can be updated at any time, with net access. It will form part of the online system for monitoring the 2030 Agenda in Spain.

The map cannot be considered to be complete or definite, as it will be necessary to continue adding content and reflecting on optimal coordination structures. It has helped to identify and unlock the value of significant synergies between current policies and plans and the 2030 Agenda as a whole, putting Spain in a good starting point as regards a number of targets for certain SDGs, and highlighting opportunities to leverage the full potential of the work

performed within different ministries. The variety of the activities within the Central Administration have also been highlighted, as has the need to improve certain processes that have traditionally been addressed at the sector level, in a silo fashion, and which should be addressed through a comprehensive approach, in view of the clear reality of independent progress and retrogression.

This is how the design for 2030 Agenda governance has advanced in Spain, establishing as focal points for each SDG the ministries that have expressed their desire and willingness to take on this leadership and coordination responsibility, naturally in their fields of greatest involvement in terms of competencies; other ministries that are deeply involved in specific targets of certain SDGs will work with these focal points. This delimitation of responsibilities must obviously evolve and be updated to reflect restructuring or future changes of government.

## 6.1. RESULTS

Below is a summary and preliminary assessment of the map, with the following observations:

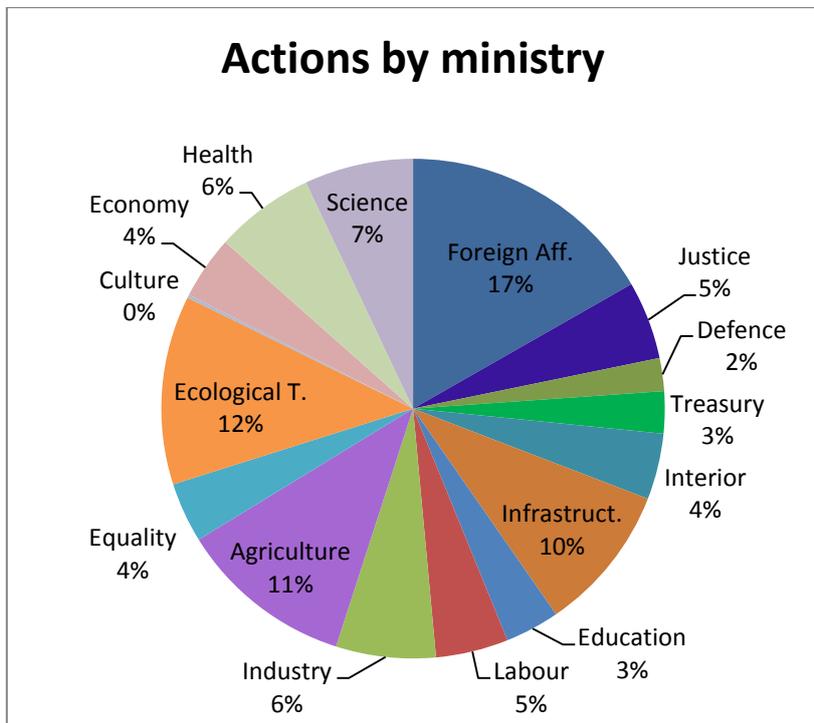
- The tables provided indicate the existence of an impact or activity reported by each ministry, related to each SDG target.
- This activity is varied, in terms of both scope (from a national strategy to participation in a working group) and implications. This summary is limited to describing the contributions from ministries, without offering any additional evaluations.
- There are targets that are patently related to domestic actions and other that focus on foreign action. However, it must be taken into account that many of the targets concerning foreign action and international cooperation also affect Spain's domestic policies.

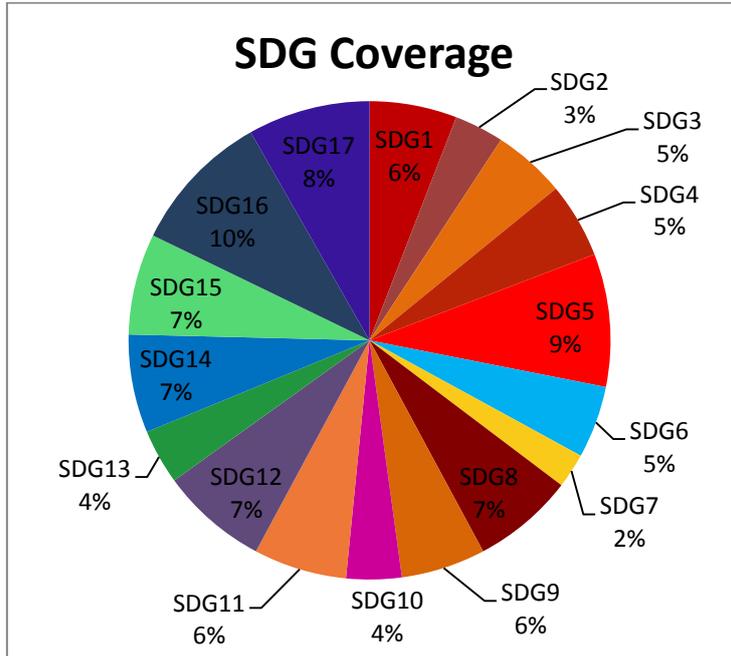
Following a preliminary analysis of the map, the following aspects are of note:

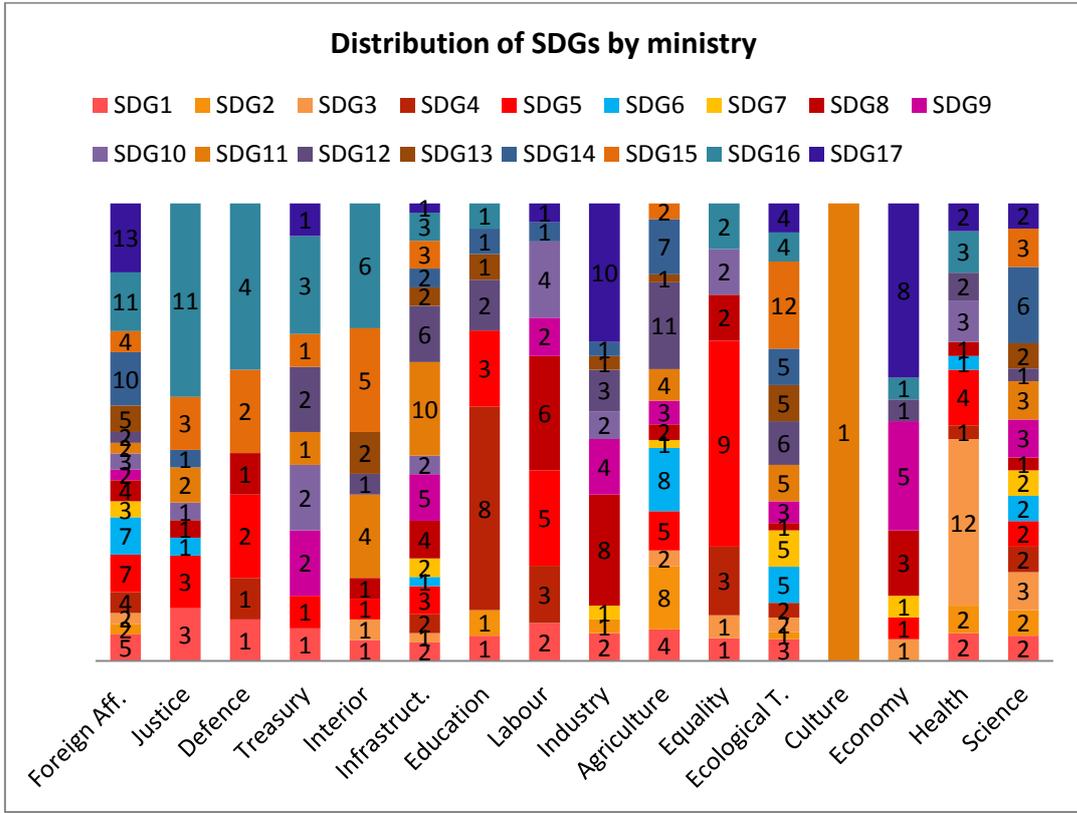
- All of the SDGs involve at least 7 ministries, and in some cases even 14 (SDG 1), 13 (SDGs 5 and 8) or 11 (SDGs 12 and 16). The average is therefore 9 ministries per SDG.
- For all of the SDGs, there are at least related 12 activities undertaken by the ministries, and in some cases as much as 49 activities (SDG 16). The average is therefore 30 activities per SDG.
- All of the ministries work on at least 6 SDGs (with the exception of the Ministry of Culture and Sport, which only works on 1 SDG), but this figure can be as high as 17 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation) or 16 (Ministry of Infrastructure). On average, each ministry is involved in 10 SDGs.
- For some SDGs, more than a third of the targets are related to a single ministry, whose competencies are most directly linked. This is the case for SDG 2 (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), SDG 3 (Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare), SDG 4 (Ministry of Education and Vocational Training) and SDG 11 (Ministry of Infrastructure).
- A number of SDGs, in addition to being worked on by the ministry with the most direct responsibilities, also entail substantial activity in other ministries: SDGs 1, 5, 8, 12 and 16.

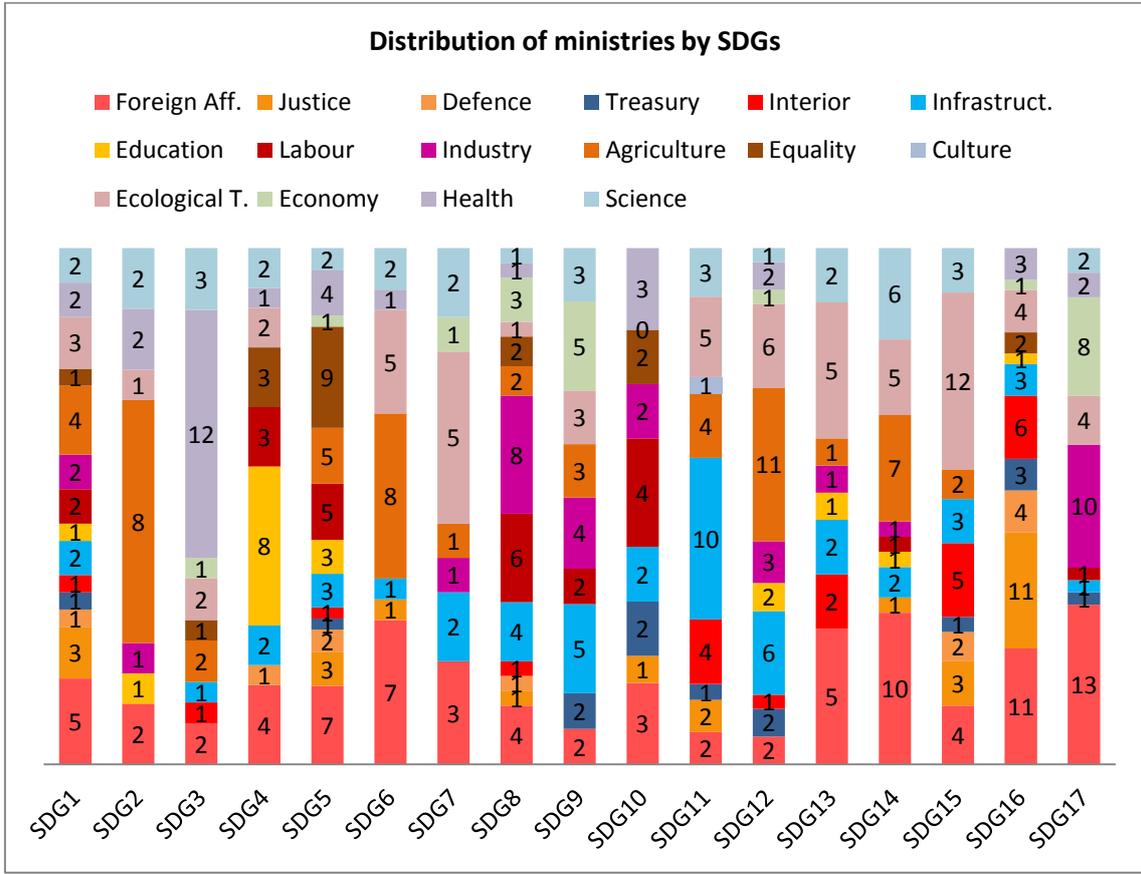
- Work in the social, economic and environmental spheres is covered by almost all ministries, although there is some degree of departmentalization. For example, of a total of 33 activities, in the case of the Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare, 12 activities relate to SDG 3, and in the case of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, of a total of 18 activities, 8 relate to SDG 4.
- Furthermore, there are targets that are addressed by several different ministries, in some cases with very diverse competencies.

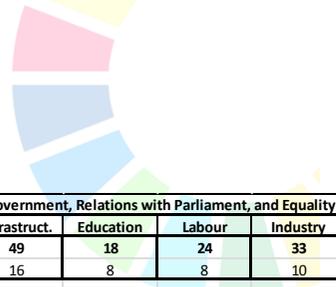
The following charts summarize main relations between all of the ministries and the SDGs, at the level of the targets.











| TOTAL ACTIONS:                   |  |  | Ministry of the Presidency of the Government, Relations with Parliament, and Equality & Ministry of Territorial Policy and of the Civil Service (*1) |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------|--------------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 515                              |  |  | (2*)   | Foreign Aff. | Justice      | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education    | Labour    | Industry | Agriculture | Equality    | Ecological T. | Culture       | Economy | Health  | Science |         |
| Number of actions                |  |  |  | 86           | 26           | 11      | 14       | 22       | 49           | 18           | 24        | 33       | 58          | 20          | 63            | 1             | 21      | 33      | 36      |         |
| In SDGs                          |  |  |  | 17           | 9            | 6       | 9        | 9        | 16           | 8            | 8         | 10       | 14          | 7           | 15            | 1             | 8       | 11      | 15      |         |
| 1                                | End poverty in all its forms everywhere  |  |  | Foreign Aff. | Justice      | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education    | Labour    | Industry | Agriculture | Equality    | Ecological T. | Culture       | Economy | Health  | Science |         |
|                                  | 30 actions by 14 ministries  |  |  | 30           | 5            | 3       | 1        | 1        | 1            | 2            | 1         | 2        | 2           | 4           | 1             | 3             |         |         | 2       | 2       |
|                                  | 1.1  | Extreme poverty  | 2  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 1.2  | Relative poverty in all its dimensions   | 6  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 1.3  | Social protection systems  | 2  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 1.4  | Access to basic services and economic resources  | 6  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 1.5  | Resilience to economic, social and environmental disasters                                   | 7  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 1.a  | Resources to end poverty   | 4  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 1.b  | Policy frameworks to eradicate poverty   | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 2  | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture |  |              | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence  | Treasury | Interior     | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour   | Industry    | Agriculture | Equality      | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health  | Science |
| SDG 2 17 actions by 7 ministries |  |  | 17   | 2            |              |         |          |          | 1            |              | 1         | 8        |             | 1           |               |               |         | 2       | 2       |         |
| 2.1                              |  | End hunger   | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 2.2                              |  | Malnutrition   | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 2.3                              |  | Small-scale food production  | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 2.4                              |  | Sustainable and resilient agricultural practices   | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 2.5                              |  | Genetic diversity  | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 2.a                              |  | Investment in agriculture  | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 2.b                              |  | Stability of world agricultural markets  | 2  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 2.c                              |  | Food price volatility  | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 3                                | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all  |  |  | Foreign Aff. | Justice      | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education    | Labour    | Industry | Agriculture | Equality    | Ecological T. | Culture       | Economy | Health  | Science |         |
|                                  | 25 actions by 9 ministries   |  |  | 25           | 2            |         |          | 1        | 1            |              |           |          | 2           | 1           | 2             |               | 1       | 12      | 3       |         |
|                                  | 3.1  | Maternal mortality   | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.2  | Child mortality  | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.3  | Communicable diseases  | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.4  | Non-communicable diseases and mental health  | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.5  | Drugs and alcohol  | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.6  | Traffic accidents  | 2  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.7  | Sexual and reproductive health, family planning  | 2  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.8  | Universal coverage and access to medicines   | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.9  | Environmental health (chemicals and pollution)   | 4  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.a  | Tobacco control  | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.b  | R&D vaccines and essential medicines   | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 3.c  | Health system financing (health workers)   | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 3.d                              | Management of health risks   | 4  |  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 4                                | Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all |  |  | Foreign Aff. | Justice      | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education    | Labour    | Industry | Agriculture | Equality    | Ecological T. | Culture       | Economy | Health  | Science |         |
|                                  | 26 actions by 9 ministries   |  |  | 26           | 4            |         | 1        |          | 2            | 8            | 3         |          |             | 3           | 2             |               |         | 1       | 2       |         |
|                                  | 4.1  | Quality of primary and secondary education   | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 4.2  | Quality of pre-primary education   | 1  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 4.3  | Equal access to tertiary education   | 2  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 4.4  | Relevant skills for employment   | 4  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 4.5  | Gender disparities and vulnerable groups   | 5  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 4.6  | Literacy and numeracy  | 3  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 4.7  | Global education for sustainable development   | 5  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
|                                  | 4.a  | Inclusive and safe education facilities  | 2  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 4.b                              | Scholarships for higher education  | 2  |  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |
| 4.c                              | Qualification of teachers  | 1  |  |              |              |         |          |          |              |              |           |          |             |             |               |               |         |         |         |         |

| 6  Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls   |   |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
|---|---|---|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| 46 actions by 13 ministries   |   |   | 7            | 3       | 2       | 1        | 1        | 3            | 3         | 5      |          | 5           | 9        |               |         | 1       | 4      | 2       |
| 5.1   | End discrimination  | 7 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.2   | Gender violence   | 6 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.3   | Child marriage and female genital mutilation                    | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.4   | Care and domestic work  | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.5   | Full and effective participation of women and equal opportunity | 7 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.6   | Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights          | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.a   | Equal rights to economic resources                              | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.b   | Use of technology and ICT                                       | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 5.c   | Policies and legislation for equality and empowerment           | 7 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6  Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all  |   |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
| 25 actions by 7 ministries  |   |   | 7            | 1       |         |          |          | 1            |           |        |          | 8           |          | 5             |         |         | 1      | 2       |
| 6.1   | Access to drinking water  | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6.2   | Access to sanitation and hygiene services                       | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6.3   | Water quality. Pollution and wastewater                         | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6.4   | Water-use efficiency (withdrawal of freshwater)                 | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6.5   | Integrated water resources management                           | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6.6   | Water-related ecosystems  | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6.a   | Capacity-building   | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 6.b   | Participation of local communities                              | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 7  Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all  |   |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
| 12 actions by 7 ministries  |   |   | 3            |         |         |          |          | 2            |           |        | 1        | 1           |          | 5             |         | 1       |        | 2       |
| 7.1   | Universal access to energy                                      | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 7.2   | Renewable energy  | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 7.3   | Energy efficiency   | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 7.a   | Research and investment in clean energy                         | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 7.b   | Infrastructure and technology in developing countries           | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8  Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all |   |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
| 35 actions by 13 ministries   |   |   | 4            | 1       | 1       |          | 1        | 4            |           | 6      | 8        | 2           | 2        | 1             |         | 3       | 1      | 1       |
| 8.1   | Economic growth   | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.2   | Diversification, technology and innovation                      | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.3   | Foster SMEs   | 6 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.4   | Efficient and ecofriendly production and consumption            | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.5   | Full employment and decent work                                 | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.6   | Youth not in employment or education                            | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.7   | Slavery, trafficking and child labour                           | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.8   | Labour rights and safe work                                     | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.9   | Sustainable tourism   | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.10  | Banking services  | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.a   | Aid for trade in developing countries                           | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 8.b   | Global strategy for youth employment                            | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |



| 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation |  |           | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
|---|--|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| <b>SDG 9</b>  | <b>29 actions by 9 ministries</b>                    | <b>29</b> | 2            |         |         | 2        |          | 5            |           | 2      | 4        | 3           |          | 3             |         | 5       |        | 3       |
| 9.1   | Sustainable infrastructure                           | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 9.2   | Inclusive and sustainable industry                   | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 9.3   | SME access to financial services and value chains    | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 9.4   | Upgrade infrastructure, clean technology             | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 9.5   | Scientific research, technological capabilities      | 5         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 9.a   | Support for sustainable and resilient infrastructure | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 9.b   | Technology, research and innovation                  | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 9.c   | Access to ICT and Internet                           | 0         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |

| 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries |   |           | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
|---|---|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
|   | <b>19 actions by 8 ministries</b>                                 | <b>19</b> | 3            | 1       |         | 2        |          | 2            |           | 4      | 2        |             | 2        |               |         |         | 3      |         |
| 10.1  | Income bottom 40% population                                      | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.2  | Social, economic and political inclusion                          | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.3  | Equal opportunities   | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.4  | Fiscal, wage and social protection policies                       | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.5  | Regulation of global financial markets                            | 0         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.6  | Participation by developing countries in IFIs and international o | 0         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.7  | Migration and migration policies                                  | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.a  | Principle of special and differential treatment (WTO)             | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.b  | Financial flows for developing countries                          | 1         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 10.c  | Costs of remittances  | 1         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |

| 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable |  |           | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
|---|--|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
|   | <b>32 actions by 9 ministries</b>              | <b>32</b> | 2            | 2       |         | 1        | 4        | 10           |           |        |          | 4           |          | 5             | 1       |         |        | 3       |
| 11.1  | Access to housing                              | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.2  | Public transport                               | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.3  | Inclusive and sustainable urbanization         | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.4  | Cultural and natural heritage                  | 7         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.5  | Disasters and reducing vulnerability           | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.6  | Waste and pollution in cities                  | 5         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.7  | Access to safe green and public spaces         | 1         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.a  | Links between urban, per-urban and rural areas | 1         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.b  | Reduction of risk of disasters in cities       | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 11.c  | Sustainable and resilient building in LDCs     | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |

| 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns |   |           | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
|---|---|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
|   | <b>37 actions by 11 ministries</b>                  | <b>37</b> | 2            |         |         | 2        | 1        | 6            | 2         |        | 3        | 11          |          | 6             |         | 1       | 2      | 1       |
| 12.1  | Consumption and production plans                    | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.2  | Efficient use of natural resources                  | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.3  | Food waste  | 1         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.4  | Management of chemicals and wastes                  | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.5  | Prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse of waste | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.6  | Companies and sustainability reports                | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.7  | Sustainable public procurement                      | 5         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.8  | Education for sustainable development               | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.a  | Science and technology for sustainability           | 5         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.b  | Sustainable tourism                                 | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 12.c  | Regulation of subsidies for fossil fuels            | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |

| 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts |  |           | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
|--|--|-----------|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
|  | <b>19 actions by 8 ministries</b>          | <b>19</b> | 5            |         |         |          | 2        | 2            | 1         |        | 1        | 1           |          | 5             |         |         |        | 2       |
| 13.1   | National policies, strategies and planning | 5         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 13.2   | National policies, strategies and planning | 5         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 13.3   | Education and awareness-raising            | 4         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 13.a   | Mobilization of economic resources         | 3         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 13.b   | Climate change-related management in LDCs  | 2         |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |

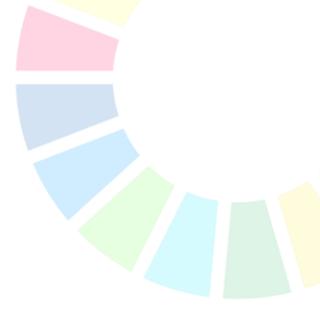
| 14. CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT   |  |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
|--|--|---|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| <b>34 actions by 9 ministries</b>  |  |   | 10           | 1       |         |          |          | 2            | 1         | 1      | 1        | 7           |          | 5             |         |         |        | 6       |
| 14.1   | Marine pollution   | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.2   | Management of marine and coastal ecosystems                      | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.3   | Ocean acidification  | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.4   | Regulate sustainable fishing practices                           | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.5   | Conservation of coastal and marine areas                         | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.6   | Combat illegal fishing and overfishing                           | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.7   | Economic benefits of sustainable fishing                         | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.a   | Marine research and technology                                   | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.b   | Small-scale artisanal fishing                                    | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 14.c   | Application of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea           | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15. PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS |  |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
| <b>35 actions by 9 ministries</b>  |  |   | 4            | 3       | 2       | 1        | 5        | 3            |           |        |          | 2           |          | 12            |         |         |        | 3       |
| 15.1   | Conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems                   | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.2   | Sustainable forest management                                    | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.3   | Combat desertification   | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.4   | Conservation of mountain ecosystems                              | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.5   | Degradation and loss of biodiversity                             | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.6   | Genetic resources  | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.7   | Poaching and protected species                                   | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.8   | Invasive species   | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.9   | Environmentally-friendly planning                                | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.a   | Financial resources  | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.b   | Resources for forest management                                  | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 15.c   | Support for combating poaching                                   | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16. PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS            |  |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |
| <b>49 actions by 11 ministries</b>   |  |   | 11           | 11      | 4       | 3        | 6        | 3            | 1         |        |          |             | 2        | 4             |         | 1       | 3      |         |
| 16.1   | Reduce all forms of violence                                     | 6 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.2   | Abuse, trafficking and exploitation of children                  | 7 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.3   | Rule of law, access to justice                                   | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.4   | Illicit financial and arms flows                                 | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.5   | Corruption and bribery   | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.6   | Effective and transparent institutions                           | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.7   | Citizen participation  | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.8   | Participation of developing countries in international organizat | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.9   | Legal identity and birth registration                            | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.10  | Access to information and fundamental freedoms                   | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.a   | Strengthen institutions to prevent violence                      | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |
| 16.b   | Laws and policies (human rights)                                 | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |

| 17 <small>Partnerships</small>   |  |   | Foreign Aff. | Justice | Defence | Treasury | Interior | Infrastruct. | Education | Labour | Industry | Agriculture | Equality | Ecological T. | Culture | Economy | Health | Science |  |
|--|--|---|--------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--|
| Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development |  |   |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 42 actions by 9 ministries   |  |   | 42           | 13      |         | 1        |          | 1            |           | 1      | 10       |             |          | 4             |         | 8       | 2      | 2       |  |
| 17.1   | Mobilization of domestic resources             | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.2   | 0.7% ODA                                       | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.3   | Additional financial resources                 | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.4   | Debt   | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.5   | Private investment                             | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.6   | Technology sharing                             | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.7   | Environmentally sound technologies             | 3 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.8   | Technology bank                                | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.9   | Capacity-building                              | 5 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.10  | Universal multilateral trading                 | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.11  | Exports of developing countries                | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.12  | Market access for developing countries         | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.13  | Global macroeconomic stability                 | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.14  | Policy coherence                               | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.15  | National sovereignty                           | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.16  | Global partnership for sustainable development | 1 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.17  | Public-Private Partnerships                    | 4 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.18  | Statistical capacity-building                  | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |
| 17.19  | Promote indicators that complement GDP         | 2 |              |         |         |          |          |              |           |        |          |             |          |               |         |         |        |         |  |

 Indicates foreign action on the target  
 Indicates the ministry that is focal point for each SDG

(\*1) The Ministry of the Presidency of the Government assumes responsibility for leading, promoting and coordinating the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

(\*2) MAUC, through its State Secretariat for International Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, supports third countries in their efforts to meet the SDGs, under Spanish Cooperation's 5<sup>th</sup> Master Plan. Spanish Cooperation works with developing countries on almost all of the SDGs set forth in the 2030 Agenda, but primarily on SDG 1: "Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere". To prevent misinterpretation of the map, the decision has been made to omit the activities undertaken by Spanish Cooperation, when supporting partner countries, relating to each of the SDGs and the targets, except in cases where this would result in a target relating to international cooperation appearing without any activities. The objectives, results and priority countries are reflected in the aforementioned Master Plan, in the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) Strategic Plan, in the Country Partnership Frameworks, and in the New Generation Agreements with partner countries and the Strategic Partnership Frameworks with international organizations, which can be viewed at <https://infoaad.maec.es/> and <http://www.cooperacionspanola.es/>.





# AN ACTION PLAN

## 7. The Action Plan for Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Spain: Promoting public policies' alignment with the SDGs

The Spanish Government's CDGAE, during its meeting of 28 September 2017, agreed to create a HLG for the 2030 Agenda, with the dual purpose of coordinating Spain's position as well as the actions necessary to comply with the Agenda's goals, and to prepare Spain's reviews with the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

At its opening session of 23 October 2017, the HLG agree to immediately prepare Spain's Voluntary National Review (VNR), to be delivered in July 2018. This is a unique opportunity to analyse Spain's advances in sustainable development, reflect on the challenges we face, and to promote decisively implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. Comparing our experience with that of other countries which have already undergone the VNR shows how useful the process is when it responds to a genuine commitment to transform, articulating a realistic plan for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and when it is accompanied by a deliberation, participation, and dialogue at all levels of government, involving the legislature and civil society.

Spain's Congress of Deputies adopted Non-Legislative Motion on 12 December 2017, with the backing of nearly every political party, to orient the Government's policy in defining Spain's national strategy for complying with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (PNL 161/001253), in which the Government was urged to "draft, approve, and implement a Sustainable Development Strategy for implementing the 2030 Development Agenda in Spain".

Guided by this political consensus and in response to public demand to undergo a review process which—far from being a merely cosmetic measure—would represent a major impetus in this area, the HLG agreed to make it a priority to design an Action Plan for Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Spain which was well argued, credible, and enjoyed wide support from the social stakeholders. An exercise which goes beyond drafting a status report and which would involve launching the undoubtedly complex implementation of the Agenda. The process of implementing the 2030 Agenda in Spain involved a learning exercise, as well: never before had any country implemented such a transformational, comprehensive, and innovative agenda on this scale.

In 2007, Spain adopted a Sustainable Development Strategy, although it was clearly focused on the environmental issues. Years later, faced with new challenges, in a different world, after the Rio+20 Summit and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, that strategy needs to be updated to include all three dimensions of sustainable development, with a more long-term vision of transformation aimed at achieving the SDGs, both in Spain and in the rest of the world.

The Action Plan is an action-oriented document. It represents a transition plan, encompassing both an urgent implementation of the Agenda, which cannot be delayed, and the formulation of a long-term Sustainable Development Strategy for Spain. It is also a plan for transitioning from the outgoing Spanish Government that initiated it and developed its approach, to the incoming Government which is putting the SDGs and sustainable development at the centre of its actions.

The Action Plan will immediately promote new policies, measures, and approaches to governance and working methods, leading—as one of its main outcomes—to the adoption of a 2020-2030 Sustainable Development Strategy that represents a national blueprint with broad

support and a vision shared across the political spectrum. A strategy whose drafting, deliberation, and negotiation must start now, and be addressed calmly and with a great deal of thought.

The Plan also compiles all of the actions carried out by a wide range of actors and stakeholders, as well as the actions that shall be carried out immediately by Spain's Central Administration—a robust, multiparty governance structure ranging up to the highest level of government; and a commitment to creating an ambitious sustainable development strategy born out of the participation and consensus of all the stakeholders and levels of government in Spain (national, regional, and municipal).

While the Plan is in force—until the entry into force of the new Sustainable Development Strategy—it will give an urgent impetus to key aspects for progress, including especially important measures and mechanisms for governance and accountability, and laying the foundations for a path towards the 2030 goals that will be expressed in the Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Action Plan is divided into two main parts. In the first, it presents the state of play, analysing the situation of the SDGs in Spain, presenting an analysis of the distribution of authority and responsibility, and of the currently existing public policies and instruments. The second addresses the actions necessary for implementing the Agenda between 2018 and 2020: new public policies, key measures for carrying out major transformations, governance of the Agenda, follow-up, accountability, and evaluation. Especially important is the commitment of the Autonomous Communities (regional administrations), local entities, and other stakeholders such as civil society and the business and university communities, their advances and their commitments which, together with the policies and measures promoted by Spain's Central Administration, constitute the Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain—an effort involving every aspect of Spanish society.

## 8. Priority areas and accelerator policies

The steady inclusion of the Agenda as a benchmark for strategic planning documents is key to its effective promotion. A prominent example in Spain's 2018 National Reform Programme, recently presented to the EU, expressly indicates that: “The priorities for the future including in this 2018 National Reform Programme are aligned with the priorities set forth in the Annual Prospective Study on Growth for 2018, which is the point of departure for designing National Reform Programmes: structural reforms to modernize our economies and a responsible fiscal policy. Moreover, it refers to the European dimension and to the reforms that Spain considers to be priorities in this area. The priorities established here are also relevant from the point of view of compliance with the UN's 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 8”.

An Action Plan cannot merely diagnose a situation. Long-term action requires public policies and their corresponding budget items to be considered through the lens of the SDGs, therefore demanding a reorientation, and a steady realignment of all the existing policies: this is the process that the UN calls *mainstreaming*. In other words, all public policies (and their corresponding budget items) are in line with the SDGs, which are at the centre of public policy. Furthermore, it must be ensured that progress towards the SDGs, in every country, has no

indirect negative impact in other countries; i.e., that the externalities of public policies and the action in the private sectors as regards other countries, as well as global public goods, are all positive, to attain what we have referred to above as *policy coherence for sustainable development*.

Other sections have already set forth the set of existing public policies and instruments that are relevant to the SDGs. This section identifies, describes, and justifies a set of policies that we are calling *accelerator policies*, for mainstreaming and scaling up implementation of all 17 SDGs.

## 8.1. THE ACCELERATOR POLICIES CONCEPT

By accelerator policies, we mean those programmes or policies able to accelerate implementation of the SDGs, consistently promoting sustainable development and achieving a more rapid, sustained impact on key aspects for progress involving the entire 2030 Agenda. This is a mainstreaming action that breaks the traditional policy silos.

The UN uses a similar concept in referring to accelerators. Its MAPS (mainstreaming, accelerating, and policy support) approach suggests that these accelerators address specific bottlenecks and become potential motors for sustainable development, creating virtuous circles in each country. These measures, policies, or programmes can be very diverse in nature.

Given this concept's symbolic importance—as well as its crucial impact on one or more SDGs, its practical capacity to create synergies among several SDGs and among important targets involving a specific policy or measure, as well as its multiplier effect—it is used to highlight policies having the capacity to accelerate or mobilize impact. Accelerator policies must be understood as instruments for breaking down policy silos and adopting an approach to sustainable development able to connect different stakeholders, sectors, and policies in a single comprehensive vision.

## 8.2. ACCELERATOR POLICIES IN THE ACTION PLAN: PRIORITY ACTION AREAS

The present Plan encompasses a preliminary set of policy areas which constitute accelerators, and which will be expanded and revised as implementation advances.

This preliminary set of priority accelerator policies needs to be studied through the lens of sustainable development, making it possible, through their formulation or redefinition (as necessary), for them to become policies that mainstream and connect different SDGs, while also having a direct impact on one or more of them.

The new Government of Spain is identifying key new policy areas where it will be necessary to design accelerators, such as: equality – including gender, intergenerational, income, and territorial equality; the fight against poverty and exclusion, especially in childhood; climate change and the ecological transition of the economy; sustainable water policy; rural territorial development; R&D&I; strengthening social dialogue as a method for achieving consensus; the role of corporations in respecting and promoting human rights.

The proposals specified below, as a first set of priority areas for accelerator policies, are mostly in the phase of consultations, preliminary design, or deliberation. In the coming months their reorientation will be addressed in order to strengthen their effective alignment with the SDGs and with the priorities of the new Government of Spain, as well as with the considerations and

contributions of other stakeholders, and it will be completed with those considered necessary to advance on the areas referred to above.

The priority action areas and accelerator policies are, due to their very conception, comprehensive and intended to have an impact on more than one SDG. Likewise, their definition and implementation must necessarily be carried out comprehensively, with the active participation of different ministries and with a multi-level, multi-actor approach.

The following table presents a preliminary list of priority areas, as well as the leadership for each one established within Spain's Central Administration.

| PRIORITY ACTION AREA – ACCELERATOR POLICY                            | LEADERSHIP IN THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION   |
|--|--|
| I. PREVENTING AND COMBATING POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION | <i>Ministry of the Presidency of the Government, Relations with Parliament, and Equality<br/>Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Welfare</i> |
| II. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES: STRATEGIC PLAN                        | <i>Ministry of the Presidency of the Government, Relations with Parliament, and Equality</i>   |
| III. SPAIN'S URBAN AGENDA  | <i>Ministry of Infrastructure</i>  |
| IV. THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY   | <i>Ministry of Ecological Transition<br/>Ministry of Economy and Business</i>  |
| V. THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITION ACT                      | <i>Ministry of Ecological Transition</i>   |
| VI. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH FOR THE SDGs                   | <i>Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities</i>  |
| VII. THE SOCIAL ECONOMY: 2017-2020 STRATEGY                          | <i>Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security</i>   |
| VIII. OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN   | <i>Ministry of Territorial Policy and of the Civil Service</i>   |
| IX. REGAINING A SPANISH COOPERATION AT THE SERVICE OF THE SDGs       | <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation</i>   |

## I. PREVENTING AND COMBATING POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION



Preventing and combating poverty, inequality and social exclusion is a priority of the new Government of Spain. This is clearly illustrated by its immediate creation of the position of a High Commissioner for combating child poverty. Combating poverty and inequality demands an integrated, strategic approach that addresses the main causes of inequality, poverty and the risk of exclusion.

Once the 2013-2016 National Action Plan for Social Inclusion ended, Spain committed in its 2017 National Reform Programme, presented to the European Commission, to design and approve a 2018-2020 National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, to make progress on the educational, employment, and poverty and exclusion challenges addressed in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

This Strategy was to be aimed at preventing and ameliorating situations of poverty and social exclusion, as well as strengthening personal skills in the area of training and integration into the job market. Furthermore, it was to consider as its target population not only the traditional categories of poverty and social exclusion, but also to focus especially on the problems of those

persons on the verge of the relative poverty threshold, for whom their employment and training situation constitute a decisive factor. Specifically, the fight against child poverty shaped up as one of the main strategic targets included in goal of combating poverty.

The new strategic framework will focus on designing a coherent action structure embracing strategic targets by areas, objectives, and lines of action. It will include a detailed analysis of the social situation in Spain, identifying such challenges as:

- Combating poverty and inequality, especially severe poverty and child poverty.
- Investing in people, with a focus on inclusive education and promoting adequate employment.
- Improving social protection, through adequate housing, health services, assistance for dependent persons, sufficient social services, and maintaining a social benefits system able to avoid situations of need.
- Promoting maximum effectiveness in the policies implemented, with greater coordinator of stakeholders, social innovation, transparency, and collaboration.

In the process of designing this Strategy, dialogue will be intensified with these stakeholders: NGOs, ministries, regional administrations, and FEMP, which have already contributed to previous drafts, in order to reach a consensus on targets and objectives. The National Council of NGOs, the National Council for the Gypsy People, trade unions, entrepreneurs and political parties (specialized parliamentary committees) will all receive a draft of the final document, in order to reach a consensus on the final version.

### **Social dialogue and raising the statutory minimum wage**

In the fight against poverty, social exclusion, inequality, and job insecurity, and to ensure inclusive economic growth, a crucial instrument is raising the statutory minimum wage. The Government of Spain, the central CCOO and UGT trade unions, and CEOE reached an agreement on the statutory minimum wage for 2018-2020, which was approved through a Royal Decree, fixing the monthly minimum wage for 2018 at 735.90 euros, a 4% increase over 2017. The agreement also stipulated a 5% increase for 2019 and a 10% hike for 2020, upon the condition that the economy showed real GDP growth of at least 2.5%, and an increase of the average number of those registered with Spain's Social Security to more than 450,000 persons in year-on-year terms.

## **II. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES: 2018-2021 STRATEGIC PLAN**

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Since the approval of the Spanish Constitution in 1978, a great deal of legislation has been adopted introducing equality of treatment and opportunities in such areas as civil, criminal, labour, economic, and educational law. Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, on the Effective Equality of Women and Men (known by its acronym, LOIEMH) constitutes the framework that integrates the principle of equality and gender mainstreaming into public policy, and establishes action criteria for all public authorities as regards equality issues. To facilitate the achievement of gender mainstreaming and recognize its influence on all aspects of life, the Strategic Plan on Equal Opportunities was created, establishing that “in areas under the authority of the State, a Strategic Plan on Equal Opportunities shall be periodically approved, which will include

measures to reach the goal of equality between women and men, and eliminate discrimination on the basis of sex”.

The Strategic Plans on Equal Opportunities constitute the instrument by means of which the Government of Spain can define, in those areas within its scope of authority, its goals and priority measures for eliminating any form of discrimination on the basis of sex that could persist, and for achieving equal opportunities between women and men. In compliance with this mandate, two Strategic Plans have been approved, covering 2008-2011 and 2014-2016. Once the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan on Equal Opportunities ended, plans began for approving the next version, which will be a medium-term instrument for compliance with the 2030 Agenda. In the introduction to the draft of the next Strategic Plan, it states that “the Strategic Plan on Equal Opportunities shows the Government of Spain’s commitment to effective equality between women, and contributes to development the goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as regards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. The text of the Plan also points out that its design takes into account the 2030 Agenda’s SDGs, specifically, the targets linked to Goal 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.

### III. SPAIN’S URBAN AGENDA



During 2016, Spain undertook two international commitments: the Pact of Amsterdam, of May 2016, in which the EU ministers responsible for city planning approved the EU Urban Agenda; and the Quito Declaration of October 2016, in which the 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously approved the UN Urban Agenda.

In both documents, Spain reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable urban development, within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda, whose SDG 11 is to achieve “sustainable cities and communities”, making them safe, inclusive, and resilient.

Besides this specific SDG, sustainable urban development can contribute to many other SDGs to which it is transversally linked, including the following: SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7. Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities; SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production; and SDG 13. Climate Action.

Spain’s Urban Agenda is not binding, but strategic. The Central Government is aware of the city planning authority of Spain’s 17 Autonomous Communities (regional administrations) and of the municipalities, although the Urban Agenda goes beyond city planning, to the extent that it seeks a triple impact on urban life: social, economic, and environmental. This is especially important in Spain, where more than 80% of the population lives in urban areas. The national Urban Agenda, therefore, seeks to be a useful instrument for consolidating in territorial and city planning, and generally in all policies with a territorial or city-planning component, the principle of sustainable territorial and urban development—already established as a basic aspect of the Consolidated Text of Land Use and Urban Renewal Act, of 30 October 2015.

Version 0 of the document which began the mandatory public participation process, in February 2018, is structured into the following parts:

1. A diagnosis of urban and rural situation in Spain
2. A strategic framework proposing 10 priority goals, with specific objectives for each one, and a list of actions to achieve them. The 10 proposed strategic goals are:

- Strategic Goal 1: Conserve and protect the land through rational use.
- Strategic Goal 2: Avoid urban sprawl and revitalize the existing cities.
- Strategic Goal 3: Prevent and reduce the impact of climate change.
- Strategic Goal 4: Manage resources sustainably and promote the circular economy.
- Strategic Goal 5: Promote proximity and sustainable mobility.
- Strategic Goal 6: Foster social cohesion and seek equity.
- Strategic Goal 7: Promote and favour the urban economy.
- Strategic Goal 8: Ensure access to housing.
- Strategic Goal 9: Lead and foster digital innovation.
- Strategic Goal 10: Improve intervention instruments and governance.

This strategic framework also includes 38 purely descriptive indicators, which the competent ministry could make available to all city councils (since this is public information), enabling them to know what is the baseline scenario as regards each of these goals.

3. A system of evaluation and monitoring indicators making it possible, when appropriate, to measure progress that could be achieved through implementing the proposed measure, including those already required under the UN's 2030 Agenda and Urban Agenda.

4. Lastly, the Agenda will include an Action Plan, currently being designed, which is taking form over the course of the public participation process, with the contributions of all the stakeholders involved. To date, this wide-ranging participation comprises six Working Groups:

- Independent Multidisciplinary Experts Group
- Interministerial Working Group
- Working Group with the Autonomous Communities
- Working Group with the Local Entities (FEMP)
- Working Group with the Third Sector, Academia, and Civil Society
- Working Group with the Private Sector

The Action Plan will include at least, as required by both of the international Urban Agendas, those instruments making it possible to improve regulations and planning, financing, knowledge dissemination, governance and participation.

#### IV. THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



The circular economy is oriented at changing the linear economic model of extraction, production, consumption, and disposal, and adopting a sustainable model that makes it possible to maximize our available resources—both in terms of materials and energy—so that they can

remain within the production cycle for as long as possible, reducing waste generation to a minimum.

Spain's policies are in line with the EU action plans and with the 2030 Agenda's SDGs. Fully aware of the unsustainability of today's dominant linear economic development model, Spain considers it necessary to advance towards implementing a model of growth and development enabling us to optimize the use of our available resources, materials, and products, maintaining their value within the economy as a whole for the longest period of time possible, whilst minimizing waste generation.

The objectives of this policy revolve around preserving and improving our natural capital by selecting the most renewable resources and systems, optimizing the use of resource through rotating products, components, and materials, and increasing their useful life, promoting efficient systems, generating new capacities and new jobs, avoiding harm to the environment, and preserving biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Government of Spain already designed a Spanish Circular Economy Strategy in the first half of 2017, which is currently in the public consultation phase. The Spanish Circular Economy Strategy aims to provide a planning framework for this policy, so that the different levels of public administration can join their efforts to work towards the common goal of implanting a circular economy in Spain by 2030—one that is fully sustainable and competitive internationally. Nearly all of the Spanish ministries participated in drafting the Strategy, which also included the collaboration of the Autonomous Communities and FEMP. The components of this policy and of the Strategy will include public policies for change, such as policies on the environment, competitiveness, and social issues, to be implemented through different instruments and action plans.

As part of the Strategy's public consultation phase, it has already received contributions to be incorporated into the text from more than 110 participants, representing a total of 1,800 specific suggestions. Once all of the suggestions and comments received have been evaluated, the Strategy will be adapted the new situations and government priorities.

## V. THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY TRANSITION ACT

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The drafting of the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act (LCCYTE) represents a commitment to complying with the goals set forth in the Paris Agreement and within the EU. It responds to the need to define a medium- and long-term framework for ensuring an orderly and fair transition that contributes with solidarity towards creating a climate-resilient, low-carbon economy in Spain.

The LCCYTE will facilitate compliance with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, in particular SDG 7 (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) and SDG 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact). Moreover, given the LCCYTE's cross-cutting nature, it will contribute to compliance with other SDGs: 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15.

The Act is intended to:

- Ensure greenhouse gas emission neutrality in Spain by 2050, with an efficient, renewable energy system; set targets for 2030 and 2050, providing Spain with tools to promote predictability, updating, and coordination of the measures aimed at achieving these objectives.
- Anticipate possible climate change impact in Spain, facilitating resilience and adaptation; identifying the instruments making it possible to integrate all of this into our knowledge and management systems.
- Ensure social and territorial cohesion in the area of energy security, promoting measures to achieve a fair transition, with solidarity, of the Spanish economy, in order to foster taking advantage of opportunities and identifying the measures able to facilitate Spain’s resilience to the impact of climate change.

## VI. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH FOR THE SDGs



Spain’s commitment to R&D&i as an accelerator of progress, able to facilitate synergies, is fully reflected in Act 14/2011 on Science, Technology and Innovation. This policy demands knowledge generation at every level, as well as its dissemination and application to obtain a social or economic benefit through activities that are essential to the progress of Spanish society, whose development has been crucial for our country’s economic and social convergence on the international scene. Moreover, it goes even further, generating a multiplier effect in promoting sustainable development in sectoral and transversal policies on a global scale.

The 2013-2020 Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation, designed by the Ministry of the Economy and Competitiveness in collaboration with the Council on Scientific, Technological, and Innovation Policy (a body that coordinates scientific and technical research comprising the Autonomous communities and the ministries designated by the Central Government), constitutes the strategic framework of reference nationwide in the area of research and innovation.

Spain’s 2017-2020 National Scientific and Technical Research Plan, recognizing the crucial role of the 2030 Agenda as a common and universal commitment to seeking sustainable development, includes a National R&D&i Programme aimed at addressing the challenges facing us, its own national goals, the SDGs, and actions that promote their development and achievement. The Plan aims to apply its instruments (e.g. projects, promotional actions) to the scientific and technical and innovation priorities included in each one of the challenges identified—taking into account the R&D&i capacities of the research stakeholders in the Spain’s science, technology, and innovation system; the coordination of sectoral policies and strategies at the national level in the coming years; and the interest and capacities of the production structure tied to these challenges. Moreover, it has also considered the contribution of R&D&i to achieving the 2030 Agenda’s SDGs.

It can be said that the Strategy contributes, at differing levels of intensity, to all 17 SDGs. The Strategy has the highest profile as regards SDGs 3, 7, 9, 14, with a noteworthy sectoral or mainstreaming role in R&D&i policies (health, energy, and marine issues, as well as R&D&i

overall) and in leading public research bodies in developing and improving those sectoral areas (Carlos III Health Institute [ISCIII], the national Centre for Energy, Environment, and Technology Research [CIEMAT], and the Spanish Institute of Oceanography [IEO]). Moreover, the structure of the SDGs distributes R&D&i activity in the fields of agrifood and forestry—carried out by the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA)—among different SDGs. INIA is a major stakeholder in implementing the National Plan. Therefore, it is important to highlight INIA’s role in the cluster comprising SDGs 2, 6, 12, and 15, where it not only coordinates this area of R&D&i at the national level, but also carries out its own research projects in collaboration with the corresponding socio-economic sectors.

The contribution of R&D&i to every aspect of achieving the SDGs will be addressed specifically in the next Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation. Along these same lines, Spain, looking towards the next EU 2021-2027 Framework Programme for R&D&i, defends including the SDGs as framework conditions in the Framework Programme’s priorities and objectives, and in the development and implementation of EU policies. The SDGs must play a key role in orienting funding programmes and in mission-oriented research, as well as in the innovation intrinsic to R&D activities.

## VII. THE SOCIAL ECONOMY: 2017-2020 STRATEGY

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Act 5/2011, on the Social Economy, launched instruments to promote social enterprises, with special emphasis on those that support employment in disadvantaged sectors with traditional ties to their territory.

The 2017-2020 Spanish Social Economy Strategy responds to the need to articulate a cross-cutting roadmap providing continuity to the 2015-2016 Social Economy Promotion Programme, and strengthening and giving visibility to the corporate fabric of entities in this sector.

The Strategy revolves around 11 key strategic actions, and 63 measures addressing different key aspects of the sector’s development:

- 1. Supporting employment and entrepreneurship in the social economy.
- 2. Promoting the growth and consolidation of social enterprises.
- 3. Analysing and developing the social economy’s legal framework, to eliminate obstacles impeding or limiting its development.
- 4. Generating innovative of mechanisms for the social economy to participate in strategic sectors.
- 5. Promoting the digital economy in social enterprises.
- 6. Fostering institutional participation in the social economy.
- 7. Develop the social economy within the framework of the international agenda, especially in Ibero-America, Europe, and the Mediterranean.
- 8. Raising the profile of social enterprises, and disseminate their activities.
- 9. Fostering gender equality and social inclusion in the social economy.
- 10. Promoting social responsibility within social enterprises.

- 11. Participation of the social economy in the design and implementation of the SDG Agenda.

Lastly, and closely related to the previous point, number 11 addresses the social economy's incorporation and participation in the challenge of implementing the new sustainable development agenda that the United Nations and the international community have set for 2030, with very ambitious goals in which the social economy model should play a leading role, given the goals shared by the SDG Agenda and social enterprises, with their values of internal solidarity and solidarity with society, as well their emphasis on the well-being and employment of persons.

## VIII. OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN

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The 2030 Agenda and the principles of open government complement each other in raising the profile of the role of transparency, citizen participation, responsible public institutions, and technological innovation as facilitators of sustainable development to promote fair, peaceful, and inclusive societies. One of the main challenges of the 2030 Agenda, expressed in SDG 16, is to create a new framework of public governance and a renewed state architecture to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Spain's participation in the Open Government Partnership since 2011 reflect our country's strong commitment to the values that the Partnership advocates and defends. The Partnership seeks to sustainably support governments that are more transparent and accountable, improving their capacity to respond to their citizens' needs to improve the quality of government, as well as the quality of the services that their citizens receive.

Transparency, participation, and accountability should become the foundations of all policy action. The approval of the 2030 Agenda was formulated by an unprecedented open and participatory process led by the United Nations, involving different levels of government, civil society, and the private sector. Being implemented in a context of greater openness, transparency, and access to information on the part of the general public, the 2030 Agenda indicates the importance of strengthening frameworks for monitoring and accountability at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

During the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the UN General Assembly, the Open Government Partnership's Steering Committee approved a joint declaration, "Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which highlighted SDG 16 as a cross-cutting goal for successfully achieving the others, in two ways: directly, through setting objectives and targets focused specifically on openness, echoing SDG 16's promotion of fair, peaceful, and inclusive societies for all through accountable institutions; and indirectly, through acknowledging that the principles of open government are crucial to achieving many other SDGs, providing tools for better designing responsible, transparent mechanisms for monitoring SDG implementation.

With this approach, work has been carried out to implement the previous Open Government plans, and it has also been used in the present 2016-2017 plan.

Spain's Third Open Government Plan has three main goals:

- One: strengthen mechanisms for participation and dialogue with civil society, ensuring that Open Government actions respond to citizens' real needs.
- Two: ensure inter-administrative cooperation between the different levels of the public administrations (national, regional, and local) to promote joint Open Government initiatives in accordance with Spain's needs.
- Three: strengthen the foundations of Open Government, and lay the foundations for adopting measures beyond the Third Plan.

Spain's Third Open Government Plan contains 20 measures, clustered into five major areas: collaboration, participation, transparency, accountability, and training.

## IX. REGAINING A SPANISH COOPERATION AT THE SERVICE OF THE SDGs

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The 2030 Agenda is a universal development agenda, meaning that it is also an agenda for international development action. The SDGs were born out of a multipolar era, when the relationship between the industrialized, emerging, and developing countries has shifted, demanding new formulas for international governance that are more democratic, open, and inclusive, and with a greater capacity to generate international consensus, seeking to provide global public goods.

As a universal development agenda, the 2030 Agenda concerns us all, and finds in international development cooperation one of its main instruments for coordinated action in favour of the least-developed areas, and of those most in need due to situations of extreme poverty, war, or adverse climate impact, among others. Indeed, SDG 17 is entirely devoted to revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. For this purpose, the accelerator proposed by the HLG should contribute to reconceptualizing cooperation policies as spaces for generating transnational partnerships, for South-North-South cooperation, and for exchanging experiences, involving all of Spanish Cooperation's stakeholders.

In recent years, Spanish Cooperation has seen a steady and rapid decline. From being one of the countries the highest growth rate in its official development assistance (ODA), Spain fell to nearly the bottom of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee. This decline not only affected funding, but also ODA institutions, leading to brain drain.

The Government of Spain is committed to the revitalization and recovery of Spanish Cooperation as a cornerstone of implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation is the ultimate planning instrument in this area, providing it with strategic orientation for four-year periods. It is the principal expression in public policy to the Spanish people's commitment to countries and communities that suffer the most from poverty and inequality, in all their multiple dimensions. The Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation represents the efforts of all stakeholders and all levels of public administration in

contributing to development. Therefore, since this represents every aspect of development cooperation, meaning the entirety of development cooperation policies (which also involve Spain's Autonomous Communities and local administrations), the Master Plans are and will continue to be the essential accelerators for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, it is a crucial aspect of achieving SDG 17 and, especially, SDGs 1 and 10 in on a global scale.

The mission of Spanish Cooperation needs to focus on promoting the SDGs and contributing to eradicating poverty, building the resilience of individuals and communities, reducing inequalities, defending human rights and fundamental freedoms, promoting inclusive economic growth, preserving the planet, and combating climate change. Within this wide-ranging starting point of the strategic framework, and maintaining alignment with the 2030 Agenda, Spanish Cooperation is adopting as the SDGs as its own Strategic Objectives.

Spanish Cooperation will promote building and strengthening partnerships and associations with the different stakeholders involved in achieving the SDGs, combining a number of action areas: encouraging alignment with the SDGs and supporting the different development stakeholders, in Spain and in partner countries, in their efforts to design and implement transformations in the policies, programmes, and practices necessary to reach these goals; catalysing PCSD; mobilizing the Spanish public to support achieving the SDGs, through training in global competencies, communication, and education for development; and actively and decisively supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda in every international forum in which Spain participates. These will be promoted among the different international cooperation actors—public, private, and from civil society, whether from Spain or our partner countries—to maximize synergies, complement resources, enrich learning, and raise their impact of these interventions on development.

## 9. Transformative measures: Laying the foundations

If promoting specific policies targeting one or several SDGs are essential for accelerating progress, the next section presents the immediate, concrete measures to be carried out in those areas that are basic, horizontal aspects of advancing towards achieving the SDGs. The term *transformative measures* aims to reflect those actions and policy initiatives that can be launched almost right away, at little or no cost, and whose capacity for transformation is extraordinarily high in terms of laying the foundations for a successful deployment of accelerator policies, as well as the future Sustainable Development Strategy.

These transformative measures, as in the case of the accelerator policies, are, by their very nature, comprehensive and cross-cutting. Their implementation must necessarily be carried out in an integrated manner, with the active participation of different ministries and with a multi-level, multi-stakeholder structure. The following table sets out the different major leadership roles within Spain's Central Administration as regards the different proposed measures.

| TRANSFORMATIVE MEASURE  | LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION  |
|---|---|
| I. PUTTING THE 2030 AGENDA AT THE HEART OF SPAIN'S IDENTITY IN THE WORLD, IN EUROPEAN AND MULTILATERAL POLICY                 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation                                   |
| II. PROMOTING SDG PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS   | High Commission for the 2030 Agenda<br>Presidency of the Government                               |
| III. PROMOTING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A CRUCIAL BUILDING BLOCK: REACHING TARGET 4.7 BY 2025                 | Ministry of Education and Vocational Training<br>Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities |
| IV. INFORMING FOR KNOWLEDGE. AWARENESS-RAISING FOR ACTION. COMMUNICATING FOR TRANSFORMATION: A 2030 AGENDA COMMUNICATION PACT | High Commission for the 2030 Agenda<br>Presidency of the Government                               |
| V. PROMOTING CULTURE AS A KEY ELEMENT FOR TRANSFORMATION  | Ministry of Culture and Sport   |
| VI. PROMOTING A CIVIL SERVICE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO IMPLEMENT THE SDGs   | Ministry of Territorial Policy and of the Civil Service   |
| VII. BUDGETING FOR THE SDGs: ALIGNING EACH MINISTRY'S BUDGET  | Ministry of the Treasury  |
| VIII. ALIGNING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WITH THE SDGs   | Ministry of the Treasury<br>Ministry of Economy and Business                                      |
| IX. ESTABLISHING COMPULSORY SDG IMPACT REPORTS IN LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY  | Ministry of the Presidency of the Government, Relations with Parliament, and Equality             |
| X. ALIGNING THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE NATIONAL REFORMS PLAN   | High Commission for the 2030 Agenda<br>Presidency of the Government                               |

## I. PUTTING THE 2030 AGENDA AT THE HEART OF SPAIN'S IDENTITY IN THE WORLD, IN EUROPEAN AND MULTILATERAL POLICY

Commitment: *Promote decisively the advancement, implementation, and goals of the 2030 Agenda within the European Union and within all international forums and institutions*

Achieving the SDGs requires a sustained effort on the part of all countries, levels of government, and social and economic actors. This can only be effective if the 2030 Agenda is stepped up, maintained, and promoted decisively on a regional and global scale. In particular, within the EU it is necessary for the Member States and European institutions to bring to bear their political leadership in order to place the SDGs at the centre of the European project.

Spain is strongly committed at the international level to fully implement the 2030 Agenda through our participation in the EU, the UN, the OECD, the G20, and all other international forums.

Promoting and strengthening the 2030 Agenda is now one of the pillars of our multilateral action, and Spain is committed to driving its implementation in multilateral forums—most especially, within the EU.

## II. PROMOTING SDG PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN ALL STAKEHOLDERS AS VECTORS OF TRANSFORMATION

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Commitment: *Promote decisively the creation of inclusive multi-stakeholder partnership for the SDGs, with the necessary mutual accountability, for specific actions regarding the SDGs.*

The 2030 Agenda represents the birth of a new paradigm for partnerships involving the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors: inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships. This kind of partnership differs substantially from the classic public-private partnerships (PPP), very common in Spain. The difference is that inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships are aimed at achieving one or more SDGs, with a transformative approach, rather than directly providing a service or delivering infrastructure. The UN has been promoting and supporting this new way of working through such initiatives as “Sustainable Energy for All”, “Every Woman, Every Child”, “Education For All”, “Zero Hunger Challenge”, and the “Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria”. Spain has played an important part in all of them.

In fact, Spain is witnessing the flowering a diversity of specific initiatives of this kind, since the adoption of the Agenda. Initiatives that highlight the know-how, innovation, and capacities of each stakeholder as regards the SDGs, creating virtuous circles for advancing them. This approach is equally relevant in international cooperation—where Spain already has a specific instrument and methodology for its promotion, through AECID—and domestically.

The creation of a setting enabling the forging of these kinds of partnerships, and the necessary incentives—both in development cooperation activities and in those for urban, rural, or sectoral development in Spain—is one of the measures that should be considered a pillar of this Action Plan.

Closely related to these new inclusive partnerships, the fourth sector is a new economic and regulatory space emerging from the intersection of the three traditional sectors (public, private, and non-profit). This category includes all of the companies and business models which, without disregarding financial success, have the main goal of creating a more inclusive, just, and sustainable economy; indeed, it has become one of the most promising vehicles that States have for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

## III. PROMOTING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A CRUCIAL BUILDING BLOCK: REACHING TARGET 4.7 BY 2025

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Commitment: *Reach Target 4.7 in Spain by 2025, five years before 2030:*

*SDG 4 (Target 4.7): "By 2030, ensure that all learners in Spain acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."*

The scope of this target means that all of the administrations and actors with responsibility and roles in the educational sectors need to commit to, and assume ownership of, achieving it in their own settings—this is especially true for the Autonomous Communities in Spain, since educational authority has been devolved to them. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training and the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities—each within its own scope—will propose this commitment to all stakeholders to attain the necessary consensus.

Measures and targets:

- 1) This commitment will be proposed to the Sectoral Conference on Education and the General Conference on University Policy, as well as the following measures to be undertaken by all of the administrations and actors involved:
  - a. By 2025, incorporate education for sustainable development (as defined in Target 4.7 and according to UNESCO guidelines) into all compulsory education and throughout the educational system, by means of educational plans and programmes.
  - b. By 2021, incorporate the 2030 Agenda and SDGs into the syllabi of all undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, so that all students who finish undergraduate or postgraduate will have basic studies in sustainable development and global citizenship by 2025.
  - c. By 2022, incorporate the knowledge and skills necessary for teaching sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda into the system of access to the teaching profession (at the compulsory and university levels) as part of the minimum requirements for hiring processes.
  - d. By 2025, all teaching staff in compulsory and university education will have received qualifications in the 2030 Agenda.

Achievement of Target 4.7 is an essential condition for children and both people to be able to effectively exercise their agency for chance. Enabling students to share the values and contents of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in all their magnitude, is a fundamental responsibility of public policies for the educational system.

It is of importance to scale up the efforts aimed at strengthening the role that education plays in the full realization of human rights, peace, responsible exercise of local and global citizenship, gender equality, sustainable development, and health. The contents of this education must be appropriate and include both cognitive and non-cognitive aspects of learning. As highlighted by UNESCO in its approach to SDG 4, the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that everyone needs to live a fruitful life, make informed decisions, and take an active role—both at the local and global levels—in addressing and resolving worldwide problems, can be acquired through education for sustainable development and education for global citizenship—which also includes education for peace and human rights—and through intercultural education and education for international understanding.

Target 4.7 explicitly calls on educational models to incorporate comprehensive learning based on such shared values as human rights. Therefore, it is essential for the proposed educational model to respond to the commitments undertaken regarding the SDGs, teaching children and young people to live in our complex, interconnected world, including in their curricula mechanisms making it possible to provide learners with the tools to understand the world, the socio-affective skills to manage it, and with critical thinking, in order to promote the values of human dignity, equality, justice, solidarity and participation that are the foundations of peaceful, democratic coexistence.

#### IV. INFORMING FOR KNOWLEDGE: AWARENESS-RAISING FOR ACTION. COMMUNICATING FOR TRANSFORMATION: A 2030 AGENDA COMMUNICATION PACT

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*Target: By 2020, all Spaniards will know about the 2030 Agenda and be aware of the scope of transformation it entails.*

*Commitment: A 2030 Agenda Communication Pact, involving the public administrations and stakeholders from the private sectors and civil society.*

Knowledge constitutes one of the basic, necessary principles for compliance with the 2030 Agenda. We cannot aspire to achieve these goals if we are not able to have a citizenry and organizations that are familiar with the SDGs' transformative dimension.

However, we cannot be satisfied with merely knowing about the SDGs; we must go beyond that and raise awareness throughout our society so that this knowledge can become resolute action to transform the world in which we live.

Measures:

- 1) A joint communication plan will be designed, with appropriate follow-up mechanisms.
- 2) A study will be conducted periodically to measure the knowledge and 2030 Agenda, the SDGs, and sustainable development.
- 3) The Central Administration will create its own Communication Plan, with the participation of all stakeholders.

The many different communication, awareness-raising, and informative actions already being carried out by different actors in this area are crucial, but their effectiveness could be multiplied if a pact were reached to achieve this goal through the efforts of all the different actors, including NGOs and the media, as well as every level of the public administrations.

The articulation, through a 2030 Agenda Communication Pact, of the respective communication plans and actions of city councils and local governments, of companies, NGOs, and the Government of Spain, would provide a means for mobilizing all of the media, spaces, and channels for communication in a consistent manner, and indubitably have a major impact. Respecting the diversity and creativity of each stakeholder, this concerted action by means of the Pact would make it possible to modulate messages, coordinate joint campaigns, and follow up on their results.

## V. PROMOTING CULTURE AS A KEY ELEMENT FOR TRANSFORMATION

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*Commitment: **Decisively promote cultural action for dissemination and ownership of the 2030 Agenda***

It is difficult to understand something as vast as the transformation of our framework for living and coexistence at the national and international levels without taking into account the culture, or cultures, that are having an enormous impact on our global problems. The relationship between culture and the 2030 Agenda must be strengthened as part of its implementation, recognizing the crucial ties between culture and the current concept of human development, and the intangible contributions of cultural life to sociability, coexistence, and social cohesion, modernizing the legal protection of the cultural and creative industries' intellectual property rights.

The relationship between development, poverty and culture generates a certain amount of prejudice and resistance, due to the view that everything related with culture is a luxury, one that is dispensable in the face of the existence of other more basic needs. This is why it is so necessary to establish strategies and agreements for incorporating the strengthening of culture into the development agenda, as set forth in paragraph 36 of the UN Declaration on the 2030 Agenda.

The cultural actions carried out by governments have a huge potential for disseminating the 2030 Agenda, setting off the necessary paradigm shift for achieving its goals and targets, and for developing sustainably, as the Agenda requires. Here, it is worth highlighting the leading role that local governments can play, as the level of administration closest to the public; indeed, in Spain it is the local administrations that make the greatest investment in culture—whether in terms of promotion, dissemination, or procurement.

## VI. PROMOTING A CIVIL SERVICE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO IMPLEMENT THE SDGs

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*Commitment: **In 2022, all public employees in the Spanish Central Administration will be aware of the 2030 Agenda, and those who have direct responsibilities involving its implementation will have the necessary skills to do so.***

Measures and targets:

- 1) By 2022, all selective civil service exams will include content related to the 2030 Agenda (by 2020 for civil servants whose selection process is managed by the National Institute of Public Administration [INAP], and by 2022 for all corps of the Central Administration)
- 2) By 2020, all selective courses for acceding to civil service corps of the A1 and A2 levels will include the development of skills linked to implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- 3) By 2019, the training programmes for public employees of the Central Administration will include content regarding the 2030 Agenda.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of public policies aligned with the SDGs. The SDGs are integrated and indivisible, which demands changes in the administrative culture and practices, so that an intersectoral,

multidisciplinary approach can prevail against the traditional silos, strengthening partnerships among the different public administrations and the outside actors. In this sense, the 2030 Agenda represents a golden opportunity for transforming the civil service, promoting a more open, results-oriented administration, one having skills more in keeping with the new challenges.

The public employees of the Central Administration should be aware of the principles inspiring the content of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and their targets and indicators, as well as their implementation and monitoring systems. In particular, those employees at the technical and mid-to-upper management level should have the skills and capacities necessary for applying them. To this end, the selective courses for acceding to those positions will include development of the necessary skills.

## VII. BUDGETING FOR THE SDGs: ALIGNING EACH MINISTRY'S BUDGET

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Commitment: *By 2020, a relationship will be established between the SDGs and the spending and programming policies carried out, making it possible to analyse budget allocations with SDGs.*

Measures and targets:

- 1) By 2019, a pilot methodology will be available for aligning the budget of each Spanish ministry with the SDGs, to be implemented in 2020.
- 2) In 2020, an exercise will be carried out to reflect the budget allocations per SDG.

A crucial element in implementing the 2030 Agenda is providing the means for implementation necessary for achieving the SDGs. This includes coherence among all the policies contributing to the SDGs, establishing the necessary incentives for private investment to be oriented towards achieving the SDGs, as well as public investment and spending, of course.

The identification of how the public budget of each ministry contributes to the SDGs is an essential condition to achieving SDG-oriented management.

At present, a great deal of public investment and spending—such as social, educational, or healthcare spending—is aimed at achieving and maintaining the advances of certain SDGs. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go in optimizing the available resources and allocating them adequately, as far as cost-effectiveness is concerned.

While this Action Plan is in force, the necessary measures will be launched for this to be possible by 2020.

## VIII. ALIGNING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WITH THE SDGs

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Commitment: *The National Public Procurement Strategy will incorporate the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, SDG 12 (Target 12.7) into its general framework, goals, and targets, and promote the measures necessary for using the potential of public procurement to support the SDGs.*

Measures and targets:

- 1) By 2019, a pilot methodology will be available for aligning Spain's General State Budget with the SDGs, to be implemented in drafting the 2020 General State Budget.
- 2) In 2020, an exercise will be carried out to draw up the 2021 General Stage Budget, reflecting the budget allocations per SDG.

The 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda recognize that to achieve the SDGs, a mass mobilization of private investment will be essential, as well as a transition in business models and strategies towards a model of generating social and environmental—as well as financial—value. The adoption of the SDGs has provided a globally agreed framework.

This can also be seen in the contribution of the Spanish business community to this Action Plan, stating its strong commitment to such an approach, and asking the Government of Spain to adapt its framework of incentives and regulations for this transition to occur on the necessary scale.

While this Action Plan is in effect, this key target for achieving SDG 12—"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"—will be met. Indeed, Spain's new Independent Office of Procurement Regulation and Oversight (created as a provision of Act 9/2017, of 8 November, on Public Sector Procurement), which will promote measures aimed at using the possibilities of public procurement to support environmental, social, and innovation policies. The SDGs are incorporated into the general framework of goals, targets, and criteria, in this context.

## IX. ESTABLISHING COMPULSORY SDG IMPACT REPORTS IN LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

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Commitment: ***By 2019, all legislation in the Spanish Parliament presented by the Government must include a compulsory analysis of impact on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.***

Measures and targets:

- 1) By the end of 2018, the Methodological Manual for Compulsory Impact Analysis Reports (MAIN) will include elements making it possible to analyse impact on the SDGs, pursuant to Article 1 of Royal Decree 931/2017, of 27 October, regulating Compulsory Impact Analysis Reports.
- 2) In light of the experience acquired, the next revision of Royal Decree 931/2017 will include a reference to SDG impact analysis.

The purpose of Compulsory Impact Analysis Reports is to ensure that in these processes, those tasked with designing and approving a draft provision have the necessary information for estimating what impact it will have on the public, and the means that will be necessary for administrators to be able to implement it. To achieve Target 17.14, "Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development", an essential step is ex-ante analysis of the impact of public policies and the contents of key legislative instruments on the SDGs, both in terms of their domestic impact and their impact on global public goods and on third countries. This includes drafts of Acts of Parliament and of Royal Decree-Laws, Royal Legislative Degrees, and regulatory laws.

This was stated in the demand by the Congress of Deputies that the Government of Spain "align parliamentary initiatives with the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda. To that end, any parliamentary legislation presented by the Government must include a compulsory impact

report regarding compliance with the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the priorities defined for Spain according to the indicators of reference.”

## X. ALIGNING THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE NATIONAL REFORMS PLAN

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Commitment: *The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and progress on the SDGs will be integrated into the National Reforms Plan that the Government of Spain annually presents to the European Union, from the 2019 National Reforms Plan onwards.*

The EU considered a the wider-ranging, more long-term vision of its 2020 Strategy and the 2030 Agenda to be part of the European Semester, and therefore key in guiding its actions<sup>4</sup>. In this context, reforms should take into consideration advancing towards the SDGs, and promoting the transition to a sustainable development model. Therefore, it is necessary to establish clear national priorities and goals, and a road map for convergence with the 2030 Agenda, in keeping with the timeframe that Agenda establishes. The creation of a High-Level Group for the 2030 Agenda in 2017, in the Government’s Delegate Commission for Economic Affairs, as well as the decision to for Spain to take part in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2018, mark the beginning of this convergence. The next VNR involving Spain will report on progress towards the SDGs in Spain and progress on the Action Plan, including the relationship between the reforms presented in the VNR and the SDGs.

### 10. Policy coherence for sustainable development, all over the world

Public policies as a whole have a strong impact on developing countries. Spain’s global responsibilities are a crucial part of its contribution to achieving the SDGs. Within the 2030 Agenda, it is essential to provide the necessary support to countries and communities facing the most severe difficulties, through international cooperation, as well as to prevent national development from having a negative impact on progress towards the SDGs in other countries (whether directly, or a result of negative impact on global public goods).

The second of these dimensions corresponds to the necessary positive impact that domestic public policies and the private actions of all Spanish stakeholders should have on global public goods and on the efforts of other countries and societies to achieve the SDGs. Obviously, economic progress and consequent progress on the SDGs cannot be carried out in one country by undermining other countries’ potential for progress, whether due to an indirect impact on their societies or negative impact on global public goods.

This dimension has been considered for some time within the scope of development cooperation policy, as stated in Article 4 of the aforesaid International Development Cooperation Act: “The principles and objectives stated in the above Articles shall underlie all policies applied by Public Administrations in the framework of their respective powers and

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<sup>4</sup>European Commission ( 2017) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank Brussels, COM(2017) 500 final <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2017-european-semester-country-specific-recommendations-commission-recommendations-communication.pdf>

which may impact developing countries.” This is a principle that has been developed by the successive Spanish Cooperation Master Plans, to the point of becoming an essential value in the 2030 Agenda, which ultimately must be understood as an agenda of policy coherence for global development.

This is why policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) is one of the main challenges as regards implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Responsibility for safeguarding policy coherence falls to the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, who will address possible conflicts between different policy objectives. This dynamic will also be based on already existing mechanisms, where the focal points for policy coherence of each ministry, established in 2010, and the Directorate-General for Sustainable Development Policies at MAUC play an important role. The proposed measures for advancing this are:

- 1) An SDG impact analysis will be incorporated into legislative initiatives, so that the analysis of their external and global impact on the SDGs will be a required part of the compulsory impact analysis reports, as expressed in transformative measure IX: “Establishing compulsory SDG impact reports in legislative activity”.
- 2) The impact of Spanish foreign policy on the SDGs, on a global scale and in third countries, will be stepped up in the mechanism for preparing, designing, and monitoring Spanish Cooperation’s Country Partnership Frameworks.
- 3) The analysis of policy coherence (impact of national policies on third countries and on global public goods) will be incorporated into the Spanish Parliament’s accountability mechanism, and the annual progress report on the 2030 Agenda.

## 11. Implementation measures

A crucial element in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is providing the necessary implementation means to achieve the SDGs. This includes coherence among all the policies contributing to the SDGs, establishing the necessary incentives for private investment to be oriented towards achieving the SDGs, as well as public investment and spending, of course.

At present, a great deal of public investment and spending—such as social, educational, or healthcare spending—is aimed at achieving and maintaining the advances of certain SDGs. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go in optimizing the available resources and allocating them adequately, as far as cost-effectiveness is concerned.

The identification of how the public budget of each ministry contributes to the SDGs is an essential condition to achieving SDG-oriented management. While this Action Plan is in force, the necessary measures will be launched for this to be possible by 2020. With the results of these measures, a basic structure will be designed for standardized data and methodologies making it possible for each ministry—which best knows its own budget and how it is spent, and always conditioned by the budget availability and limits in any given year, and without incurring extra staffing costs—to annually produce a report analysing this alignment of public resources with the SDGs, within each ministries scope of authority. Each of these reports will be incorporated into a final report comprehensively setting forth the credit of each of the different public administrations earmarked for funding the SDGs.

Moreover, the 2030 Agenda and the AAAA recognize that, to achieve the SDGs, a mass mobilization of private investment will be essential, as well as a transition in business models and strategies towards a model of generating social and environmental—as well as financial—

value. This can also be seen in the contribution of the Spanish business community to this Action Plan, stating its strong commitment to such an approach, and asking the Government of Spain to adapt its framework of incentives and regulations for this transition to occur on the necessary scale. Those in the business community who are committed to the SDGs know better than anyone that the future is low-carbon and sustainable, with the SDGs being a clear market signal for how to orient investments that, in some cases, will take years or even decades to turn a profit. Corporations have also understood that impact on sustainability and achieving the SDGs will be a determining factor in global competitiveness—not only in the future, but right now.

One of the most powerful incentives among those demanded by the business sector in the process of defining the 2030 Agenda is to include sustainability criteria in public procurement processes. This can be seen in Target 12.7: “Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities.”

To that end, the National Public Procurement Strategy will incorporate the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, SDG 12 (Target 12.7) into its general framework, goals, and targets, and promote the measures necessary for using the potential of public procurement to support the SDGs.

Lastly, a Special Support Office for the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda has been created, within the Presidency of the Government, to improve and promote implementation, as well as to strengthen, in parallel, the focal points at each ministry, without incurring additional public expenditure and reassigning resources. This office will play a key role in articulating the means of implementation of the SDGs and the AAAA.

## 12. Monitoring, accountability, and evaluation

### 12.1. MONITORING AND SCORECARD

Especially significant is the configuration of the scorecard or system of indicators for monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda’s goals. The present Plan has been designed as the first version of this panel in Spain which, according to the UN Statistical Commission’s criteria for global indicators, should be conceived as an evolving structure, adding additional indicators as data becomes available, or as it becomes advisable to introduce them.

At the regional level, Eurostat had advanced on defining a framework of its own 100 indicators for the EU as regards the SDGs, among which 56 are aligned with the UN global indicators, 68 form part of the European Statistical System (ESS), and the other 32 come from official sources not in the ESS.

In Spain, INE has already incorporated the 2030 Agenda indicators into its National Statistics Plan, into its strategic vision and operations, and is completely committed to making steady progress on complying with all of the reporting requirements of the UN’s official indicators system.

The scorecard for Spain was conceived according to the following principles:

- All of the indicators included, and corresponding data sources, form part of the National Statistical System, the guarantor of their quality.

- It will include all of the available indicators of the global system, and in future years others will be incorporated as the information becomes available.
- Likewise, it will incorporate the indicators used by Eurostat for monitoring within the EU.
- Furthermore, it will continue to incorporate specific indicators into the national statistics system to reflect the situation in Spain, at the proposal of Spanish ministries, the Autonomous Communities, local administrations, and other stakeholders.
- These data will be disaggregated, as the UN requires, and also broken down geographically.

As recommended by Spain’s Congress of Deputies, the set of indicators for 2018 must be defined as soon as possible through a process promoting the participation of the different stakeholders. Some useful guidelines could be found in the proposed indicators for sustainable development in Spain designed by Oxfam Intermón, Spain’s National UNICEF Committee, and WWF Spain, presented in their report *“Agenda 2030: Una oportunidad para las personas del planeta”* (“2030 Agenda: An Opportunity for People and the Planet”), from September 2017.

The scorecard will be made available to the public and updated through the online InfODS system, with data provided by INE and other entities in Spain’s National Statistical System, which both generate and manage these data. Furthermore, links will be provided to the statistical operators employed to obtain the indicators, so that they will be able to consult the corresponding methodologies and other associated metadata.

The first configuration of the entire Spanish scorecard is presented in Appendix 2 of the Plan. Its conceptual structure is shown in the table below.

| SCORECARD OF OFFICIAL INDICATORS FOR MONITORING THE SDGs IN SPAIN |                      |                             |                               |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|   | Global UN indicators | Indicators used by Eurostat | Specific indicators for Spain |

## 12.2. ACCOUNTABILITY AND ANNUAL REPORT

As requested by the Congress of Deputies, the Government will periodically inform the Congress, in whatever appearances are determined, of progress being made on implementation. This process will have the structure determined by Parliament, foreseeably with a leading role being played by the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda.

The Government will annually submit a comprehensive report on its fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, for accountability purposes, to the corresponding parliamentary committee, and it will also be debated and commented on by the specific consultation bodies determined. The report will contain progress made on the 2030 Agenda and on the implementation of this Plan, and it will specifically include reporting on policy coherence with the SDGs from the perspective of their impact on third countries and global public goods.

The Congress of Deputies and Senate may, in the exercise of their authority, propose the holding of an annual plenary session to monitor progress made on the 2030 Agenda. In any case, parliamentary control requirements will be complied with for the monitoring of the 2030

Agenda's sector-based aspects that are the responsibility of each of the parliamentary committees.

Likewise, annual reports will be produced by each of the bodies constituting the governance structure for the 2030 Agenda, especially the High Commission for the 2030 Agenda, describing the work and contributions of each of the actors and territorial institutions involved in compliance with this Action Plan.

### 12.3. EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation of the actions undertaken is conceived as an essential instrument for expanding and enriching these processes. This interest in evaluation is not only focused on analysing the final results, but also on understanding and improving the process and context within which these actions are carried out, as well as their scope, relevance, articulation, and continuity.

After the Action Plan is completed, an independent evaluation of the Plan will be carried out in 2020, for two reasons. The first is improve implementation of the 2030 Agenda, collating all of the lessons learned over its two years in force, in order to adjust the measures, policies, and governance mechanisms in the future. As part of a second VNR, Spain will present the outcomes of this Plan, its evaluation and lessons learned, and the new Sustainable Development Strategy.

The second reason is to consolidate the evaluation function as one of the pillars for enhancing the impact of public policies on the SDGs, especially accelerator policies and transformative measures. To this end, the coordination and coherence of evaluation activities will be incorporated in to the HLG's work dynamic, in order to articulate what will be an online evaluation of the different accelerator policies and measures, through the lens of the SDGs.

Spain's Institute for Public Policy Evaluation will be responsible for creating a system for the evaluation process's general coordination, in close collaboration with the responsible units in each ministry, appropriately aligning the methodologies with those adopted by the EU and the OECD.



# LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGs IN SPAIN

Localization processes have marked the first steps towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain, enabling a situation of involvement by all territorial stakeholders.

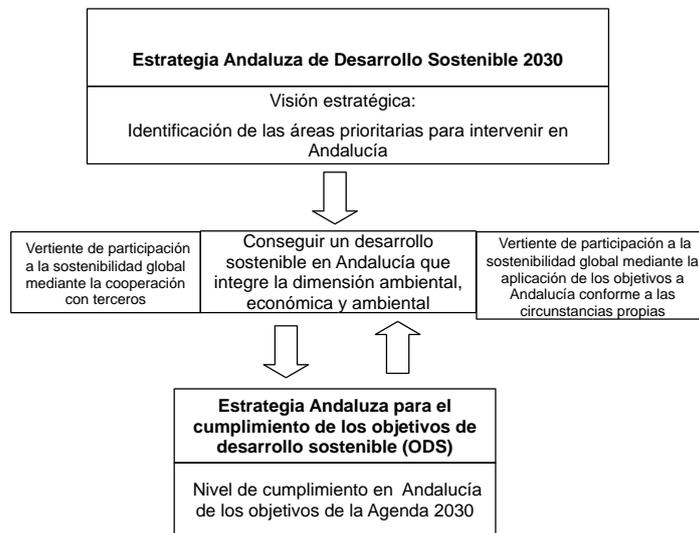
The structures for dialogue and participation that facilitated the drafting of the Action Plan have been explained. In addition, a number of Spain’s Autonomous Communities that are highly motivated and committed to the Agenda had already begun designing and developing regional policies, strategies and plans focused on the SDGs, and have subsequently been joined by the remainder. In parallel, municipal and provincial authorities have undertaken similar exercises at the local level. In this regard, FEMP has played a strategic role in the development of the concept and the tools for localization, as well as the positioning of the vision and the interests of local authorities.

This section contains the main elements of these regional and local strategies, as formulated by their respective regional governments and by FEMP. This is an essential chapter of the Action Plan, which will continue to be expanded and completed as the Autonomous Communities and local authorities define their respective action plans or strategies.

### 13. Commitments by Autonomous Communities

#### ANDALUSIA

The government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia has committed to progress with the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda by preparing two specific strategic plans: the Andalusian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (*EADS 2030*) and the Andalusian Strategy for Fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (*Agenda 2030 Andalucía*).



At May 2018, following three years of coordinated preparation by all the departments of the regional administration and a process of citizen participation, the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 was pending final approval by the Governing Council of Andalusia. Approval was expected in June 2018. In development and continuation of the Andalusian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, the Andalusian Strategy for Fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals was formulated in October 2016 and is currently in the preparatory stage.

The Andalusian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 establishes the conceptual and strategic framework for developing public policies linked to sustainable development that affect Andalusia or that are prepared by Andalusia, and the Strategy for Fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals covers the instrumental objective of measuring the degree of progress in Andalusia for each of the 2030 Agenda goals and targets.

The Andalusian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (EADS 2030) has been conceived as an instrument to guide public and private policy by defining lines of action and measures in areas that have been identified as strategic for sustainable development in the region, based on the particularities and problems specific to Andalusia. The value of this Strategy lies in its contribution of an overview of the core questions regarding sustainable development in Andalusia and its adaptation of the objectives established in international instruments, primarily the United Nations 2030 Agenda, to the characteristics of the Autonomous Community.

In this regard, both the objectives and the lines of action are aligned with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, always from the perspective of the matters that are considered strategic in Andalusia. With this standpoint, the guidelines and recommendations are based on two pillars that are considered to be priorities: promotion of the green economy, in a region whose conventional economy contributes a high percentage of extractive resources to Spain's national economy (materials and energy), in exchange for a low degree of participation in Spain's GDP; and strengthening of social cohesion, which is a weakness in the Andalusian socio-economic model, when compared to other regions of Spain and other regions of Europe.

Given these pillars for action, 13 strategic areas have been selected, including health, education, management of natural resources, climate change and rural development, covering the diverse themes contained in the 2030 Agenda. These strategic areas are aligned with each of the Agenda's 17 SDGs. Based on these areas, 37 lines of action have been designed, broken down into 226 measures, primarily focused on the public sector but also on the private sector and also on the general public as a whole.

To evaluate and monitor the Strategy, a schedule for interim evaluations has been prepared, covering the period up to 2030, and an initial set of 43 indicators has been defined, as a tool for analysis and a starting point for evaluation. These indicators are representative of the lines of action set forth for the strategic areas and in many cases they are the same as the indicators to measure the specific targets of the 2030 Agenda; the indicators are from official statistical sources, thus ensuring technical rigor in the gathering of data and information, pursuant to reliable, stable, precise, efficient and proven methodologies.

#### The Andalusian Strategy for Fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals

As a second stage of the Andalusian Sustainable Development Strategy 2030, the Andalusian Strategy for Fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, formulated in 2016 and currently in the preparatory stage, specifies an Andalusian action plan to fulfil each of the 17 Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda and proposes the following objectives:

- Propose the roadmap for fulfilment of the SDGs in the field of international development cooperation.
- Develop mechanisms to coordinate Andalusian policies, in the interests of development policy coherence.
- Promote coordination with other administrative bodies, to align Andalusia's public policies, as a global stakeholder in the 2030 Agenda.

- Foster relations with the different stakeholders in Andalusian cooperation, to contribute to fulfilment of the SDGs.
- Inform the public of Andalusia, and raising awareness, of the importance of the SDGs and of the role all of society plays in their fulfilment.
- Promote training and research to improve fulfilment of the SDGs through public policies.
- Promote Andalusia’s participation in debates on the 2030 Agenda, and in national and international networks and forums related to the SDGs.

## ARAGON

### The Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy

The Government of Aragon has committed to the 2030 Agenda and to the SDGs through the Government Plan for the 9<sup>th</sup> term of the regional parliament, promoting a set of actions that constitute the **Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy**. A 2030 Agenda implemented using an open and participatory methodology that aims to involve the maximum number of stakeholders from civil society and the private sector, as well as acting as the driving force for all of the different administrations in Aragon: universities, municipal councils, districts and provincial councils.

Furthermore, on the anniversary of the Expo Zaragoza 2008 on Water and Sustainable Development, a strategic plan entitled **EBRO2030** will be promoted, encompassing the legacy from the Expo, with three pillars: **an Agenda of International Events concerning Goal 6: Water; The Sustainable Development Plan for the Ebro River Valley; and Parque Innova**: A plan to vitalize the Expo site centred on education and digital inclusion to promote an equitable transition to the knowledge economy.



## Methodological framework

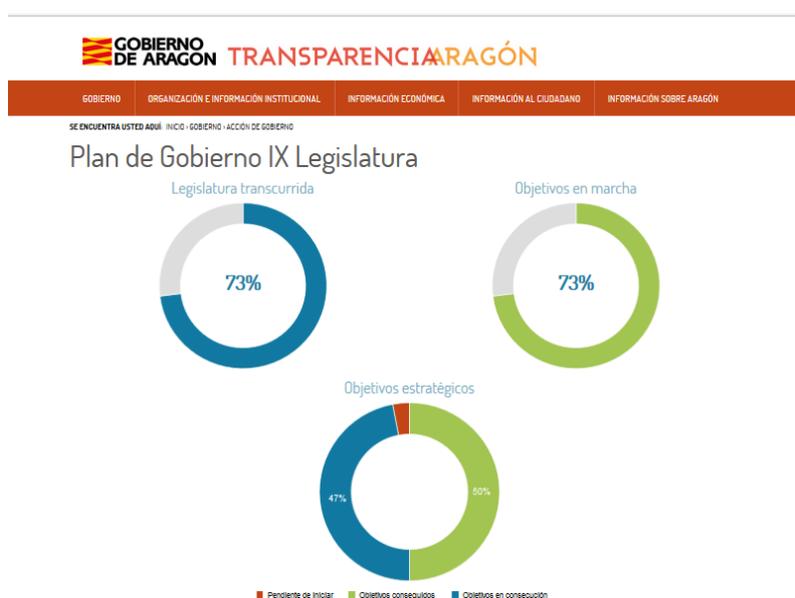
One year ago, through Government of Aragon Decree 69/2017, of 9 May, an **interdepartmental committee was created, called the Observatory on Inequality in Aragon**. The committee was promoted by the regional Social Rights Department, through the Family and Equality Directorate, with the participation of Development Cooperation, Transparency, Participation, and Planning, to define the framework document for the **Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy 2030**, which all of the departments of the Government of Aragon are collaborating on. The strategy can be summarized in three areas: Implementation, Participation and Partnerships.

## IMPLEMENTATION

This is the central part of the Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy, focusing on how the Government of Aragon will develop measures aimed at fulfilling the SDGs in the Autonomous Community of Aragon. It takes the form of three actions:

1.1. **Mapping of SDGs in the Government of Aragon.** Similarly to the mapping performed by the Government of Spain, Aragon has aligned all strategic policies (e.g. plans, programmes, laws) in the Government Plan for the 9<sup>th</sup> term of the Regional Parliament with the 17 SDGs. All of the departments of the Government of Aragon are participating in this process. The Map is an exhaustive document containing commitments and impact indicators. Timing: June 2018

1.2. **System for monitoring and viewing of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through the Government of Aragon Transparency Portal.** Taking the real-time monitoring system from the Government Plan as a reference—a system which enables viewing of progress with and fulfilment of the 147 objectives for the 9<sup>th</sup> term of the Regional Parliament, analysis of each of the objectives and correlation of each objective with time elapsed—Aragon will implement a similar system for the Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy. Timing: 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018



1.3. **Presentation of the Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy.** In order for Aragon to form part of the global United Nations review of the Spanish Government, the regional government intends to submit the framework plan for the Aragonese Sustainable Development

Strategy on 17 July (or the date of the review), including the map, partnerships and participation processes.

**1.4. Aragonese Cooperation Plan.** Both the 2016-2019 Master Plan for Aragonese Development Cooperation, including the corresponding Annual Plan for 2018, and the future Aragonese Cooperation Pact 2023 are built around and aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs.

**1.5. The Aragonese Education Strategy for Development and Global Citizenship.** The objective of the Education Strategy for Development and Global Citizenship is to build a critical and active public in Aragon, a public which is committed to building a global society of solidarity—a fair and equitable society. Activities that apply the perspective of the 2030 Agenda have been established as priorities.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The section on Partnerships contains the activities aimed at establishing links and agreements with other institutions, entities and companies. It takes the form of the following actions:

**2.1. Local SDG Agenda.** Collaboration with the Aragonese Federation of Municipalities, Districts and Provinces (FAMCP) to publicize and promote the 2030 Agenda in the municipalities and districts of Aragon. The first session was held in June 2018 in the framework of the Education Strategy for Development and Global Citizenship.

**2.2. University Teaching in Cooperation: Impact Observatory.** As part of the University Teaching in Development Cooperation arrangement between the Government of Aragon, the University of Zaragoza and the Aragonese Solidarity Federation (which includes most Aragonese NGOs), this year for the first time the Impact Observatory will be promoted with the aim of measuring the social return on investment by Aragonese cooperation, using the SDGs as parameters. This Observatory takes the form of a theoretical module of the Cooperation Master's Degree, a number of research grants, an onsite internship programme and a final report, which aims to employ criteria to apply an objective approach to the impact of cooperation projects in the framework of the 17 SDGs. Agreement being processed.

**2.3. Inequality Observatory - UNICEF.** One of the first actions taken by the interdepartmental committee was to create the Inequality Observatory, in collaboration with the lecturer from the University of Zaragoza, Pau Mari-Klose. The observatory will focus its first actions on child poverty, in conjunction with UNICEF.

**2.4. C&I Working Group: Cooperation & Innovation.** A working group has been established by the Aragonese Solidarity Foundation (FAS), CEOE, CEPYME, and the Young Entrepreneurs Association (AJE). The purpose of the working group is to design a joint strategy to incorporate innovation criteria into cooperation projects, with the aim of amplifying their impact, through the framework of businesses in Aragon—in the context of their CSR programmes—as well as promoting the digital transition to the information society, and knowledge of the administration and of the third sector. The ultimate objective is to foster and promote the “fourth sector” in Aragon as a space for collaboration between the public sector, private sector and society, which is inseparable from the 2030 Agenda itself

2.5. **2030 Sustainable Development Partnership.** Before the end of 2018 a large event will be held, to look at all of the work undertaken by the administrations, businesses and the third sector. The aim of the meeting is to present the Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy and to plan joint actions for the 2019-2030 period, with a view to it becoming the Sustainable Development Council.

## PARTICIPATION

Participation will be a key issue in the Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy, both as a tool for raising awareness and for publicity, training and management. It takes the form of a number of actions:

3.1. **Citizen Initiative Atlas – SDGs.** Taking the CIVICS map prepared by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and *Vivero de Iniciativas Ciudadanas* (Citizens' Initiatives Incubator) as a starting point—a project which maps more than 4,000 citizen innovation initiatives in 25 Ibero-American cities—through an agreement with SEGIB, Aragon will be used in a pilot project for a map of citizen initiatives (social innovation, social entrepreneurship, neo-communitarianism, fourth sector...) with a 2030 interface, to position and publicize projects according to the 17 SDGs. This is a tool for awareness, organization, self-recognition and ownership of initiatives that usually slip under the radar and mostly operate outside the administration. (The Agreement is being processed).

3.2. **G-1000 – Citizens' Summit.** A mass simultaneous process of deliberation will be promoted in a number of towns and cities in Aragon on a Saturday morning. The subject of the debate will be the SDGs. The G-1000 value chain is as follows: Selection of an SDG to work on in the town/neighbourhood>brainstorming>project selection>project data bank.

3.3. **Participatory process for the Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy with LAAAB** (*Laboratorio de Aragón Gobierno Abierto*). Leveraging the LAAAB methodology, a participatory process will be undertaken to jointly create the Aragonese Sustainable Development Strategy. The LAAAB already carries out more than 30 annual face-to-face processes, including a plethora of dynamization and co-design workshops, with more than 5,000 participants each year. LAAAB has an online participation platform.

3.4. **2030 publicity campaign with Aragonese Solidarity Foundation (FAS).** Through an agreement with the Aragonese Solidarity Foundation, this year there is a plan to launch a campaign to raise awareness of and publicize the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, including activities that cover most of the territory of Aragon, with resources and messages adapted to the large variety of target populations.

## BALEARIC ISLANDS

### Introduction

The Regional Government of the Balearic Islands is firmly committed to **Sustainable Development**, and promotes strategic measures in its area of competence throughout its government activities, aimed at fulfilling the targets set forth in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This report lists the main projects and measures promoted by the

Government of the Balearic Islands, as regards each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.** The Balearic Islands was the Autonomous Community that reduced its poverty rate by the greatest degree in 2017. The measures undertaken include: Guaranteed Social Income, as regulated in Act 5/2016, which is a financial benefit aimed at providing basic coverage to people, families and people in other situations of cohabitation who are in need; Calls for applications for grants and assistance to alleviate energy poverty, to ensure that no person in a position of social vulnerability or at risk of exclusion is left without a supply of gas or electricity; and the draft bill on support for families, in which the Government of the Balearic Islands safeguards by law the benefits and services for the most vulnerable families.

**SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.** The Government of the Balearic Islands has created a Social Emergency Fund for schools to meet the pressing basic needs of families in financial difficulties. The assistance for school dinners has also been improved. In the field of ecological farming, significant assistance is being provided within the framework of the 2017-2020 Rural Development Plan for the Balearic Islands.

**SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.** In order to promote health and wellbeing, the Government of the Balearic Islands has approved the Strategy for Care for Chronic Conditions, enabling comprehensive, coordinated care for chronic patients and their families. The Healthy Eating and Active Living Strategy, the Early Colorectal Cancer Detection Programme, and the Early Breast Cancer Detection Programme have all continued to receive support. In addition, actions have been undertaken aimed at prevention, and at acquisition of healthy habits in centres of education.

**SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.** The consensus reached in the Education Pact for the Balearic Islands facilitates fulfilment of the sustainability targets in this sphere. The Plan for Educational Success: Lines of Action for 2015-2019; the initial results show a significant improvement in academic results from primary education to all areas.

**SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.** In particular, the Act on Equality between Women and Men, the 2017-2020 Plan of Measures against Gender Violence divided into 6 strategic lines, 23 targets and 135 specific measures, funded with 13.6 million euros. Approval of the 2016-2019 Second Plan for Equality between Women and Men. The Protocol for Preventing and Addressing Female Genital Mutilation. The Protocol for Healthcare Action in Cases of Gender Violence. A Regional Plan against Trafficking in Women and Girls for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation, from a human rights perspective, is also being promoted, along with key lines of strategic work, awareness campaigns, and lines of action for effective coordination between all institutions.

**SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.** An early review has been performed of the Water Management Plan and a Special Plan for Action in the event of Alerts or Drought in the Balearic Islands has been approved.

**SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.** The Government of the Balearic Islands has created a Committee to Combat Energy Poverty, which

discusses and decides on relief measures to ensure universal access to energy. The Energy Transition Plan has been approved, with a firm commitment to increasing use of renewable energy, stepping up generation using natural gas and gradual closure of the power stations that produce the most pollution.

**SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.** Significant measures have been approved, such as the 2017-2022 Quality Employment Plan, with a budget of 341.1 million, of which 173 million shall be used for specific plans for young people, the over-45s and vulnerable groups; the 2017-2020 Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the Balearic Islands, whose main objective is to improve the competitiveness of the Balearic Islands tourism industry; the Plan to Combat Precarious Work; the 2018-2022 Social Economy Master Plan for the Balearic Islands; and the 2017-2020 Environment-Tourism Balance Plan (PEAT).

**SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.** The Competitiveness, Quality Employment and Social Progress Pact approved in 2017 promotes 13 plans and 10 strategic measures to improve the economy and well-being in the Balearic Islands. The period for implementation is 2017-2020, with an initial budget estimated at 1.57 billion euros. The Strategy for Economic Diversification through Innovation (2017-2020). The Industry Plan (2018-2025). The 2018-2022 Science and Technology Plan and the Science Act are to be approved shortly. Significantly, the Government of the Balearic Islands, in just two years, has increased the budget for research, development and innovation by 36%.

**SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.** The 2016-2019 Development Cooperation Master Plan. The 2017 Annual Cooperation Plan increases international cooperation aid and simplifies access to grants through new rules that simplify the procedures.

**SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.** The most significant measures are: the Balearic Islands Housing Bill, whose main objective is to facilitate citizens' access to housing, and ensure their continued use thereof. The Balearic Islands Universal Accessibility Act, to eliminate architectural barriers and regulate accessibility in the public and private sectors. The Balearic Islands Waste and Contaminated Land Act, which aims to reduce waste, improve environmental quality and increase health protection. The Balearic Islands Mobility Master Plan will enable a sustainable comprehensive strategy to be designed, with actions relating to the road network, public transport and non-motorized mobility.

**SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.** Environmental education campaigns are being undertaken, with a wide range of educational activities aimed at school-age pupils. The Government of the Balearic Islands is making significant investments to promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficiency and e-mobility in the Islands, as well as grants.

**SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.** In this regard, the following is of note: the 2013-2020 Balearic Islands Strategy to Combat Climate Change; the study on the vulnerability of the Balearic Islands to climate change; the draft version of the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act is also being prepared, as is the bill on Environmental and Economic Sustainability of the Island of Formentera.

**SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.** A significant economic effort is being made by the Balearic Nature Institute

(IBANAT). The Regional Parliament of the Balearic Islands unanimously approved the Bill on protection of the Mediterranean Sea under Spanish jurisdiction from damage potentially caused by exploration, research and exploitation of hydrocarbons and other mineral substances. The draft Decree on protection of *Posidonia oceanica* is current being processed.

**SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.** In this regard, the following is of note: the new Trenc-Salobrar de Campos Natural Marine-Land Park, the creation of the Es Freu de Sa Dragonera Marine Reserve, the recovery of the Freu de Ibiza i Formentera Marine Reserve, and the planned expansion of the Parque de Llevant.

**SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.** The most significant measures are the Act on Equality between Women and Men (Act 11/2016), the LGBTi Act (Act 8/2016), and the Code of Ethics of the Government of the Balearic Islands, which is mandatory for the purpose of improving institutional quality and strengthening public ethics, bolstering transparency and the right of access to public information.

**SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.** The most noteworthy measures are the Tourist Stay Tax Act and measures to promote sustainable tourism. The Balearic Islands Government's agreement with the Economic and Social Council of the Balearic Islands to prepare a study on the economic, social and environmental future of the societies on the Islands, with a time horizon of 2030 (H2030).

## CANARY ISLANDS

The Canaries have an intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth strategy, with the intention to adapt it to the new 2030 Agenda. In this regard, there are many initiatives and plans underway, which reflect our key priorities or policies, and which, in short, are also linked to fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

The following are examples of some of the more significant initiatives:

### COMBATING POVERTY

- Preparing a **Plan to Combat Poverty**. The Regional Government of the Canary Islands has taken it upon itself to develop a consensus-based strategy with all social stakeholders, economic stakeholders, universities and different administrations, making it possible to join forces and coordinate efforts to address the problem, whilst also enabling active social inclusion of all persons at risk of exclusion, resulting in a cohesive society in which we all have the same opportunities.

### SOCIAL SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT

- Parliamentary processing of a **New Social Services Act**. This Act will guarantee financial benefits and basic services in all municipalities throughout the Canary Islands. The Act will help to shape the new modern model for the public social services system, a people-

focused system, a protective system that is accessible through all benefits and services. The Act will also enable accords and a social agreement with entities in the Third Sector, guaranteeing growth in stable, qualified employment in the social services areas covered by NGOs.

- The Government of the Canary Islands has signed **agreements built on social coordination, consensus and dialogue** with the key social and economic stakeholders in the Canaries, which have already enabled development of measures aimed at improving **social protection, competitiveness, absenteeism, the shadow economy, employment and job security**.
- The launch of the Canary Islands Strategy for Employment Activation, a starting point for managing vocational training initiatives, employment, promotion of the social economy, individual intermediation, forecasting and promotion of entrepreneurship in the Canaries, together with parallel measures to create future opportunities through classroom- and workplace-based vocational training and a programme to promote bilingualism.

### CLIMATE CHANGE, RENEWABLE ENERGY, THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND THE BLUE ECONOMY

- The **Canary Islands energy strategy**, with a notable portion of renewable energy in the energy mix over the past three years. The strategic objectives from this strategy covering the period through to 2025 are:
  - **Improving primary energy intensity by 28.91%** by 2025, compared to 2015.
  - **Increasing the proportion of renewable energy** in energy actually consumed from 2% in 2015 to 15% in 2025.
  - Increasing the proportion of renewable energy in electricity generated, **from 8% in 2015 to 45% in 2025**.
  - **Reducing tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** by 21% between 2014 and 2025.
- The recent **creation of a Climate Change Observatory**, which on 18 July will officially present the draft of the future **Canary Islands Act on Climate Change**.
- The formation of a **Committee of Experts to Study Climate Change and Promotion of the Circular and Blue Economies**, comprising seven young researchers and independent academics, to focus the policies of the Canary Islands Government in these areas.
- The **review of the circular economy strategy**, an area in which the Canary Islands have the potential to act as a benchmark for many regions; the new Economic and Fiscal Scheme includes specific measures to favour the strategy's development.
- The **review of the blue economy strategy**. This is an emerging sector with interesting possibilities and enormous potential in terms of economic diversification of the archipelago, and a sector in which the Canaries' positioning is advantageous, with recent internationally recognized achievements in different areas, such as **blue biotechnology and renewable marine energy**.
- A commitment to **sustainable mobility**: the Government of the Canary Islands will **allocate 30 million euros to promote use of public transport on land**, with discounts of up to 90% on

current ticket prices, and in July a **Bill** is expected to be presented to **reduce the Canary Islands Indirect Tax (IGIC) to 0% for purchases of bicycles and electric and hybrid vehicles.**

### EDUCATION AND HEALTHY LIVING

- In 2018, the **Canary Islands Government** will present a **strategy to ensure a healthy lifestyle and to promote well-being for all and for all ages.**
- **Bolstering education as a crucial component of promoting equality in citizens' access** to and enjoyment of rights, by:
  - Promoting lifelong education, with a wide range of courses for adults, enabling initial training of those who did not have the opportunity to complete their education, as well as ongoing training for those who wish to add to their knowledge.
  - Facilitating access to education through an extensive grant and fiscal aid policy, reductions in university fees and facilitation of access to study on other islands.
  - Boosting the coeducational perspective to overcome sexist stereotypes, bolster equitable relations and prevent gender violence.

In addition, the Canary Islands Government is coordinated and aligned with the Canary Islands Parliament initiative aimed at preparing a “Canary Islands Sustainable Development Strategy”, in order to contribute to localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to convert the Canaries into an example of good practices and a benchmark for regional publicity and localization of the 2030 Agenda.

In this regard, the first initiative has been to map activities underway at all the governing bodies of the regional departments and their correlation with the SDGs and their targets. This work, which is a development stage, will be accompanied by the creation of a **High-level Working Group, reporting to the Regional Presidency of the Government of the Canary Islands, with focal points for each SDG in the corresponding regional departments.**

The High-level Working Group will submit its conclusions in **September 2018** in order to gradually align the initiatives of the Canary Islands Government with the 2030 strategy.

### **CANTABRIA**

The 2018-2030 Sustainable Human Development Strategy of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria has been established with the intention of setting down the steps that must be taken to apply the 2030 Agenda in Cantabria. Therefore, Cantabria, as part of a globalized world, must make a firm commitment and an effort to transform the current situation, becoming an integrated and cohesive community, with social harmony and environmental sustainability, generating good living conditions and opportunities for sustainable human development, with a dynamic position at the national and international levels.

Its concept is aligned with the EU's strategic vision, promoting an approach that is inclusive in terms of the economic, social, environmental and global dimensions of development sustainability, in order to reduce poverty and inequality, foster greater social cohesion, ensure economic prosperity, guarantee protection of the environment, and, through solidarity,

contribute to the development of disadvantaged countries in the interest of global sustainability.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE:** promoting sustainable human development in Cantabria, in the economic, social and environmental spheres, in a balanced and inclusive way, and in harmony with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Specific objectives:

Promoting full integration of the SDGs into Cantabria's political framework.

Advancing with PCSD, applying comprehensive policies and measures that are effective and that contribute to achieving sustainable human development at the local and global levels.

### **STRATEGIC PILLARS, EXPECTED RESULTS AND MAIN LINES OF ACTION:**

**1. OWNERSHIP:** All stakeholders in the Autonomous Community of Cantabria aware, informed, involved and committed.

**2. COHERENCE:** Closer formal and institutional dialogue between the different public and private stakeholders, to favour coherence and coordination in policies and activities that complement each other, synergy finding, and leveraging of the comparative advantages of each stakeholder.

**3. MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH:** The SHD approach included in all public policies and actions, in any area of action of the corresponding administration, in partnerships with the private sector, civil society, the scientific community and academia, mobilizing all available resources to meet the SDG targets at the regional, national and international levels.

**4. SUSTAINABILITY:** Strengthened actions to promote equitable and sustainable social and economic development, with efficient use of natural resources.

**5. CULTURE OF LEARNING:** Strengthened culture of assessment, systemization and publication of good practices in order to improve management and accountability to citizens. Consolidated position of assessment as a strategic pillar, as an activity that allows processes and results to be measured and allows lessons to be applied to future plans.

### **ACTION PLAN**

The 2030 Agenda incentivizes establishing cooperation and collaboration processes between the different areas and levels of the regional public sector. The structure of the SDGs at the regional level, in the framework of regional policies, plans and programmes, promote management and coordination of a number of agents with a multidimensional approach, including various groups and generating strategic alliances.

**Stakeholders:** The Strategy identifies the following priority stakeholders:

| Public sector stakeholders  | Private sector stakeholders                            |
|---|--|
| Cantabrian Parliament General Administration of the Government of Cantabria.          | NGOs, associations, foundations and social collectives |
| Entities from the regional public sector (foundations, public corporations, agencies) | Trade unions   |
| Local authorities (town councils, unions of municipalities, federations)              | The business and productive sectors                    |
| State universities  | Private Universities                                   |
|   | Political parties                                      |
|   | Professional associations                              |
|   | The media  |

### Structure for implementation of the SDGs



### Operating plans

#### Cantabria's 2030 Plan for Sustainable Human Development

The aim is to implement a plan for the period through to 2030 that—taking into account the circumstances, capacities and levels of development in Cantabria, as well as its policies and priorities—establishes shared starting points, in order to translate the SDGs into specific actions and to establish multidimensional and multi-stakeholder lines of action, to jointly address the 2030 Agenda, with the participation of all stakeholders.

#### Sector operating plans

Based on the priority starting points set down in the 2030 Plan, sector plans will be prepared, for the short to medium term (education, health, environment, social services, employment, housing, cooperation, etc.). All of the stakeholders in these areas must be involved in preparation of the sector plans, to identify synergies, include population groups, build a culture of consensus and formulate strategies with innovative approaches. During their preparation, the priorities and opportunities in each sector will be identified, specifying measures and instruments to implement initiatives, strategies and programmes related to the different SDG targets. These plans will also include programmes and projects, which are related to the SDGs and are already underway.

#### Monitoring and evaluation

The interest in evaluation is not only aimed at analysing final results, but also at understanding and improving the process for actions and the context in which they are undertaken; as well as scope, appropriateness, management and continuity. Two evaluation processes are planned:

- **Evaluations of each of the sector operating plans** to improve the process and context in which actions are taken; as well as scope, appropriateness, management and continuity.
- A **Monitoring and Evaluation Committee** will issue an **annual report** on the scope and degree of completion of the objectives, providing an opportunity for reflection on the factors that have helped or hindered achievement of the results that were expected in the strategy or in the 2030 Plan.

## CASTILLA Y LEÓN

The greatest challenge today's world faces is eradicating poverty, as recognized by the Member States of the United Nations and as approved in a Resolution in 2015. To this end, an action has been adopted which has been called the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are centred around five key themes: PLANET, PEOPLE, PROSPERITY, PEACE AND PARTNERSHIPS, and which reflect the three pillars of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental pillars.

The Regional Government of Castilla y León understood from the outset that this task must be undertaken not only at the national level, but also at the level of regional and local government policy. In fact, many of the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda directly affect areas of action and competences of Spain's Autonomous Communities; therefore, it is fundamental that the Agenda is localized for it to succeed.

### 1) Stage prior to implementation of the 2030 Agenda

As soon as the Agenda was approved, the Regional Government of Castilla y León committed to its implementation and determined that it would be necessary to first address three crucial questions: internal organization—determining how application of the Agenda will be promoted and by which body; training of Administration personnel—to provide technical staff with the knowledge required to apply the Agenda and achieve true policy coherence; and reporting, publicity and awareness-raising—for all of society, to make everyone aware of what the Agenda entails, as well as its Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Internal organization

The Regional Government of Castilla y León selected the Department of the Regional Presidency as the body to perform the coordination, promotion and monitoring duties relating to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its incorporation into all public policies.

Through its decision of 28 September 2017, the Regional Government of Castilla y León provided for the creation of a technical working group to prepare the document containing the guidelines for implementing the 2030 Agenda. In addition, it charged the Committee of Secretary-Generals, as the highest ranking interdepartmental body, with the monitoring of the activities and studies carried out by the technical working group, as well as with implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in all public policies.

## Training

Training is one of the pillars that are key to the success of the Agenda. It is for this reason that this pillar has been developed in the stage prior to implementation of the 2030 Agenda and will be maintained in the future, to reach the highest possible number of people.

This training has been aimed at employees of the Regional Administration of the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León, in order to apply the Agenda in public policies; at teaching staff, so that they may transmit it to students; and also at NGOs, which are key, crucial stakeholders in disseminating the Agenda in this preliminary stage.

### a) Training for public employees

An effort has been made in training and raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals among regards government workers, so that the Goals are taken into consideration when preparing specific strategies and actions.

A number of courses are being developed and run by the Public Administration School of Castilla y León, attended by government employees from all regional departments. In addition, the intention is for this training to be extended, through the Public Administration School of Castilla y León, to employees of local entities.

### b) Training for teaching staff

Teaching staff from educational centres play a key role in raising awareness of the Agenda among schoolchildren. Therefore, trainings days are being organized, on an annual basis, aimed at teaching staff, concerning the content of the Agenda and how to convey it. This cultivates a network of centres that are committed to the subject.

### c) Training for NGOs

To make the Sustainable Development Goals a reality in Spain, in Castilla y León, and around the world, civil society organizations and public authorities must work hand in hand. This is why it is essential that training is offered to NGOs on the matter, so that they can adapt their development cooperation projects to the rights-based approach.

## Information and publicity

Providing information to the general public and raising their awareness are, together, a necessary first step in a participatory process for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, so that citizens can become owners of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is why it is important to communicate the SDGs to the general public as a shared agenda, that extends from the local level right through to the global level.

Therefore, in collaboration with NGOs from Castilla y León and other civil society entities, a number of different actions have been taken to publicize, provide information on, and raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, incorporating them as a central theme of presentations and workshops. Furthermore, all Education for Development and Global Citizenship activities incorporate raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda as a key priority.

## 2) Guidelines for implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The Regional Government of Castilla y León has already prepared the document containing the guidelines for implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Castilla y León.

The implementation document is the result of the combined work of the whole regional administration, and aims to be a guide for all of the Autonomous Community's public policies, at all levels. The document analyses the programmes currently being run by the regional administration, which can contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda, as well as analysing the situation in Castilla y León as regards each of the targets in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, together with the challenges and indicators relating to progress in achieving the Agenda through policy coherence.

This document will be made public on the Open Government Portal, and will be publicized among the other public administrations and civil society stakeholders.

The purpose is to create a document that is familiar to all of society, and that enables progress towards the 2030 Agenda in coordination and conjunction with Spain's Central Administration and the local authorities.

## CASTILLA-LA MANCHA

The Government of the Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha is firmly committed to the 2030 Agenda and to the Sustainable Development Goals approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September 2015.

The people of Castilla-La Mancha, as a whole, have always proven their commitment and maturity when addressing the fight against inequalities in our land and beyond our borders, and have contributed to the measures implemented by regional, national and international governments to end poverty and hunger worldwide. Therefore, in order to include this need to follow the roadmap leading to 2030, the Castilla-La Mancha Government is preparing, through a Decree that will soon be published, a Monitoring Committee for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, in order to reflect the actions already being taken in this regard and promote others that should be structured with a view to fulfilling our 2030 Agenda commitments. This Committee will comprise the Heads of regional administration bodies involved in these actions, responsible for advising, studying, coordinating and management, and coordinated by the First Vice-President of the regional government, who will be the Committee Chair.

Moreover, the Committee will create Working Groups and decide their structure, composition and duration, for the purpose of creating sector-specific forums for all of the region's social and economic stakeholders wishing to contribute to them, given their involvement in the practical implementation of any actions necessary to achieve the SDGs.

The Castilla-La Mancha Monitoring Committee for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs will be responsible for:

- a) Learning about all of the existing initiatives, strategies, plans, programmes and agreements in the spheres covered by the SDGs, and monitoring their implementation.
- b) Studying, and proposing to the Government Council, new actions aimed at achieving the SDGs.
- c) Urging other public administrations and public and private organizations to promote the measures necessary for achieving the SDGs in Castilla-La Mancha.

- d) Drafting and publishing an annual report on the state of fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The Monitoring Committee will meet at least once every six months, and as often as called by its Chair.

At the same time, the Castilla-La Mancha Government, together with civil society, continues to work on developing and implementing the SDGs that are most applicable, given our region's geographic location and the powers granted by our Statute of Autonomy. The following are examples of actions carried out:

- The Department for Social Welfare has a regional standing open grant call aimed at humanitarian and emergency action projects. Moreover, in 2016 it relaunched some of its traditional cooperation instruments, such as the grant call aimed at funding international cooperation projects, which had been unavailable in the previous term of the regional Parliament. The year 2016 saw a sharp increase in the Development Cooperation Programme budget, rising from 883,340 euros in 2015 to 2,647,670 euros in 2016—a 199.73% increase. In 2017, 2,000,900 euros were dedicated to 25 development cooperation projects; 235,400 euros were dedicated to 11 humanitarian assistance projects; and 217,700 euros were dedicated to 16 education for development projects. Moreover, dialogue with the region's NGOs and other cooperation stakeholders has been resumed, with a group being created to work on drafting the new Decree regulating the Castilla-La Mancha Regional Cooperation Council.
- Since 1990, Castilla-La Mancha's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have ceased to increase in parallel with the region's economic growth; emissions fell from 10.7 annual tonnes per inhabitant in 1990, to 8.44 tonnes in 2015, demonstrating that it is possible to separate economic development from GHG emissions.
- The region's renewable energy production amounted to 52% of its total power generation for 2016. Since 2012, renewable energy production has covered 99% of the region's internal demand, surpassing the global goal of 20% by a substantial margin. At present, Castilla-La Mancha's annual energy output is approximately 22,500 GWh; as we only consume half of this amount, the surplus is absorbed by Madrid and the Autonomous Community of Valencia.
- The regional government is promoting the incorporation of circular economy principles into economic development through the approval of a Circular Economy Act and through the amendment of Castilla-La Mancha's Climate Change Strategy. The measures set forth in the new Strategy refer to all economic sectors: transport, waste, industry, the residential and services sector, agriculture and farming, forests and public health.
- In 2016, Castilla-La Mancha adopted a Strategy to Combat Poverty and Social Inequality. This Strategy is based on the three pillars set forth in the European Commission Recommendation on Active Inclusion: adequate income support guaranteeing the right of all individuals to sufficient resources and benefits, as part of a global instrument providing coherent support for combating social exclusion; an inclusive labour market favouring the access of those faced with the greatest obstacles to getting their first job or returning to the job market; and access to quality services, ensuring that the individuals who require it receive adequate social support to promote their social and economic inclusion.

Implementation of several of these measures began in 2016 and 2017 as a result of Castilla-La Mancha's Social Recovery Compact. In January, the regional government opened the application period for the minimum income benefit—to which a budget of over 15 million euros will be allocated in 2018—and for Social Emergency Grants, with an allocated budget of 6.5 million of euros.

- The “*Creciendo en igualdad*” (Growing in Equality) programme was implemented by the Women’s Institute of Castilla-La Mancha to teach gender equality at those schools in small municipalities where it is most difficult for professionals from women’s centres to address this issue. This programme is also focused on preventing violence against women through education. Since 2016, over 900 students have received this training.
- In the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, grants were awarded to fund different actions in 36 local councils in 2016, and 26 in 2017. As regards grants for projects to reduce inequality—specifically to reduce the gender gap, promote equal opportunities, and foster the creation of associations—grants were awarded to 127 women’s associations in the region in 2016, and to 123 in 2017.
- The region’s women’s centres attend to over 21,000 women and 94,000 consultations each year.
- The application of measures to mainstream the equality policies that distinguish the action of Castilla-La Mancha’s regional government mean that, under the Self-Employment Plan, entrepreneurial projects headed by women receive between 33% and 60% more support, as a positive discrimination measure. At the present date, Castilla-La Mancha has 120 shared-ownership agricultural holdings; 35% of the total for Spain. During the current term of parliament, we have quadrupled the number of shared-ownership agricultural holdings, from the 28 recorded at 30 June 2015 to the current figure of 120.
- Out of all of Spain’s Autonomous Communities, Castilla-La Mancha’s farming sector has the greatest demand, in absolute terms, for the entry of—increasingly better qualified—young people, including and prioritizing women. To this end, we shall continue to promote female entrepreneurship, above all in rural areas, where each job for a woman represents not only an employment, but also a rural development, opportunity, contributing towards keeping people in the region and, in general, to improving standards of living in our towns. Thanks to the grants awarded by the regional government, there has been a notable increase in the number of women engaged in agrarian activity. Thus, from 170 in 2014, the figure rose to 306 in 2016. The Territorial Rural Development Act—for which a bill is currently being drafted—is intended to legally guarantee all the advances made thus far. Additionally, the Rural Women’s Statute—aimed at contributing towards women remaining in the towns and pursuing successful life projects—is expected to be approved by Castilla-La Mancha’s regional parliament before this parliamentary term is concluded.
- As regards childhood and the family, we have raised the budget for family programmes by 42%—to a total of 6.1 million euros in 2018—during this parliamentary term, and the number of beneficiaries has been increased fivefold, to 20,000. On 26 January 2018, Castilla-La Mancha signed the Regional Childhood Compact. The necessary procedures have been commenced to create the Regional Council for Childhood and the Family, a commitment assumed with UNICEF. This will be an advisory and participative body. Since April 2018, all

the laws processed in the Autonomous Community have been accompanied by a report on the impact of each legal provision on children and adolescents.

## CATALONIA

The Government of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia worked to contribute to the definition of the SDGs in the drafting stage of the 2030 Agenda, with contributions made through the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD).

As soon as the United Nations General Assembly approved the final document, the Catalan Government created an interdepartmental working group which, since November 2015, and led by Catalonia's Directorate-General for Multilateral and European Affairs and Directorate-General for Environmental Policies and Sustainability, started working to disseminate and raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

In 2016, through the Government Plan for the 11<sup>th</sup> term of the Regional Parliament, the Catalan Government undertook the commitment of drafting a National Plan for the SDGs and an integrated system of targets and indicators to measure achievement of the SDGs in Catalonia.

In February 2017, at the request of the Catalan Department Head of External Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency, and of the Catalan Department Head of Territory and Sustainability, the Catalan Government approved an agreement to promote the Plan and to create its governance system. An initial draft of the Plan was formally submitted to the Secretaries-General of the Catalan Government's 13 Departments in July 2017, and it is currently being updated after the incoming Government took office in June 2018.

The drafting of the Plan is being coordinated by the Catalan Department for External Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency, through Catalonia's Advisory Council for Sustainable Development (CADS), Directorate-General for Multilateral and European Affairs, and Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and its technical team.

The drafting of the Plan is a proposal in the roadmap for the 2030 Agenda in Catalonia, which is still pending definitive approval, and which includes interinstitutional coordination activities and communication activities for civil society and the general public.

Noteworthy with regard to the localization process of the SDGs in Catalonia are the following elements:

### **1. Expert report on the localization of the SDGs in Catalonia**

In September 2016, the CADS approved the report "The 2030 Agenda: Transforming Catalonia, Improving the World", in which it identified the key elements for the localization of the SDGs in Catalonia. This expert report was approved at the CADS plenary session of 27 September 2016, coinciding with the first anniversary of the approval of the 2030 Agenda by the United Nations.

The report includes a preliminary diagnosis of each SDG at the worldwide and European levels, a target-by-target diagnosis of Catalonia, and identifies the main challenges posed by each SDG in Catalonia. The report was drafted by the member of the CADS, with the contribution of more

than 60 experts, either working individually or representing civil society, or academic or research institutions.

## **2. Interdepartmental coordination**

On 14 February 2017, the Catalan Government created an Interdepartmental Commission, chaired by the Head of the Department of External Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency, and mandated to promote the 2030 Agenda implementation plan in Catalonia, guarantee coherence among the commitments included in the plan, and, lastly, monitor achievement of the SDGs.

The Commission comprises the Secretaries-General of the 13 Catalan Government departments, and is under the aegis of the Department for External Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency. Reporting to it is a Technical Committee, comprising representatives with the rank of Director-General or Deputy Director-General from all the departments.

This Technical Committee is structured into 17 working groups. Each working group focuses on an SDG, in coordination by the department with the most powers relating to that SDG. For example, the working group on SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) is coordinated by the Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Families, and includes representatives from the following departments: Presidency; Vice-Presidency, Economy and the Treasury; External Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency; Education; Digital Policies and Public Administration; Health; and Business and Knowledge.

Given the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, no department plays a leading role: coordination is based on the principle that they have the same position. This methodology has contributed to promoting synergies among the different departments, breaking any existing silos and creating a comprehensive view of challenges and solutions.

Even though all of the Strategic Development Goals are interrelated, the existence of 17 individual SDGs does not help in overcoming the traditional fragmentation of public policies. The Plan seeks to resolve this situation, working with a strong collaborative focus, but also reviewing the different commitments from the gender, intergenerational and equality perspectives.

In addition to preparing the National Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Catalan Government is working on Catalonia's New Urban Agenda, to localize the Global Urban Agenda approved at the Habitat III Conference (Quito, 2016). Both Agendas are connected in terms of contents and deadlines, to ensure genuine and solid policy coherence.

## **3. Turning global targets into specific, tangible commitments**

The Plan seeks to integrate SDGs into all of the public policies, plans and programmes promoted and managed by the Catalan Government; it has translated the 2030 Agenda's 169 global targets into 750 specific, tangible commitments. The word "commitment" is used deliberately, as it means taking a step towards action.

The Plan's structure makes it possible to differentiate the local and international dimensions of Catalonia's implementation of the SDGs. On the one hand, it identifies commitments that must be implemented in Catalonia, and on the other, Catalan commitments that have an impact on the global community or on third countries.

The Plan clearly links commitments to the regulatory and planning framework, in order to guarantee mainstreaming of the SDGs into the Catalan Government's working plans. To this end, it also specifies the regulations and planning included in said commitments, and distinguishes whether they are already in force or still in progress. Lastly, the Plan proposes new commitments, which will be completed during the public participation process scheduled to take place in early 2019.

Each commitment is accompanied by the identification of the responsible department and of the deadline for its implementation.

#### **4. Debate series and participatory process**

The Catalan Government has promoted the organizations of debates to reflect on the 2030 Agenda, with the participation of international experts and civil society representatives.

The bases for a participatory process, which shall be structured around the existing stable participation spaces and a web portal, are currently being designed. This participatory process will begin in early 2019, and aims to collect contributions from all of the stakeholders (institutional, private-sector, non-profit, and academic, among others) in order to bring about maximum ownership of this Plan, so that it may effectively achieve the transformation we seek.

The next stage will be implementing the Plan and generating partnerships with non-Catalan stakeholders, to contribute to the global transformation sought by the 2030 Agenda.

## **COMMUNITY OF VALENCIA**

### **Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: The Autonomous Community of Valencia's commitments to implementing the 2030 Agenda**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, has led to a new global paradigm, setting forth a new model for complex development, and highlighting the strategic role played by local and regional governments, and by these territories' social and economic stakeholders and their associations, in addressing the challenge of localization and the scope of the SDGs, because strategies aiming to promote a sustainable development model must stem from the local sphere and foster the participation of the entire citizenry.

In this framework for action, the Government of the Autonomous Community of Valencia has played a clear leading role in disseminating, implementing and monitoring the SDGs throughout its territory. To this end, it has implemented awareness plans, integrated the SDGs into its framework for action, generated partnerships with towns and cities in the Community of Valencia and with Valencian universities, and has worked with civil society organizations.

The Valencian Government addresses achievement of the SDGs, in the 2030 Agenda framework, by implementing policies and measures based on three lines of action:

- Information
- Awareness
- Commitment

The Valencian Government gives shape to these lines of action as follows:

### 1. Information

On 15 January 2016, the Valencian Government approved, at a plenary session, the creation of a **Partnership of Cities for Sustainable Development**, currently comprising 33 municipalities in the Community of Valencia, in order to inform about and raise awareness of the SDGs in municipalities, together with the Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces.

Together with Valencia's public universities, 19 NGOs, and the Valencian NGO Coordinating Platform, the Valencian Government has published, and distributed to all the municipalities in the Valencian Community, the **2030 Agenda Roadmap for Cities and Towns in the Community of Valencia**, aimed at *raising awareness among and training public employees and policymakers in local governments*, and providing basic and useful conceptual resources and methodological tools for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a mainstreaming approach.

Moreover, the Valencian Government's Interdepartmental Commission has promoted **public policy coherence** in the different departments, so that the SDGs are included as a core element of Valencia's public policies, not only in development cooperation strategies, but mainstreaming them in order to align and monitor the Valencian Government's policies with a view to fulfilling the SDGs in the Valencian Community.

The training courses offered by the Valencian Institute of Public Administration and by the Valencian Federation of Municipalities and Provinces include, since 2016, the **online course "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Opportunities for the Public Administrations"**, aimed at training public employees in mainstreaming the SDGs into the different public policy planning processes, and evaluating the degree of mainstreaming of the SDG targets into said policies.

Likewise, in December 2017 the Polytechnic University of Valencia started a **MOOC course: "SDGs in the United Nations 2030 Agenda: Challenges posed by the Sustainable Development Goals"**, aimed at university students and the general public, and funded by the Valencian Government.

Support for **university research on SDGs** has been promoted by Valencian public universities, through the promotion of five research lines relating to the 2030 Agenda.

The Department of Transparency, Social Responsibility, Participation and Cooperation has published an Information Guide for Civil Society Organizations, aimed at members, staff and volunteers of organizations wishing to learn about and support the 2030 Agenda, participate in debate forums on the Agenda, and strengthen their capacities to implement it.

## 2. Awareness

The Valencian Government has designed a **Strategy on Education for Development in formal education in the Valencian Community for 2017-2021**, based on a vision of Education for Development as education for global citizenship.

Since 2016, the Directorate-General for Cooperation and Solidarity has been carrying out a programme on education for global citizenship called **“Connecting with the SDGs”**, aimed at students in the last years of compulsory secondary education.

The Valencian Government has been conducting diverse SDG information and dissemination campaigns using factsheets and videos, through different channels:

- Website: [www.cooperaciovalenciana.gva.es](http://www.cooperaciovalenciana.gva.es)

- Video: **Looking for SuperSDGs**, showing how we can all become superheroes to achieve these goals in the five areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. The idea is to effectively convey values such as equality, respect and peace, to contribute to eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring global prosperity.

- Exhibition of **roller banners** describing the Sustainable Development Goals in **schools and municipal installations**, to further knowledge, values and skills contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and raising awareness of the importance of their fulfilment. People can learn about the SDGs printed on the roller banners by using a QR Code Scanner on their mobile phones: when the QR Code is scanned, a video explaining the SDG is downloaded onto the phone.

## 3. Commitment

The Valencian Government's **Act 18/2017, of 14 December, on Cooperation and Sustainable Development**, is an Act for people, the planet, prosperity and peace, through partnerships that enable the expansion and integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and the building of global public goods in all of the Valencian Government's policies and spheres of action.

This Act set forth the creation of the **High Advisory Council for Sustainable Development**, and the **Territorial Council for the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda**. The aim of the latter is to continue intensifying territorial coordination and strengthening the existing Partnership of Cities for Sustainable Development.

The Valencian Government has designed the first **Monitoring Map of the SDGs in the Valencian Community**, through its Department of Transparency, Social Responsibility, Participation and Cooperation. This first Monitoring Map, approved by the Valencian Government's plenary session of 29 December 2017, makes it possible to establish Valencia's baseline for defining the direction in which to move, and what Valencia needs to do. The map reflects each of the statistics relating to SDGs in every area, showing the situation Valencia is in, in order to align the Government's policies with the UN Agenda, and serve as a baseline for other Valencian progress reports. Likewise, a **Mapping of the Valencian Government's Public Policies** has been conducted, providing dynamic information on the impact of the SDGs and their targets, from every Valencian Government department.

Moreover, in 2018 the **Interdepartmental Commission for Achievement of the SDGs** will carry out a qualitative evaluation of achievement of the SDGs and their targets in each of the departments' sphere of authority.

## EXTREMADURA

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a new way of addressing the challenges of development. The Government of the Autonomous Community of Extremadura, aware of this paradigm shift and equally aware of the strategic role that should be played by local and regional stakeholders—whether in government or civil society—in implementing the Agenda and advancing towards achieving the SDGs, proposes a model for Extremadura that will enable us to **localize and promote the Agenda through public policy coherence for development**.

With this in mind, a system based on policy coherence for development, understood as a process that is both political and social, responds to both internal issues and dynamics of participation and external dialogue. This working approach has led Extremadura to initiate renovations in its government structures, with a key goal: to put sustainable development at the core of public policy in the region. Through dialogue with all of the stakeholders in Extremadura's public administration, the region has introduced PCSD and the 2030 Agenda (PCSD/2030 Agenda) as a crucial aspect of its efforts, with the **Cross-cutting Policies Commission of the Presidency of the Government**.

Thus, Extremadura has created a framework for promoting PCSD/2030 Agenda in the region, focusing on four elements that are completely interdependent:

1. Framework of governance for PCSD/2030 Agenda in Extremadura.
2. Strategy for promoting PCSD/2030 Agenda in Extremadura.
3. Roadmap/courses of action for localizing the SDGs and promoting the 2030 Agenda in Extremadura.
4. Reporting on advances and outcomes in implementing PCSD/2030 Agenda in Extremadura (i.e., monitoring system).

More detail is provided on each of these below.

### 1. Framework of governance for the 2030 Agenda in Extremadura

In this first phase, we are designing a framework that will enable us to define, at the regional level, what part of our structure is going to be renovated, and where executive responsibility lies for PCSD/2030 Agenda. The Presidency of the Government of Extremadura assumes maximum responsibility in this area, and, through a body under its aegis, will undertake the specific mandate for its development. Another key piece will be the Department of Public Administration and the Treasury, which will be responsible for designing and implementing the **Sustainable Human Development Budgeting Programme**. This instrument will be tasked with defining budget items and their monitoring and fiscal management, thus ensuring the transformative focus that Extremadura wants to bring to its development of Agenda.

### 2. Strategy for promoting the 2030 Agenda in Extremadura

This will be a policy document in which we define the overall framework (governance, policy positions, mapping, and monitoring system).

Therefore, it should include:

- Positions regarding the 2030 Agenda. A great deal of what has been done to date is included in the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan for Extremaduran Cooperation, designed by the Extremaduran Agency for International Development Cooperation (AEXCID), and which has served to launch the PCSD/2030 Agenda Strategy.
- Framework of governance for the 2030 Agenda in Extremadura
- Policy orientations: the essential policies and major action areas for achieving the 2030 Agenda will be identified, reflecting the dual commitment (mapping and transformation of PCSD policies).
- The mapping proposal (with several layers or options, see below)
- The proposed follow-up report.

### **3. Roadmap/courses of action for localizing the SDGs and promoting the 2030 Agenda in Extremadura**

This is a basic element, to the extent that it defines the scope of the framework for using as the 2030 Agenda as a means of transformation:

- Identification of policies relevant to PCSD/2030 Agenda.
- Identification of contributions to the SDGs.
- Identification of potential transformations (e.g. policies, structures, resources) from the standpoint of PCSD.
- Identification of spaces, bodies, and government structures favourable to promoting PCSD/2030 Agenda.

### **4. Reporting on advances and outcomes in implementing PCSD/2030 Agenda in Extremadura (monitoring system)**

Based on the mapping exercise, we will develop in more detail the methodology and structure of the periodic outcome reporting.

The preliminary structure of this reporting will include:

- Institutional declaration
- Summary of the governance process and framework
- Mapping outcomes (synthesis with the most relevant elements)
- Methodology for obtaining indicators and the battery of indicators (baseline drawn from mapping)
- Accelerator policies and outcomes as regards the indicators
- Identification of measures to advance in implementation of PCSD/2030 Agenda.
- Appendices (statistical data and detailed mapping)

It is important to highlight that the different elements of the framework for promoting PCSD/2030 Agenda will not be developed sequentially. Each will be linked to the others, and the scope of some will affect the dimensions of others, with the mapping exercise being the element that lays the foundation for defining the rest.

## GALICIA

The Government of the Autonomous Community of Galicia is developing a number of projects in line with the 2030 Agenda 2030, including these noteworthy examples:

- The Galician Sustainability Strategy. The design of the first Galician Sustainability Strategy is focused on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and includes a battery of indicators adapted to Galicia, based on the UN indicators. Conducting such an exercise at the national level would be highly useful.
- The 2050 Galician Climate Change and Energy Strategy, which will be Galicia's planning instrument for combating climate change.
- *Huella Ecológica de Galicia* (Galician Ecological Footprint) is a project that it will make it possible to learn in detail about the region's biocapacity, and its efficiency as regards use of natural resources.
- The Galician Green Infrastructure Strategy seeks to lay the foundation for an ecological structure in Galicia through territorial planning that integrates the different strategies carried out in recent years (e.g. network of protected natural spaces, flood-risk zones, areas of special scenic interest) with green urban planning and infrastructure, as tools to provide ecological, economic, and social benefits.

These four projects are in line with the provisions of the current Galician Strategic Plan—specifically, with pillar 3.4, “Conservation of nature, the land, and the landscape, and territorial cohesion”—because they will assist in defining priorities for conservation of nature, the land, and the landscape.

- The *2014-2020 Strategy of Social Inclusion in Galicia* is the planning framework that includes priorities and goals in developing initiatives with impact on personal and family situations of vulnerability or social exclusion in Galicia. This Strategy incorporates goals and measures that are related to nine of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1 to 5, 9 to 11, and 17).
- The different policy, technical, and legislative actions carried out in rural areas, oriented (directly or indirectly) at achieving Targets 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 of SDG 2: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.” More specifically, actions are being carried out to raise the income of small-scale food producers, strengthen sustainability in the food production systems, and promote access to the benefits to be derived from genetic resources, the application of resilient agricultural practices, and the conservation of the genetic biodiversity of seeds, crops, and farm animals. The objective of these shared targets is to enhance the profitability of the agribusiness sector and pave the way for a generational handover in order to reduce as much as possible the flight from rural areas.
- The approval on 8 March 2018 of the 2020-2030 Galician Energy Guidelines aims to provide a comprehensive vision of the actions and measures to be carried out in order to optimize the energy potential of Galicia as a crucial part of its sustainable development and the prosperity of its inhabitants. In this road map, renewable energy, energy saving, and energy efficiency and sustainable mobility are the three pillars for launching an energy model able to advance towards a low-carbon economy, in keeping with SDG 7; “Ensure access to

affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”—in particular, as regards Targets 7.2 and 7.3. These energy guidelines, coherent with the aforesaid 2050 Galician Climate Change and Energy Strategy, seek to enable Galicia to surpass by 2020 all of the targets set in the area of energy by the EU in Directive 2009/28/EC.

- The 2017-2020 Galician Strategic Tourism Plan addresses a number of challenges; the first is the sustainability of Galicia’s natural attractions as a tourist destination. Highlights here are strategic areas 1 (landscape, natural resources, and sustainability) and 3 (tourist mobility), whose goals and targets are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, especially as regards Targets 7.2 and 7.3 of SDG 7 (“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”). Target 8.9 of SDG 8 (“decent work and economic growth”), which states “By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”. Targets 11.2 and 11.4 of SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities. Target 12.b of SDG 12 (“sustainable consumption and production”), which states “Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”.
- The different contributions made by Galicia’s Natural Heritage institution, to SDG 14 (“Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”) and SDG 15 (“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”), and in particular, to Targets 14.2, 15.2, 15.3 and 15.4. As regards Target 15.2, Galicia has approved Act 9/2001, of 21 August, on nature conservation, and, moreover, it is currently preparing a new Act on natural heritage. As for Target 15.3, it must be recalled that Galicia has a Land Bank, an instrument created by the Rural Environment Department under the aegis of the Galician Rural Development Agency (Agader), and which seeks to regulate the use and exploitation of agricultural land, with the twofold purpose of preventing their abandonment and of making them available for anyone who needs land for uses involving farming, livestock, forestry, nature and heritage conservation, and other uses of social interest. It must also be noted, regarding Target 15.4, that the Autonomous Community of Galicia has different protected natural sites in mountain areas. For example, the Natura 2000 network has 19 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Galician mountains.
- Other actions, albeit smaller in scale, are also part of the 2030 Agenda, such as the recent environmental dissemination and awareness campaign “*Verdear*”(Greening), aimed at fostering good sustainable practices both among the general public and economic agents (shops, schools, and organizers of trade fairs, festivals and sports events).

In short, all of the above initiatives confirm that Galicia is addressing the opportunity of turning environmental challenges into spaces for improvement and evolution, in order to become a region that is better adapted to the coming changes, and creating an efficient economy that is sustainable in its use of resources and low in greenhouse gas emissions, enabling future generations to enjoy a more sustainable region, which is part of a more sustainable planet.

## LA RIOJA

Beyond the legal implications of the Kingdom of Spain being a signatory to the UN General Assembly Resolution, the Government of the Autonomous Community of La Rioja understands

that the scope of the SDGs depends on coordinated action among all stakeholders, bearing in mind the 2030 Agenda's three dimensions social, economic and environmental.

The La Rioja Government, consequently, understands its responsibility and the need for any action plan regarding compliance to be drafted using a participative methodology, one that is open to public and private stakeholders, and whose scope of action may contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Having said this, and unlike other stakeholders, the La Rioja Government, in an exercise of responsibility, has considered it essential and paramount to take the first steps towards implementing an action plan by focusing on its own action. To do so, it has addressed drafting the actions to carry out in the implementation of the Agenda from an institutional viewpoint.

Even though mainstreaming is one of the Agenda's noteworthy features, it is one of the first difficulties that La Rioja has encountered when attempting to go beyond the departmental structure of all administrations to address the challenges set forth in the Agenda in a cross-cutting manner. To this end, La Rioja has opted for:

- a. Shared leadership between:
  - i. The La Rioja Presidency Department, given that a public administration's capacity to act effectively necessarily involves policy decision-making at the highest level. Hence the need for the department coordinating regional policy to lead the promotion of any initiatives relating to the implementation of an action plan.
  - ii. The La Rioja Department responsible for the Treasury, in order to prevent the adoption of the Agenda from becoming a merely rhetorical document. On the contrary, the La Rioja Government seeks to underscore the fact that implementing public policies requires an allocation of resources.
- b. Cross-cutting implementation, relying on the added value of international development cooperation, but understanding—as does the Agenda itself—that the perspective is not anchored in the north-south dichotomy, but, rather, presents milestones aimed at all levels of administration and, therefore, of society. Thus, we must highlight the driving role of the cooperation department in drafting the action plan.

### **The importance of synchronizing the distribution of resources with political priorities: a realistic and responsible approach**

From the beginning of the present term of the Regional Parliament, the La Rioja Government has been working on a new approach to defining public expenditure. This organizational scheme for the administration's budget has taken its first steps precisely on the basis of the Logical Framework Approach, which has been used for decades in defining, for example, international development cooperation initiatives. This new approach, which has been applied to the entire budget drafting process) has made it possible for us to have a current budget not only structured around accounting classifications that can be understood, to a varying degree, by the public, but around lines of action and goals. This scheme is somewhat comparable to that of the Agenda's goals and targets, and to that of the specific goal-logical framework outcomes scheme. All of this is in the understanding that, at the top, the lines are in sync with the Government's political programme, and that, at the bottom, achievement of goals takes the

shape of actions (with the corresponding budget) and is measured using precise indicators in terms of quality, quantity and deadlines.

Once the budget has been structured as described above, and in the conviction that serious, responsible and credible political action needs to be accompanied by budget availability, the La Rioja Government is now conducting a diagnosis of the alignment of its public policies with the 2030 Agenda, on the basis of the described budget structure. To this end, a study has begun (with a highly participatory approach) of the existing links between the goals and actions set forth in the regional budget, and the 2030 Agenda's targets.

### **Internal and external constraints**

The analysis under way, as has briefly been explained, is suffering from certain constraints that we could classify as internal (i.e., inherent to the functioning of La Rioja Government) and external (i.e., inherent to the configuration of the 2030 Agenda and to the status of these issues in Spain today).

#### **a. Internal constraints**

To date, correspondence with goals and targets has been identified, without quantifying the extent to which each goal involves the regional government (all the goals, in this phase, have been considered equal). In addition, a correction factor has been applied, enabling the different administrative centres to include actions aligned with the global Agenda that only involve the use of the administration's human resources, the monetary quantification of which cannot yet be carried out in an accurate and individualized manner. So far, this leads to a more cautious qualitative approach, leaving the quantitative analysis of alignment of the current Government's actions with the SDGs for a subsequent stage.

#### **b. External constraints**

The lack of specificity and of a clear positioning with regard to the 2030 Agenda indicators results in great uncertainty regarding the entire process. At first reading it seems clear that some of them will be difficult to use in measuring actions to be carried out in Spain. Lastly, it would be desirable to open up a debate with Spain's Central Administration on the possibility and feasibility of using our own indicators, replacing or supplementing the Agenda's. The administration of La Rioja also wonders about the need for the United Nations to validate the set of indicators that would finally be used in Spain (or even on a regional scale).

For this reason, in this phase the 2030 Agenda's 232 indicators have been used as a mere guide for better understanding the scope of certain targets. It goes without saying that a process of true ownership of the global Agenda's targets by the departments involved must necessarily include a clarification of the mechanisms measuring political actions (this is a constant request).

### **SITUATION ANALYSIS AND STEPS TO FOLLOW**

As mentioned briefly above, right now the La Rioja Government is conducting a diagnosis of the alignment of its policies with the Global Agenda. This diagnosis, which to date is being qualitative but that will soon incorporate a quantitative approach (how many resources allocated to each target), will serve as a basis for making any necessary political decisions that:

1. Strengthen (or showcase) commitment to certain targets

2. Review contributions towards certain targets
3. Eliminate actions that do not contribute to any target, or reorient actions to bring them in sync with the Agenda.

The above will take the shape of the La Rioja Agenda for Sustainable Development, or, in other words, the La Rioja Government's Action Plan. All of this will naturally be accompanied by the relevant reflection on the human and material regional administration resources.

In parallel, the La Rioja Government has started implementing actions relating to training relevant stakeholders (with particular emphasis, at this stage, on public employees) and to raising awareness among the public. With regard to the former, it is worth noting that:

1. Since 2016, funds dedicating to funding awareness-raising campaigns (in the framework of education for development) have not only doubled, but priority has been given to projects implemented by NGOs involving dissemination of the 2030 Agenda.
2. For this year, there is a plan to hold the first edition of an awareness-raising campaign aimed at La Rioja's major stakeholders (with particular emphasis on regional public employees) in Logroño and in Geneva, with the participation of United Nations staff (notably, UNESCO), and to be launched together with the University of La Rioja.

Naturally, the process requires participation by the other public and private stakeholders, who may contribute from their different areas of responsibility to the Agenda's goals and targets, over and above their involvement as a target population of awareness initiatives. The need for citizen involvement to be in sync with the Administration's process of assimilating the Agenda, however, has suggested that work on enhancing civil society's active participation should increase to the extent that the diagnostic work is coming to fruition.

## COMMUNITY OF MADRID

Three years ago the UN established the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals focused on universal action applicable to all countries, taking into account the distinguishing characteristics of each nation.

All the major challenges facing humankind, such as climate change, water shortages, health issues, inequality and hunger, can only be overcome with a global approach based on sustainable development.

The Government of the Autonomous Community of Madrid is fully committed to the Sustainable Development Goals and to combating climate change.

In June 2018 it made substantial changes to the structure of the Department of the Environment and Town and Country Planning for the purposes of promoting environmental sustainability, preserving diversity, striking a balance between economic and social progress and environmental conservation and protection, raising awareness about environmental sustainability, and promoting the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the fight against climate change in the Madrid Community.

These changes were accompanied by the creation of the position of Commissioner for Climate Change and for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Madrid is aware of its strategic position from an environmental, economic and social standpoint and therefore, too, of how essential its contribution is to meeting this challenge, which is a challenge for each and every one of us, and in which regional policies shall be crucial to the achievement of the ultimate goals.

For this reason, in addition to the broad range of measures detailed below, the regional administration shall promote the creation of a Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the Autonomous Community of Madrid, in which all of the regional Government Departments, local entities, civil society organizations and trade unions shall be represented.

#### **Measures implemented by the regional administration of Madrid:**

- Strategy for Social Inclusion.
- Childhood and Adolescence Plan for the Madrid Community (2017-2020).
- Individualized school transport subsidies.
- A map of the social benefits and grants aimed at families in situations of poverty and/or social exclusion (pending).
- Primary Social Care Agreements, including specific actions for combating child poverty
- Guaranteed minimum income.
- Social and labour market integration programmes for young people.
- Assistance and subsidies for mothers without resources and/or in a situation of social exclusion.
- General Development Cooperation Plan for the Madrid Community 2017-2020.
- Soup kitchens.
- Madrid's Strategy against Gender Violence.
- Madrid's Strategy against Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation.
- Madrid's Strategy for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.
- Elderly Care Strategy for the Madrid Community.
- The 2018-2022 strategy for Caring for People with Disabilities (to be presented in the near future).
- Family Support Strategy for the Madrid Community.
- Volunteer Work Strategy for the Madrid Community (2017-2021)
- Initiatives to facilitate access to legal aid for people on low incomes.
- Legal Guidance Service and a Court Representation Service
- For the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter the Madrid region has recorded positive year-on-year variations, with growth of 3.9% in the first quarter of 2018, exceeding the figure for Spain by nine decimal points.
- Madrid's R&D expenditure has been increased by 0.7% compared with the prior year (Spain: +0.7%). The number of people engaged in R&D activities has grown by 2.8% in Madrid (Spain: 2.5%)

- Madrid's regional administration, the trade unions CCOO Madrid and UGT Madrid, and the Madrid Confederation of Employers and Industries have signed a two-year extension to the Madrid Employment Strategy.
- In the area of training, new actions have been initiated to promote internships in companies and a programme for transport subsidies.
- Hiring incentives have been reinforced.
- The application period for the flat-rate Social Security contribution payable by new freelance workers has been extended to cover the first two years of freelance activity.
- In the specific sphere of the social economy, a new programme of grants of up to 15,000 euros has been introduced for the creation of cooperatives, worker-owned companies and companies aimed at social inclusion.
- Madrid has already achieved 45% of the objectives set forth in the Fifth Master Plan for Occupational Risks (2017-2020).
- A 2018-2030 Industrial Plan is being drawn up.
- A document has been prepared for the promotion of industry 4.0 in the region.
- Madrid plans to reduce the region's consumption of energy by 10% and—at the same time—to increase renewable energy production by 35%, in the framework of the 'Energy Plan of the Community of Madrid-Horizonte 2020'.
- Promotion of the healthcare strategy for chronically ill patients
- Drug Addiction Prevention Programmes at schools ("*Protegiéndote*" campaign)
- Achievement of universal healthcare coverage, focused, in particular, on protection against risks
- Prevention and control programme for diseases for which vaccinations can be administered
- Social tariff for water, benefiting 9,744 families (figure at May 2018) plus 106 community homes and sheltered flats.
- Strategy to revitalize rural municipalities.
- The Government of Madrid is firmly committed to promoting the use of renewable energy sources that are less polluting, as well as to reducing emissions from passenger and private transport. In the context of this commitment, the Electric Vehicle Board was created in June 2017. The Community of Madrid is going to roll out an innovative and ground-breaking project: the construction of the Electric Vehicle Centre on Paseo de la Castellana.
- The school dropout rate in the Madrid region for 2017 was 13.9%. This is 4.4 points lower than the average rate for Spain for that year (18.3%). **The Madrid educational system ranks above average among OECD and EU countries.**
- Development of a policy for grants and scholarships spanning from early years education to university studies.

## REGION OF MURCIA

The Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia, in the sphere of its competences, seeks to implement the 2030 Agenda on the basis of its identified strengths and weaknesses and through a strategy which shall be pursued following a broad participative process and involving

all the social and economic factors that could have a direct or indirect impact on the region's sustainable development.

Murcia is aware of how important and essential its contribution is to meeting the commitments undertaken by the Spanish State in respect of the 2030 Agenda, and has assumed a number of obligations in coordination with Spain's Central Administration.

As a society, Murcia has a long-standing tradition of solidarity, and wishes to contribute to a fairer global society, actively supporting the achievement of the SDGs in developing countries.

To this end, the Murcian Government intends to define and structure the governance of the Agenda, establishing an Action Plan to promote the SDGs in the short and medium terms.

## 1. Governance

Different levels of governance must be defined:

- Leadership: Governing Council.
- Planning and mainstreaming, entailing the Governing Council's presence in national and international forums on the planning and management of the SDGs: Presidency Department.
- Coordination: Secretaries-General of the different Departments of the regional administration.
- Management: Unit/s designated by each Department depending on the goals and targets.

## 2. 2018-2020 Action Plan.

This Action Plan shall contain:

- a) A diagnosis of the degree of achievement by the region of Murcia of the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals. This diagnosis shall include the SDG map, which identifies, by goal and by target, the main policies and initiatives focused on their implementation.
- b) A description of the region of Murcia's strengths to promote lines of action and specific SDG targets.
- c) A list of the actions to be carried out during 2019-2020 in those areas of sustainability in which a particular weakness has been identified and which could have a crucial impact on the harmonious and standardized implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the region of Murcia. These actions shall be determined based on the goals and lines of action established in the different sector plans currently being implemented by the regional administration.
- d) Training in managing the SDGs for the personnel of the regional and local public administration. This training is aimed at the following: 1) Adoption of the Agenda as a benchmark framework for decision-making within the regional and local public administration. 2) Undertaking of the tasks deriving from the strategic lines of action corresponding to their area of competence. 3) Implementation and assessment of the initiatives under their remit.
- e) Education of and awareness-raising among civil society regarding the SDGs, including the challenges and opportunities they represent, with the active participation of the education sector, associations and companies (NGDOs, environmental groups, business organizations and trade unions, etc.).

The active participation of Murcia's society is crucial to the implementation of the SDGs, through its involvement in defining the guiding policies and its commitment to their application. It is therefore essential to design channels of participation that are tailored to the different institutions and social sectors. In this regard, publicizing the 2030 Agenda is one of the actions included in the 2018 grant calls for NGDOs.

f) International Development Cooperation Plan for the Murcia region.

### 3. Regional strategy (2020-2030).

This is a strategic planning document, which shall contain:

- a) The Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved in the region, based on the weaknesses and strengths identified.
- b) Determination of lines of action and targets, based on existing sector plans and any additional sector plans required to achieve regional objectives.
- d) Performance indicators.
- d) Review and galvanizing mechanisms.

## AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF NAVARRE

The Parliament of Navarre, during its plenary session held on 3 November 2016, approved a resolution calling on the Navarre Government to conduct a study to determine the policies, programmes and actions it is applying to tackle the challenges of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, on 15 March 2017 the Navarre Government adopted an Agreement to create an Interdepartmental Committee to draw up a report on the policies, programmes and actions of the Navarre Government to address the challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This report has already been completed and includes an analysis of each SDG and its targets, presenting two different perspectives: an internal perspective (concerning the public policies to be applied in Navarre) and an external perspective (focused on international development cooperation policy).

As regards Navarre's *internal policies*, there are 30 *Directorates-General or regional bodies* involved in implementing the Agenda; 25 directly, and five in a cross-cutting manner. In total, these bodies are responsible for 67 *plans, programmes and strategies*, whose content, among other objectives, is focused on 72 *targets of the 2030 Agenda, corresponding to 15 SDGs (SDG 14 is not applicable to Navarre because the region does not have a coast, and SDG 17 is addressed separately, as reflected in the following paragraph)*. It is particularly significant that 73% of these *plans, programmes and strategies have been designed under the current regional administration*. The report analyses how the targets for each SDG are addressed through the pertinent legal or planning instruments, and the corresponding administrative unit or units. Finally, it should be noted that—even while taking into account the comprehensive and interrelated nature of the SDGs—the three dimensions of sustainable development are reflected in the following manner: the public policies that are most closely linked to economic development follow the Smart Specialization Strategy and a number of related sector plans; as regards, social development, of particular note are the Navarre Government Act regulating the rights to Social Inclusion and Guaranteed Income, the Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion, the

Active Employment Policies Agreement, the Housing Plan, the Family and Childhood Plan, the Diversity in Education Plan, and the Navarre Health Plan; as regards the environment, of particular note are the Climate Change Road Map, the Waste Plan and the Rural Development Programme. The Plan for Equality between women and men shall be mainstreamed across all the SDGs.

In addition, the Navarre Government has formulated a *development cooperation policy*, linked to the final SDG, whose implementation directly involves a *Directorate-General and for which a specific plan* has been drawn up. This policy shall also be supported by the present and future collaboration of various Directorates-General or regional administrative bodies, which shall participate in actions of international solidarity or technical cooperation for development.

***The report is supplemented by an ACTION PLAN including the following:***

*System of indicators.* Based on the indicators proposed by the European Union, and including some indicators of its own, the list of indicators for monitoring achievement of the 2030 Agenda is being defined.

*Monitoring system,* a progress report on the achievement of the SDGs and targets shall be issued in the second quarter of each year; based on the system of indicators. This progress report shall compare the situation in Navarre with the average for Europe and the average for Spain; it shall also report on Navarre's internal progress, taking 2015 as the base year. Moreover, a qualitative assessment shall be made of the status of the different strategic plans implemented.

*Gender mainstreaming.* Where applicable, the indicators shall be disaggregated by sex. All the progress reports shall be written using inclusive language.

*Localization.* For the first progress report, a proposal must be drawn up addressing how each of the targets guiding Navarre's internal policies, as well as the system of indicators, is to be localized and adapted downwards to the local administrative level, with monitoring of their social, economic and environmental dimensions.

*Adoption of the Agenda.* The Interdepartmental Committee shall promote the necessary measures to further knowledge of the Agenda, of the report on its implementation and of the progress reports, in the sphere of the Government Departments of Navarre. At minimum, the plans selected must include the reference numbers and logos of the corresponding SDGs.

*Dissemination of the Agenda.* A communication and publicity plan shall be developed through the Directorate-General for Communications and Institutional Relations, which must be supported by at least the Directorate-General for Culture and the Navarre Institute for Sport and Youth; all the department involved must promote measures to raise awareness of and increase knowledge of the 2030 Agenda, thereby promoting a "Culture of Sustainability" among Navarre's citizens.

*Issue of the current report and of the progress reports.* The report on "Aligning public policies with the SDGs and their targets", as well as the progress reports, must be issued to the Navarre Government, the Navarre Council for Development Cooperation, the Territorial Policy Social Council of Navarre and the Parliament of Navarre for the necessary purposes. These reports must also be issued to the Technical Secretary of the High-Level Group of Spain's Central Administration and to diverse international bodies linked to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.

*Official languages.* The reports shall be issued in the two co-official languages of Navarre. The communication and publicity plan must take this aspect into account.

## BASQUE COUNTRY

### BASQUE COUNTRY AGENDA 2030– JUNE 2018

Since the phase of defining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both the United Nations and the European Commission, in its communication of November 2016, have afforded great importance to the role of subnational governments in implementing the Agenda, given that in many cases they are responsible for the issues addressed by it and for the relevant resources, as well as having more specific knowledge about society's realities and needs. Each territory must embark on this path taking into consideration its own circumstances. This commitment to promoting the territorial dimension and to adapting to a regional scale is one of the unique features of the 2030 Agenda.

The Government of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country fully endorses the vision underlying the United Nations proposal. It shares the vision of a world focusing on people, committed to protecting the planet and to living in peace, and capable of generating prosperity through a model of partnerships: five spheres—people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership—that are critical for humankind.

Consequently, the Basque Government has undertaken the universal challenge involved in the 2030 Agenda, and adheres to the commitment to contributing to the achievement of the 17 SDGs. Aligning its efforts towards the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda is one of the challenges facing the Basque Government, one to which it is resolutely committed. The Agenda constitutes a tool for the Basque Country to improve its public policies.

As stated by the President of the Basque Government in his inaugural address in November 2016, the new 2030 Agenda offers the Basque Country an opportunity to build a project for the future, in line with the challenges on the global scene. In fact, the 2030 Agenda's commitment to "leave no one behind" coincides with the firmest commitment that the President made to Basque society.

Thus, the Basque Government is already taking steps towards the ownership and implementation of the SDGs in the Basque Country. Some of these steps are, in brief:

- Awareness-raising and dissemination: communication campaigns, training sessions for Basque Government staff, production of informative materials, and translation into Basque of documents of reference.
- Inclusion into the SDG debate of representatives from different sectors of Basque society (such as companies, education, NGOs, and academia), and strengthening of partnerships with international organizations, and other institutions, agents and networks operating in Spain or at the European or international level. These partnerships act as a mechanism, not only for sharing experiences but also for showcasing our commitment to the 2030 Agenda. They are based on the understanding that neither the public administration alone, nor the different private stakeholders or civil society on their own, can make significant progress towards the SDGs.
- Alignment of public policies with the 2030 Agenda.

On 21 February 2017, the Basque Government's Programme for the 11<sup>th</sup> Term of the Regional Parliament (2016-2020), reflecting the Government's commitment to Basque society, was approved. The Programme has 4 pillars, 15 country goals, 10 lines, and 175 commitments, with sustainable human development as one of its major focus points. Its governance model is based on transparency, evaluation and accountability.

The goals set forth by the Basque Government are structured into 5 levels: the UN's five Ps (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership).

In any case, the Basque Country is not starting from scratch. It has a long-standing history of mainstreaming policies on environmental sustainability, gender, and social cohesion.

The goals and targets included in the Government Programme are closely linked to the 2030 Agenda. Noteworthy among its aims are: bringing the unemployment rate down to under 10%, offering initial work experience to 20,000 young people, reducing poverty to 20%, increasing the birth rate, placing the Basque Country among the top 4 EU territories in terms of gender equality, bringing the school dropout rate to under 8%, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20%. Therefore, our Government Plan identifies goals on which to make efforts that are fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda roadmap.

The next step in the Basque Government's determination to focus its public policies in light of the 2030 Agenda challenges has been the approval on 10 April 2018 by the Government Council, and subsequent public presentation, of the *First Basque Country 2030 Agenda*, the Basque Country's contribution to the SDGs promoted by the United Nations. The document reflects the degree of alignment and contribution by the Basque Government's actions and sector-specific policies to the global sustainable development agenda.

Specifically, this First Basque Country 2030 Agenda, for the 2016-2020 period, links the 17 SDGs and a selection of 100 of their targets to 93 of the commitments undertaken by the Basque Government in its Programme, and to 80 planning instruments, 19 legislative initiatives, and 50 indicators. These efforts will make it possible to effectively connect Basque public policies to the universal agenda, and to showcase the Basque Country's contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs.

## 14. Commitments by local governments

As was indicated in the introduction to section 4, the Report will now focus on commitments from local governments, as formulated by FEMP.

From the outset, the Agenda for Sustainable Development has highlighted the importance of its integrated nature, as it affects all levels of government: regional, national, subnational and local. Indeed, its declaration recognizes the role of local and municipal stakeholders in planning, implementation and accountability as regards achieving the SDGs. Many SDGs and targets demand resolute action by local governments, not only in relation to SDG 11, but also in the

practical implementation of measures such as combating climate change, and promoting employment, equality or education. Thus, the EU has recognized “the responsibility of the EU and its Member States, within their respective competences, to promote a transformative agenda for sustainable development domestically, regionally and globally” and has urged “the Commission to elaborate [...] an implementation strategy [...] to reflect the 2030 Agenda in all relevant EU internal and external policies”.

***Localization** is the process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from setting the goals and targets to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.*

*Localization relates both to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs at national level by means of action carried out from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy.*

*The development of local and regional instruments to improve transparency, good governance and citizen participation can be a fundamental strategy to foster open governance that allows sustainable development. These objectives cannot be achieved without taking into account the need to strengthen the capacities of local governments, including the development of participatory, innovative and sustainable tools that guarantee ownership by citizens.*

Likewise, the approval of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development - HABITAT III (2016), constitutes guidance for efforts being made on urban development in these next 20 years. The NUA was born one year after the 2030 Agenda, creating a bond that mutually strengthens urbanization and development. The inclusion of SDG 11 to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” is, for the most part, the result of an arduous campaign by local governments, their associations and the urban community.

SDG 11 constitutes a major step forward in recognizing the transformative power of urbanization for development, and in the role of urban leaders in driving global change from the grass roots level. However, the role of local administrations in achieving the Agenda’s aims goes beyond SDG 11. All of the SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly related to the daily work of local and regional governments. These levels of government are policy makers, catalysts of change, and the level of government best-placed to link the global goals with local communities. That is why so many references are made to localizing the SDGs.

Local and regional governments, and the associations representing them, have participated actively in the design of the 2030 Agenda and of the NUA. Both of these international agendas have described the importance of local governments to guarantee effective implementation of their goals. Thanks to the work of the global organization United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through its Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, one of the main lessons learned is that SDGs need to be achieved using a new approach of institutional and intersector cooperation and coordination, in which dialogue and complementarity among the local, national and international levels are crucial, as well as collaboration with the public and private sectors and with civil society. The achievements made by the Global Taskforce with regard to the recognition of local governments both in the 2030 Agenda and in the NUA have become solid and stable foundations to build the new action strategies, with a sector-specific and a territorial approach.

In Spain, given our country's political and administrative structure, local governments play a key role, and have specific weight, in implementing the 2030 Agenda. The distribution of administrative powers, as well as their closeness to citizens, their promotion of strategies for sustainable and participatory local development, and the implementation of the NUA requirements, all make local governments play a leading role at the forefront of the entire public policy cycle (drafting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation).

Spain's local governments are optimally placed at the territorial level to promote sustainable development in different spheres:

- By carrying out local SDG-related actions, such as sustainable urban mobility plans, territorial planning, local sustainable development strategies, the promotion of equality and public safety policies, local employment and training pacts, and cooperation policies. The local level spearheads the development of innovative policies involving different stakeholders on the ground, favouring the creation of public-private social partnerships. A great many municipalities and local governments are already including SDG mainstreaming strategies in their municipal strategies.
- By developing policies to enhance democracy and citizen participation, such as open government initiatives, participatory budgeting, Educating Cities, citizen and neighbourhood councils, and transparency portals. It must be noted here that citizen participation is more intense in the local sphere, as it is the level of government that is most clearly linked to the citizenry. SDG training and awareness networks have been launched, linking local governments to the issues in the Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- By promoting the culture of peace. The SDGs are core components of peace, and highlight how ending poverty, protecting the planet, and achieving widely shared prosperity are all factors contributing to global harmony and lasting peace. There are many ways in which local governments can collaborate in peacebuilding, and, in this regard, city diplomacy comprises a great many of these ways, in addition to having global networks with national sections, such as Mayors for Peace, and the initiative led by Madrid City Council, called Cities of Peace, which can become essential instruments to achieve the SDG 16 targets.
- By establishing networks and structures for intermunicipal and international cooperation, such as the Spanish Network of Cities for Climate, Child Friendly Cities, the Network of Cities for the Circular Economy, the C40 Cities, or participation, through FEMP, in different international networks such as the UCLG and the CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions). These networks, whether national, European or international, strengthen the governance of the Agenda, promote horizontal cooperation and the sharing of experiences, improve public policy practices, and enable the dissemination of innovative initiatives. Also worth noting is the structural role played by FEMP in Spain's territorial fabric, with its territorial federations of municipalities and provinces, who are called to play a leading role in coordinating localization plans for the Agenda using a regional approach.

The role of local and regional governments and associations in achieving the SDGs is crucial, because the local level is where the approach of equality in implementing the SDGs at the national level can be preserved. Achieving the SDGs depends to a great extent on the active participation of local governments, because all of the SDGs include targets relating to local and municipal powers and responsibilities, mainly for the provision of basic services and the promotion of endogenous, inclusive and sustainable territorial development. Hence the

importance of networks of cities and local governments as catalysts and support systems for strengthening their role at three levels: institutional, policy impact, and partnerships.

FEMP has undertaken a firm commitment to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda, convinced that it should be the roadmap to follow in forthcoming years to reach a fairer, freer and more equal society, one where local governments play a key role. On this basis, FEMP has defended the role that local governments should play in defining our Sustainable Development Strategy, and has spearheaded the creation of a multi-level and multi-stakeholder participation mechanism, with key agents committed to achieving the SDGs, based on the principles of open government, and which has made it possible for it to draft its own action strategy and enhance contributions to the Action Plan. This process began in January 2018 in the city of Soria, with the event **Think Europe: Commitment 2030**, the first seminar at the national level, coordinating dialogue at the highest level among the Government of Spain, the Autonomous Communities, local governments, international organizations, civil society, universities, and the private sector. The then Vice President of the Spanish Government, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría attended the event, and delivered a clear message:

***Think Europe: Commitment 2030***

*Soria, 16 January 2018*

*Today, local leaders representing millions of citizens are faced with a challenge: making cities inclusive, safe and sustainable. It is necessary to review the urban planning model, and this means much more than demographics. Spain considers that cohesion policy should be structural and be an instrument for investment. Cohesion policy should be comprehensive and encompass every territory. To do so, it must be based on a long-term strategic vision that defines the main challenges, and that there such be a follow-up strategy serving as the implementation framework for the 2030 Agenda. Spain is committed, in its territory, to the Agenda, and we undertake it as a national policy.*

*(Sáenz de Santamaría, 2018)*

FEMP's strategy for the localization of the 2030 Agenda (attached as an Appendix to this Action Plan), and, therefore, for local empowerment, revolves around three main objectives:

1. Fostering institutional strengthening and awareness among local stakeholders (among them, the territorial federations of municipalities and provinces), to improve knowledge about the SDGs and their appropriate mainstreaming into local strategies in Spain.
2. Strengthening and legitimizing the strategic role played by local authorities in developing the 2030 Agenda in the respective national spheres, to achieve better policy impact in this regard.
3. Improve and strengthen partnerships, and international action and cooperation, in terms of national, European and international—as well as municipal and provincial—networks and organizations, for experience-sharing, technical assistance, and decentralized cooperation regarding achievement of the SDGs.

For all of these reasons, the Action Plan, in **recognition of the key role of local governments in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda**, undertakes to:

- Advance towards the institutional recognition of local authorities as a level of government with full political autonomy, so that they may proceed to implement the necessary reforms to improve the country's degree of decentralization.
- Foster a cohesion policy at the national level for action involving the 2030 Agenda, as an inspiration and an accelerator for transformation, which will enable the country's regions and territories advance towards effective achievement of the SDGs.
- Promote action plans to prevent urban violence. This requires increasing collaboration and information-sharing among the different administrations, fostering monitoring and compliance with international treaties and other laws, and other human rights protection mechanisms contributing to prevent urban violence.
- Produce a development map that takes into account infrastructure variables such as roads and railways, and electrical, technological and industrial infrastructures, in order to get an accurate picture of the situation of the different territories, which will serve as the foundation for a necessary strategy on territorial planning.
- Recognize FEMP as an accelerator institution for promoting the 2030 Agenda, highlighting the leading role it is playing in the networks and organizations to which it belongs, in Europe and globally.
- Create and strengthen open government mechanisms leading to dialogue and coordination among the different stakeholders, in terms of strategy and of mobilization of political, social and economic resources.
- Promote the local dimension of the accelerator policies set forth in the plan, in their design, implementation and monitoring.
- Foster the collection of local information on the development of the Agenda, as well as the promotion of the mainstreaming of SDGs in local and municipal development strategies, such as municipal strategic plans.
- Recognize the importance of FEMP's role in achieving outcomes in Spain's local sphere. To this end, FEMP will seek the necessary agreements and resources to implement actions aimed at institutional strengthening, awareness and training, promotion of a harmonized statistical system of indicators, the fostering of experience-sharing, and promotion of 2030 strategies for local development.



# GOVERNANCE OF THE AGENDA

## 15. Governance of the 2030 Agenda and institutional mechanisms

The 2030 Agenda constitutes a paradigm shift that translates immediately into the need to have appropriate governance. The governance of the Agenda needs to be multi-level (including all levels of public administration and all social and political spaces), multi-stakeholder (ensuring the participation of all the stakeholders involved in the definition of policies and their monitoring and evaluation), integrated (addressing all of the SDGs in an indivisible manner, as they are defined in the Agenda), and inclusive (an umbrella that ensures an approach that goes beyond the traditional silos in disciplines, scopes of authority, and sector-specific divisions).

The governance of the Agenda in Spain, as in most countries, has received particular attention by civil society, Autonomous Communities, local entities and other stakeholders, which have all emphasized the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms and adapt existing frameworks to the new reality of the Agenda, making specific proposals in this regard.

The following are the components of the Action Plan's strengthened and updated governance system, which is based on the HLG's experience and on the work of the Ambassador-at-Large for the 2030 Agenda.

### 15.1. STRENGTHENED COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP IN SPAIN'S CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The HLG's months of work and wide-ranging experience, the efforts of the Ambassador-at-Large, the dialogue processes carried out to prepare this Action Plan, and the nearly unanimous demands made by social and economic stakeholders and in the non-legislative motions in the Congress of Deputies, have all made it possible to conclude the need for strengthened governance for the 2030 Agenda to be a success.

The following measures will be taken:

- **A RENOVATED HIGH-LEVEL GROUP, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT**

Spain's Congress of Deputies urged the Government to redesign, whenever necessary, the institutional structure that may be required over time to fulfil the 2030 Agenda, given that it will foreseeably be increasingly necessary to have greater involvement by other ministries, beyond the scope of the Government's CDGAE. The 2030 Agenda is an integrated agenda; therefore, its planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and mainstreaming aspects will require horizontal coordination, for which Sector Conferences may not be fully equipped.

In such a highly decentralized country as Spain, where most of the key powers for achieving the SDGs have been devolved to the Autonomous Communities, provinces or municipalities, the 2030 Agenda can only move forward if the Autonomous Communities and local governments are included in its implementation.

Local authorities need to have a differentiated or strengthened sphere of representation in institutional decision-making and coordination bodies in which Spain's action towards fulfilling the 2030 Agenda is discussed. To do so, it is necessary to guarantee that local governments are represented in the appropriate institutional spaces, in their own right, and for this purpose, the

necessary institutional reforms will be carried out, including the participation of FEMP as an ex officio member of the governance bodies designated for the 2030 Agenda.

The HLG's mandate and composition will be redesigned, to adapt it to the priorities and structure of the incoming Government, as well as to recognize the representatives from the Autonomous Communities and local governments as permanent members. This reform will be included in a corresponding Royal Decree.

The allocation of responsibilities for each SDG to the ministries involved, designating a focal point ministry for each SDG, will be strengthened and immediately adapted to the structure of the incoming Government. These focal points will advance the corresponding SDG in a coherent manner and in coordination with the other ministries. The duties of the SDG focal points, in collaboration with the ministries most involved in each SDG, will include:

- Supporting the coordination of stakeholders.
  - Supporting communication activities: Promoting coherent and strategic communication of the specific SDG.
  - Developing the specific SDG.
- **CREATION OF THE POSITION OF HIGH COMMISSIONER AND OF A NEW OFFICE FOR THE 2030 AGENDA**

In Royal Decree 419/2018, of 18 June, restructuring the Presidency of the Government, the President of the Government set forth the creation of a series of high-level management bodies and positions, to work under his aegis in the framework of the Presidency of the Government. One of these positions is the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda.

Working under the direct aegis of the President of the Government, the High Commission for the 2030 Agenda will have the rank of Under-Secretary and be responsible for coordinating actions for the fulfilment of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, especially with Spain's territorial administrations and civil society, and, in particular, will have the following duties: a) Monitoring the actions of the relevant Central Administration bodies towards fulfilling the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. b) Promoting the design and implementation of the necessary plans and strategies for Spain to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. c) Evaluating, verifying and disseminating the degree of progress in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda's goals. d) Collaborating with MAUC in Spain's international dialogue on the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. e) Promoting the creation of the necessary information and statistics systems to accredit progress in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda goals.

As technical support for the High Commissioner, the Office of the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda—whose Head will have the rank of Director-General—has been created within the Office of the President of the Government.

- **CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

In the section on follow-up and review, the 2030 Agenda sets forth that these processes will be “will be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support reporting by all relevant stakeholders”. It must be borne in mind that SDG 17 explicitly refers to

partnerships, and that the Agenda's multi-stakeholder nature is among its fundamental principles, as stated in its Preamble in the fifth of its basic principles: "Partnership. We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people."

Spain's Congress of Deputies has gone even further and has urged the Government to "create, as soon as possible, a Sustainable Development Council representing social, economic and political stakeholders", a proposal that has been endorsed by civil society, several Autonomous Communities and FEMP in the drafting and discussion process of this Plan.

To this end, a Sustainable Development Council will be created, similar to other advisory councils created in countries like ours, as a consultation body similar to those existing in other spheres. The members of this Council will include representatives from universities; civil society; the private sector; social, environmental, economic and trade union stakeholders; as well as experts in the different areas involved in the 2030 Agenda.

- **COORDINATION IN SECTOR CONFERENCES**

For ordinary compliance with this cooperation mandate, the best use will be made of the structures, bodies and instruments already existing in the Central Administration and Autonomous Communities. The most characteristic of these instruments are the Sector Conferences, institutional cooperation bodies focusing on a specific sector of public activity, and comprising the relevant minister and all the regional ministers involved in the same sector. Given their composition, number and activity, they constitute the main pillar of inter-administration cooperation. Other formulas, more dynamic and informal, are also often used, as they may better adapt to each project or policy; these are included in Article 143 *et seq.* of Act 40/2015 on the Legal Framework of the Public Sector.

Whenever the SDG focal point ministry considers it appropriate, any activities necessary for coordination will be carried out through these mechanisms.

The Conference of Presidents is the maximum political cooperation body between the Central Administration and the Autonomous Communities. Its members are the President of the Government, who is its Chair, and the Presidents of Spain's 17 Autonomous Communities and of the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla. Its agenda will include promotion and monitoring measures for the 2030 Agenda. Sector Conferences will continue to address aspects referring to specific SDGs, which will also be channelled through diverse coordination formulas, strengthening the representation of FEMP in key issues.

- **ONLINE PLATFORM FOR PARTICIPATION, TRANSPARENCY, DISSEMINATION AND MOBILIZATION**

Communication is an invaluable instrument for achieving the transformation we seek. But we must not fall into the temptation of institutional communication, or only informing about actions carried out. Communication must be submitted to strict accountability. It needs to add

value and connect, in a single space, all of those who are working in sustainable development—locally or in specific sectors—with a global approach. To do this, it is necessary to create a virtual platform of information, knowledge and connection, to generate multidirectional communication and highlight the actions and stakeholders involved in sustainable development. A project that combines the three vectors: inform, raise awareness and communicate, to transform society and generate virtuous circles of action.

The first version of the platform will be launched in 2018, and will be steadily enhanced to become an online platform of knowledge and information management, constituting a genuine portal of access to all the information about the 2030 Agenda and its implementation, and for the mobilization, learning and recording of the commitment of all stakeholders and citizens. It will be a space for debate and knowledge, where civil society and all the other stakeholders can share knowledge and create synergies.

Moreover, as stated earlier, a database has recently been launched as an accessible, operational means of collecting all the information that the different Central Administration units have garnered in the process of mapping the SDs and targets. This database is still under review due to the changes resulting from the Central Administration's new structure of ministries.

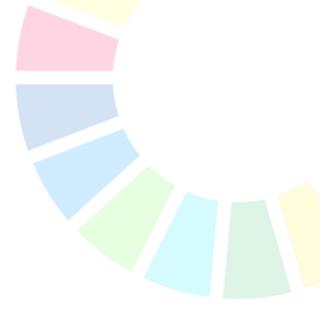
## 15.2 . ROLE OF SPAIN'S PARLIAMENT

Ever since the 2030 Agenda was born, Spain's Parliament has played a central role in this regard, through the respective Development Cooperation Committees at the Senate and at the Congress of Deputies, discussing and approving non-legislative motions, guiding the Government's actions, and, most recently, through the Senate's unanimous request, made on 21 February, for a Joint Congress of Deputies-Senate Committee to Coordinate and Monitor Spain's SDG Strategy.

Parliament's role is crucial in bringing the 2030 Agenda to fruition. By materializing political initiatives through legislation and budgeting, it can provide plans and strategies with the necessary accompanying means of implementation. And through its duties involving control, it can ensure accountability.

As requested by the Congress of Deputies, the Government will periodically inform the Congress, in whatever appearances are determined, of progress being made on implementation. This process will have the structure determined by Parliament, foreseeably with a leading role being played by the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the 2030 Agenda.

The Government will annually submit a comprehensive report on its fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, for accountability purposes, to the corresponding parliamentary committee, and it will also be debated and commented on by the specific consultation bodies determined. The report will contain progress made on the 2030 Agenda and on the implementation of this Plan, and it will specifically include reporting on policy coherence with the SDGs from the perspective of their impact on third countries and global public goods. The Congress of Deputies and Senate may, in the exercise of their powers, propose the holding of an annual plenary session to monitor progress made on the 2030 Agenda. In any case, parliamentary control requirements will be complied with for the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda's sector-specific aspects that are the responsibility of each of the parliamentary committees.





# LOOKING AHEAD: TOWARDS A 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



## 16. Next steps

Our commitment to the structured, phased implementation of the Agenda in Spain has led us to immediately begin implementing the Action Plan, whilst almost simultaneously reflecting on our future national Sustainable Development Strategy, so that it may be approved by 2020. Therefore, the 2019 Annual Operating Plan will be designed in the next few months, and it will include the necessary steps to promote transformative policies and measures, and the first phase of the drafting the Strategy.

As for governance, the HLG will be adapted to Spain's new government structure, and in line with the framework of the newly created position of High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, while at the same time strengthening each ministry's focal points, without any increase in public expenditure and by reassigning resources.

One of the next tasks will be to support the work led by Spain's National Statistics Institute in coordination with the Interministerial Statistics Commission and in collaboration with the other stakeholders, aimed at expanding and updating the set of indicators, selecting and defining those that are most appropriate for measuring the degree of implementation in Spain, and collecting and updating the necessary data. This will be key to enabling, domestically, the monitoring, evaluation, and accountability of the process, with the Joint Parliamentary Committee as the main interlocutor, and the annual report submitted to the Congress of Deputies as the horizon; externally, with a view to the 2021 VNR.

In order to provide a formal institutional framework for dialogue and consultations on all of the elements in the Agenda with all the stakeholders involved, the Sustainable Development Council will be created, in coordination with the existing consultation bodies. This Council will be key to guaranteeing coherence among all policies.

To support the implementation of the Agenda in other countries, Spain will play an active role within the EU, as well as in the regions where Spain is most present and has the greatest degree of dialogue, such as Latin America and the Caribbean, the Mediterranean region, and Africa.

## 17. Conclusions and lessons learned

The first steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have made it possible to lay solid and lasting foundations, showing positive prospects for our immediate obligations regarding the Plan's launch, and our future obligations regarding the drafting and approval of our national Sustainable Development Strategy and its implementation, the achievement of the Agenda's goals, and Spain's contribution to progress in third countries. It is worth highlighting the following strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned in this first stage.

A country's involvement in the international drafting process of the Agenda is not sufficient to guarantee its speedy domestic implementation. It is necessary to have stakeholders who are aware of the global process, understand its domestic dimension, and are willing to share the spirit of the Agenda with the other national stakeholders.

In Spain, interest in the Agenda and the first steps towards its implementation have been spearheaded by the units from the different stakeholders with international and multilateral duties and experience, whose members are highly motivated and committed to its fulfilment, and at the same time acutely aware of the domestic nature of its goals. Within Spain's Central Administration, MAUC has been at the helm; at the other ministries, the drivers have been the units responsible for international relations, or those whose thematic remit includes the accelerator policies; in civil society, organizations with an international development cooperation component; in the private sector, the business networks and platforms and the company units working in UN-led social responsibility and sustainability processes; at universities, the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE), and Vice-Rectorates with responsibilities in the international sphere, development cooperation, and sustainability.

The Spanish Government's decision to take all of these units into account from the outset, supporting and strengthening their role, has been key to enabling the first steps towards the Agenda, and to fostering a process of outreach towards other units.

The Government's decision to conduct a VNR in 2018 had a jumpstart effect. Even though a VNR is an instrument in the framework of follow-up and review of the Agenda, it can play an essential role in moving and driving the commitment of all the stakeholders, and contribute to the aforesaid shift from the global to the domestic, to the initial decisions on implementation, and to the mapping of previous work done by the Central Administration and by all of the stakeholders.

The importance of maximizing a VNR to launch a strategic process to implement the Agenda must be underlined. The HLPF does not consider a VNR as merely a test to be passed, or mere compliance with certain requirements, but, rather, as an in-depth process for peers to share how and with whom the implementation of the Agenda is materializing.

This is what we have done in Spain. Our Government and the stakeholders involved gave priority to laying the foundations for implementing the Agenda, rather than simply generating commitments aimed at passing a test. This has ultimately been a strength that has enabled us to dedicate time and resources to the initial implementation phases, as well as to ownership and coordination among all the stakeholders.

We see the possibilities of keeping up the pace of VNR submissions, which could lead us to 2020, in which we could report, for accountability purposes, on the course of the Action Plan and the launching of the Sustainable Development Strategy, followed by submissions to present our progress on the implementation of the Strategy.

Shared responsibility, the commitment of all, and a series of bottom-up construction processes all require committed leadership by the Government, in alliance with Parliament.

In the case of Spain, the non-public stakeholders did not have to wait for the Government's direction, and had long before set forth a position and actions for the implementation of the Agenda. However, from the outset they chose to recognize, join and contribute to the Government's leadership, which has also been strengthened and enriched by dissenting positions that naturally arise in a shared construction process.

The Agenda's integrated and inclusive nature requires that the Government's leadership be shared and undertaken by all units, and not only by the unit that was initially responsible for implementation. One of the first decisions was to involve all of the ministries and Central Administration units decisively in the Agenda. The creation of the HLG and approval of its roadmap and schedule, with responsibilities and tasks shared among all the Central

Administration units, and the definition and development of the figure of focal point ministries for each SDG, have been key elements that foster ownership and coordinate the responsibility of the entire Government, in addition to laying the foundations for dialogue between the ministries and all the other stakeholders.

The Spanish Government's commitment, the appropriateness of the instruments identified for this purpose, and the positive response by all the ministries and other Central Administration units, have all become a strength for the process in Spain, which will enable coherence and cohesion with regard to the Agenda.

The Government's overall leadership must be accompanied by that of each ministry in relation to the SDG falling under its remit; this is essential for the achievement of each target.

The figure of focal point ministries for each SDG has been key in the diagnostic exercises, baselines and mapping, as well as in the initial decision-making regarding the implementation of the SDGs and their targets. The ministries' leadership has not diminished the role of the other stakeholders involved in each SDG, and it has also served to organize and enhance this role. In turn, all the stakeholders, including the ministries involved in SDGs for which they are not the focal point, have an interlocutor at the highest level for the necessary dialogue and decision-making required by each SDG.

Structured dialogue with all stakeholders has been a priority for the Spanish Government, which has fostered this process and taken every position into consideration. A two-fold approach has been used: on the one hand, the Government, through its principal representatives, has collected their contributions, proposals, expectations and demands regarding the implementation and mainstreaming of the Agenda in Spain, and on the other, exercising leadership through each focal point ministry, with the stakeholders as thematic and sectoral specialists, in the framework of each SDG.

This combination of stakeholders as agents, in a broad sense, and stakeholders as specialists has become another strength which, as in the case of the ministries, will guarantee that all decisions made regarding the implementation of the Agenda are closely linked to the specific fulfilment of each SDG and its targets, in line with the other goals.

Fulfilling the Agenda and each SDG is a formidable challenge, with a transformative long-term ambition that can only be addressed through profound changes in public policies and in States' strategies.

Constructing our own, innovative concept of accelerator policies and transformative measures has made it possible, on the one hand, to consolidate the conviction that driving the SDGs forward requires specific policies and measures with great impact. On the other, they have proved to be elements motivating and mobilizing leadership and strengthening the administration units most convinced of and committed to the 2030 Agenda.

In the case of Spain, gradual and cautious decisions have been taken for the proper assimilation of the Agenda. The months devoted to the diagnostic process of each SDG and to the in-depth study of its targets and indicators have been extremely useful to thoroughly understand the key factors of each goal, to highlight what is already being done, to identify the challenges, and to be aware of the decisions necessary for their implementation. This three-stage itinerary is considered another strength, enabling these decisions to be taken on the basis of everyone's ownership, participation, knowledge, and political commitment.

The Agenda's transformative ambition cannot be measured without an appropriate indicator framework. In Spain, the focal point ministries committed from the outset to using the framework proposed by the UN and the EU as a benchmark, and to recognize the National Statistics Institute's leadership and competence.

The attention paid to indicators has also been a strength, and an element of quality for understanding and in-depth study of the content and scope of each SDG and each target, the conducting of diagnoses, and the decision-making baselines and roadmaps. It has also enabled the appropriate definition of national indicators to supplement the general framework and highlight the efforts made by Spain.

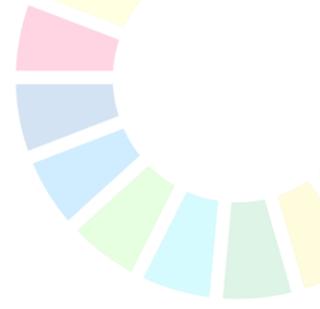
The cross-cutting nature of the Agenda, above and beyond the achievement of each SDG, with a marked sector-specific nature, suggests the need to also involve the Central Administration's cross-cutting units.

In the case of Spain, all of the ministries' commitment to the Agenda has highlighted certain structural requirements, to which the entire Central Administration will respond with an exercise in mainstreaming. Noteworthy here are the efforts made by the State Secretariat for the Civil Service, which have led to several measures with a strong capacity to transform administrative practices.

In Spain there is great concern for addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, both those in our country and beyond our borders. The Government has been very active in this regard, as shown by its *Strategy for Preventing and Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion* and the *Fifth Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation*. These efforts have been shared by all of the stakeholders. It is crucial to plan and design specific tools so that the fight against poverty and inequality may move resolutely forward.

A correct diagnosis and baseline phase will inevitably lead to detecting areas of conflict regarding how to reach certain targets and determine which ones are priorities, and this will complicate decision-making.

The undertaking of responsibilities by focal point ministries has made it possible to identify certain conflicts, and the joint work of the HLG has made it possible to resolve them in accordance with a policy coherence approach. The Agenda governance system—now strengthened—proposed in the Action Plan should channel such tensions appropriately.



## Appendices

**Note:** This list of Appendices to be sent to the UN is open and may be reviewed before the VNR is held.

Appendix 1. Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain.

Appendix 2. Statistics.

Appendix 3. Strategies by the Autonomous Communities and local governments.

Appendix 4. Institutional statements by all the stakeholders.

Appendix 5. Key documents in the implementation process of the Agenda.