



Spanish Cooperation Master Plan for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity 2024-2027



**Spanish Cooperation
Master Plan for
Sustainable Development
and Global Solidarity
2024-2027**



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FOREWORD



José Manuel Albares Bueno

**Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union
and Cooperation**

This document, Spanish Cooperation's Master Plan for 2024-2027, will guide our cooperation activities over the next four years. This strategic text defines Spanish Cooperation's geographic and thematic priorities, as a cornerstone of our foreign policy.

Our cooperation is the finest expression of the solidarity of the Spanish people. It is also essential to our progress and well-being as a public policy that acknowledges and assumes our responsibility for our future and for that of our planet. It is the external projection of our best values—those that define us as a democratic, humanist and advanced society. But it is also a crucial tool with which Spain, working hand in hand with our partners, can help to build a world that is sustainable, prosperous and at peace.

This is the first Master Plan to be adopted following the approval, in February 2023, of Act 1/2023 on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation, and it is the product of the same social and political consensus that enabled the Act to be passed, reflecting the cross-cutting nature of this public policy. This new Master Plan is not a mere continuation of previous Plans. Rather, it introduces important new concepts and approaches in line with the innovative and pioneering nature of the aforementioned Act to ensure that, through our cooperation actions, we are able to tackle the major global crises facing today's world and to consolidate Spain as a committed and proactive sustainable development stakeholder that is consistent in its words and deeds and the champion of a new model of cooperation based on listening to and collaborating with our partners.

Firstly, the 2024-2027 Master Plan strengthens Spain's commitment to reaching the target of allocating 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance by 2030, a long-standing demand of Spanish society. Our aim is for 10% of Official Development Assistance to be allocated to humanitarian action, in line with our efforts of recent years.

Secondly, the Plan identifies Western Africa and the Sahel as one of Spanish Cooperation's priority regions, together with Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab world, regions of traditional and enduring importance to Spain. Spain is going to pay even closer attention to sub-Saharan Africa, placing particular emphasis on the creation of job and training opportunities for young people as well as the protection of the rights of women and girls. The Master Plan also identifies Ukraine as a country of particular interest; this will enable us to keep working towards the recovery and reconstruction of the country. We will, moreover, continue to pay attention to humanitarian crises all over the world. Our commitment to Ukraine and Palestine, both through our defence of international and humanitarian law and through our cooperation work, is an exercise of coherence and alignment between our cooperation policy and our entire foreign policy of which we can be proud.

In addition, in line with the 2030 Agenda, we have set ourselves as an objective, and as a thread running through the thematic priorities of the Master Plan, the promotion of a triple social, economic and ecological transition. Action on hunger and climate change, health, education and access to water and the advancement of the rights of women and girls through a resolutely feminist cooperation policy are among the priority sectors of the new Master Plan.

The Master Plan also asserts our commitment to multilateralism, which will be further reflected in the drafting of a Multilateral Sustainable Development Policy Strategy. This commitment will also be expressed, in 2025, at the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Seville in recognition of our capacity to build bridges and unite efforts at an international level.

Lastly, this new Master Plan integrates the reform of the Spanish Cooperation system and functions as a guide for its implementation, defining specific road maps with our different stakeholders: non-governmental development organizations, trade unions, universities, and Spain's regional administrations and local authorities. At the heart of this reform is the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), which, thanks to its new Statute, will strengthen its role as a cornerstone for the operational coordination of stakeholders and the creation of partnerships.

The contributions from specialists, institutions and organizations from all spheres, for whose commitment and proposals I would like to offer my most sincere thanks, have enabled us to adopt a document in which we can all recognize ourselves, as befits a policy that defines us as a country and that represents us on the world stage. This is an effort that will contribute to strengthening Spain's role and our commitment to a world that is more humane, more just, more sustainable and at peace.

1

SPANISH COOPERATION'S MASTER PLAN: AN UPDATED SYSTEM TO ADDRESS THE TRIPLE GLOBAL TRANSITION



International cooperation is one of the hallmarks of Spain around the world, reflecting the solidarity of Spanish society and the aspiration in the country's Constitution to "collaborate in the strengthening of peaceful relations and effective cooperation amongst all the peoples of the world". Spain's sustainable development cooperation policy also contributes to a more prosperous, inclusive and peaceful world, and to discussions on how to more effectively address environmental, social and economic challenges; forging links with other countries and communities, walking alongside them, learning from them, and together seeking global solutions to shared challenges. Through sustainable development cooperation, Spain contributes to reducing inequalities worldwide and in each country with which it cooperates, based on the conviction that societies with less inequality are fairer, safer, more prosperous and more resilient to threats such as the climate emergency or food insecurity.

The principles and values of Spanish Cooperation, which are embodied in this Master Plan, are expressions of the openness and plurality of Spanish society. The Master Plan is rooted in the human rights-based approach and in fostering inclusive sustainable development that guarantees equality among all of humanity. The Master Plan also represents a commitment – as does all of Spain's foreign policy – to feminist cooperation, whereby international activities have at their heart the empowerment of women and girls, women and girls' rights, the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination, closing structural gaps, and ending structural inequalities.

A time of heightened uncertainty and increased inequality

Spain is cognizant of the fact that we are going through a period of multiple overlapping and multidimensional crises, some of which are cyclical and others of which have become chronic; a time of rapid transitions that must inevitably be addressed, and urgently. We are witnessing major threats and challenges re-

lating to sustainable development, ranging from environmental issues to new forms of political disenchantment and even democratic backsliding. The world is less stable and together we face more risks, with unsustainable production and consumption models, as reflected by the climate emergency and rising inequality.

The world is unsettled in the wake of the global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East, to mention but a few key factors. The number of ongoing conflicts had not been this high since the Second World War, nor had there been so many forced displacements, and there remains a risk of greater instability in relation to elections. These factors and others such as the economic repercussions of the successive crises and tighter financial conditions for partner countries have exposed the fragility of the multilateral system, calling for decisive collective measures to strengthen it. The need and demand for sustainable development cooperation and humanitarian action is increasing, in a situation marked by difficulties in obtaining financing, identitarianism and isolationism. Increasingly prominent schools of thought are also calling into question not only cooperation, but also its values and aims, which have been globally agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, human rights and international law, including international humanitarian law.

Strengthening multilateralism

The 2030 Agenda, adopted by consensus by the General Assembly of the United Nations, provides a shared space and framework for the world, with the ultimate goal of moving together towards sustainable development of the entire planet. Spanish Cooperation's core mission is to contribute to fulfilment of the Agenda. However, the hurdle of slowing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be overcome, calling now more than ever for urgent action and commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

Spain's foreign policy —particularly in the case of its sustainable development cooperation activities— is well adapted to the uncertain and changeable circumstances of the new global situation. Faced with this test of democratic values, we must strengthen the **rule-based international order, multilateralism and joint action to protect global public goods; to achieve shared inclusive solutions, to peacefully resolve disagreements and prevent conflict, and to ensure that we pay special attention to more vulnerable and defenceless persons and groups.**

This Master Plan has been approved following the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2023, with significant accomplishments in different areas, including cooperation, and particularly in terms of **strengthening the Pillar of Social Rights in the international cooperation agenda shared with Spain's European partners, promoting gender equality**, for example through adoption of **guidelines on care**, through which Spain wishes to contribute to enhanced cooperation policies in this vital area. Furthermore, the **localization agenda** has been boosted with the adoption of the "Council conclusions on developing the 2030 Agenda to reach the goals: Accelerating the localization of the SDGs".

All of these activities mean that the priorities of this Master Plan are aligned with the European and international sustainable development agendas through joint action to address the social, economic and environmental transition, to ensure that the transition contributes not only to conservation of the planet but also to creating new opportunities for all (green jobs, inclusive digitalization, new social compacts to promote greater social cohesion and improved political and citizen participation). This alignment will facilitate the contributions of Spanish Cooperation and European cooperation to the multilateral framework and support new and stronger partnerships with various stakeholders, which is one of the most admired features of Spain's cooperation system.

Act 1/2023 of 20 February on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation: supporting and shaping the new Master Plan

This new Master Plan has been published at a time of considerable challenges and opportunities, owing to restructuring of the international system and transformation of the Spanish sustainable development cooperation system following the enactment of Act 1/2023, of 20 February, on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation (hereinafter the GSSDC Act) with a broad social and political consensus. The GSSDC Act sets out a **significant and wide-reaching reform of cooperation, to make Spain better prepared to address global challenges, focusing its attention on people and the planet.** It adapts Spanish Cooperation's model to current international models, setting out an innovative model for the coming years. This successful consensus building was, in its own right, a process that strengthened the Spanish Cooperation system and an excellent starting point for this Master Plan, which emphasizes a whole-system approach and ensures that the system's stakeholders are better interlinked, to produce better outcomes and a greater impact.

Twenty-five years on from enactment of the previous regulatory framework, the GSSDC Act is a milestone for Spanish Cooperation. Firstly, because it includes a target of allocating 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2030. This target is ambitious, because it calls not only for work by all of Spain's public administrations and sustained growth in financial resources, but also for sustained increases in the system's capacities. The humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach is also strengthened, setting a target of a **minimum of 10% of ODA for humanitarian assistance, whilst providing such assistance with strategic autonomy and the capacity required to be effective.** This is in keeping with peacekeeping and peacebuilding —which form a pillar of Spain's foreign action— and better links between the development and humanitarian agendas, thus contributing to bolstering

an approach to Spanish Cooperation's activities based on "being where it is most needed".

Secondly, this Master Plan also serves as guidance on implementing and applying the reform of the system. This can be achieved by improving cooperation instruments and formats, and by supporting and strengthening system stakeholders through the regulatory reforms set out in the GSSDC Act, which will be applied over the period covered by this Plan. To substantially increase available funds in accordance with the Act, the entire system must inescapably be strengthened.

The GSSDC Act **reinforces the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Spanish acronym: AECID)**, as a cornerstone of the cooperation system, with a new statute for the Agency that will strengthen its structural capacities, particularly in terms of AECID human resources and capacities for partnership-building and operational coordination of a pluralistic and diverse system. The **Aid Workers' Statute** guarantees a decent and attractive career to attract and retain talent in the sector, and training, specialization and promotion of staff. The GSSDC Act also improves the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of sustainable development cooperation by creating a **Spanish Cooperation Evaluation Office (Spanish acronym: OECE)**, as part of its strengthened structure. Work will also be done to strengthen the system by reforming financial cooperation through establishment of the **Spanish Sustainable Development Fund (Spanish acronym: FEDES)**, as a more streamlined instrument with a wider range of activities, enabling more resources to be mobilized to finance sustainable development of partner countries. The GSSDC Act also includes measures to **adapt regulations on grants** to the specific characteristics of international cooperation, thus reducing bureaucratic requirements while maintaining the need for transparency, efficiency and accountability.

Lastly, another of the aims of the Act is to **reform coordination and consultation bodies** and by extension this Master Plan. In this respect, the

creation of the new **High Council for Sustainable Development Cooperation and the Sectoral Conference** is key, as it will enable better organization of decentralized cooperation –which is one of the aspects of Spain's model that offers the most added value– and strengthened dialogue and interaction between institutions and civil society. In addition, a new Interministerial Committee is being established to improve coordination of the different departments of the Central Administration in terms of sustainable development cooperation.

The Master Plan sets out goals and activities for Spanish Cooperation for the coming four years

Spanish Cooperation wants to promote an approach to the ongoing triple social, economic and ecological transition that reduces or closes inequality gaps instead of widening them, encompassing the challenges and opportunities of digitalization in all spheres, creating opportunities and leaving no one behind. In this regard, Spanish Cooperation is committed to social, environmental and climate justice; to social cohesion based on inclusion, respect for diversity and non-discrimination; to drafting of new social compacts that take into account future generations and foster democratic institutions that are accountable to citizens, that guarantee political participation and access to justice, and that protect human rights, ensuring equal access to public services.

Spanish Cooperation will continue to carry out cooperation activities that are **feminist, committed to human rights, to social, environmental and climate justice, to reductions in poverty and inequality, to recognition of diversity, and to ending all forms of violence and discrimination**, with an intersectional approach. In addition to these horizontal, cross-cutting principles that run through all of Spanish Cooperation's activities, it will also prioritize strategic areas of work in which Spain has a proven track record and offers clear added value, such as peacebuilding, democratic governance, gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, health,

human rights to water and sanitation, education and vocational training, food security, ending hunger, climate action, the fight against biodiversity loss, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; at all times, the vital role of culture will be kept in mind, as a driver of sustainable development.

The aim is to foster international cooperation that promotes sustainable development and **effectively, efficiently and transparently** channels Spain's commitment to the SDGs at the global level, while ensuring **participation** and paying special attention to forging and bolstering innovative partnerships that

contribute to the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

To achieve this, Spanish Cooperation will combine the **different instruments at its disposal, such as humanitarian action, education for sustainable development and global citizenship, and the different formats of sustainable development cooperation:** revamped financial cooperation, channelled through the new FEDES; more ambitious multilateral cooperation; strengthened bilateral, multilateral, regional and triangular cooperation; more strategically managed delegated cooperation; technical cooperation that mobilizes multi-stakeholder partnerships and supports institutional capacity-building in partner countries; and more streamlined and tailored



programme-based assistance and financing mechanisms for projects and programmes with bodies such as public administrations, civil society organizations (in Spain and abroad) and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, to produce a greater impact.

The Master Plan represents a clear commitment to localization of the SDGs and the development in transition approach, from the perspective of sustainable development, going beyond macroeconomic metrics of income and properly taking into account inequality gaps, institutional weaknesses and challenges, the environmental dimension and vulnerabilities to climate change. In addition, it is necessary, now more than ever, to **ensure that all the bodies of Spanish Cooperation –which is characterized by plurality and diversity– act in a coordinated and coherent manner to achieve the SDGs:** the Central Administration, decentralized cooperation, non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs, which are key stakeholders in terms of mustering the solidarity of Spanish society and forging partnerships with local stakeholders), the private sector, the social economy, trade unions, universities and the rest of the academic sector.

Proposed destinations for Spanish Cooperation's sustainable development cooperation

As set out in the GSSDC Act, Spanish Cooperation will prioritize work with partner countries in North Africa, the Near East and sub-Saharan Africa (particularly with the countries of West Africa and the Sahel and with Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries) and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which fall within the Ibero-American framework. In addition to bilateral relations with partner countries –which are defined for the first time in a single list of priority countries without further classifications, including countries that have “graduated” such as Chile and Uruguay, embracing an approach to sustainable development cooperation that is based on horizontal partnerships rather than the traditional view of “aid”– the Master Plan sets out priority regions with a

view to establishing region-specific approaches and visions.

Spain's humanitarian action will continue to provide support with respect to the chronic crises prioritized in the context-specific strategies (Latin America and the Caribbean, the Sahel, refugee camps for Sahrawi people, the regional crisis in Syria, and Palestine, Ukraine and Afghanistan), while also responding to any calls for humanitarian action in emergencies that arise in the period covered by the Master Plan, such as natural disasters, prioritizing the countries and settings where Spain can offer the most added value.

In addition to the aforementioned priority countries and regions, occasionally other countries of interest may be identified, where Spanish Cooperation may work on an ad hoc basis, particularly to promote global public goods or respond to crises (other than humanitarian ones) or development challenges. At the time of writing this Master Plan, this category includes Ukraine (where Spanish Cooperation and its humanitarian assistance have played a prominent role since the Russian attacks in February 2022) and Afghanistan.

Depending on the context or characteristics of the country or region, Spanish Cooperation will adopt: Country Partnership Frameworks, as the preferred form of strategic planning instrument, enabling alignment with the development goals of the partner country; Partnerships for Sustainable Development, based on the development in transition approach and focused on sectors or areas that have been identified as generators of global and regional public goods and drivers of inclusive and innovative public policy to close key inequality gaps; or Cooperation Strategies, in settings and countries where Country Partnership Frameworks or Partnerships for Sustainable Development are either not possible or unsuited.

Partnerships to achieve our goals

The Master Plan represents a clear commitment to multidimensional, multi-stakeholder,

multilevel action and to building innovative partnerships to promote sustainable development. Spanish Cooperation will prioritize working with the public institutions and civil society organizations of partner countries.

As a Member State of the European Union (EU), Spain's work will be aligned with EU strategies and plans for humanitarian assistance and sustainable development cooperation; it will continue to promote the role of the Practitioners' Network for European Development Cooperation, the Joint European Financers for International Cooperation (JEFIC) network and the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC); Spain will also continue to foster the Team Europe approach, actively participating in the various Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) and the Global Gateway strategy, and will continue to work with the European Commission and the other Member States as one of the major managers of allocated funds within the European cooperation system.

As part of its **firm commitment to multilateralism**, key partners for Spain will include the United Nations system, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), international financial institutions –including multilateral banks and regional development banks– and other major international organizations working in the fields of humanitarian assistance, human rights and development. Spain will also maintain its active participation in other multilateral forums such as G20. To this end, a Multilateral Sustainable Development Policy Strategy will be adopted, based on a comprehensive vision of the main challenges at the global level and the responses and lines of action to be pursued by Spanish Cooperation, with a multilateral approach. Furthermore, new Strategic Partnership Frameworks will be drawn up with priority multilateral bodies and institutions.

Lastly, in keeping with its long-standing commitment to **regional cooperation and integration**, Spain will work with organizations such as the African Union, the Economic Community

of West African States (ECOWAS), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC). Spanish Cooperation will also continue to prioritize cooperation with Ibero-America by bolstering the different mechanisms for action in this respect.

In short, Spanish Cooperation's Master Plan is an innovative document that strengthens Spain's position as an international contributor to sustainable development cooperation, by aligning the country's priorities with global agendas and establishing mechanisms for system reform. This will enable effective, enhanced cooperation that can meet the challenges of an increasingly complex international system, marked by intersecting crises, and represents a commitment to stepping up efforts to meet the SDGs as the world approaches the end of the time frame for the building a fairer, more sustainable and peaceful world under the 2030 Agenda.

2

SCOPE AND CONTEXT OF SPANISH COOPERATION: GOALS AND PRINCIPLES



2.1. Goals and priorities

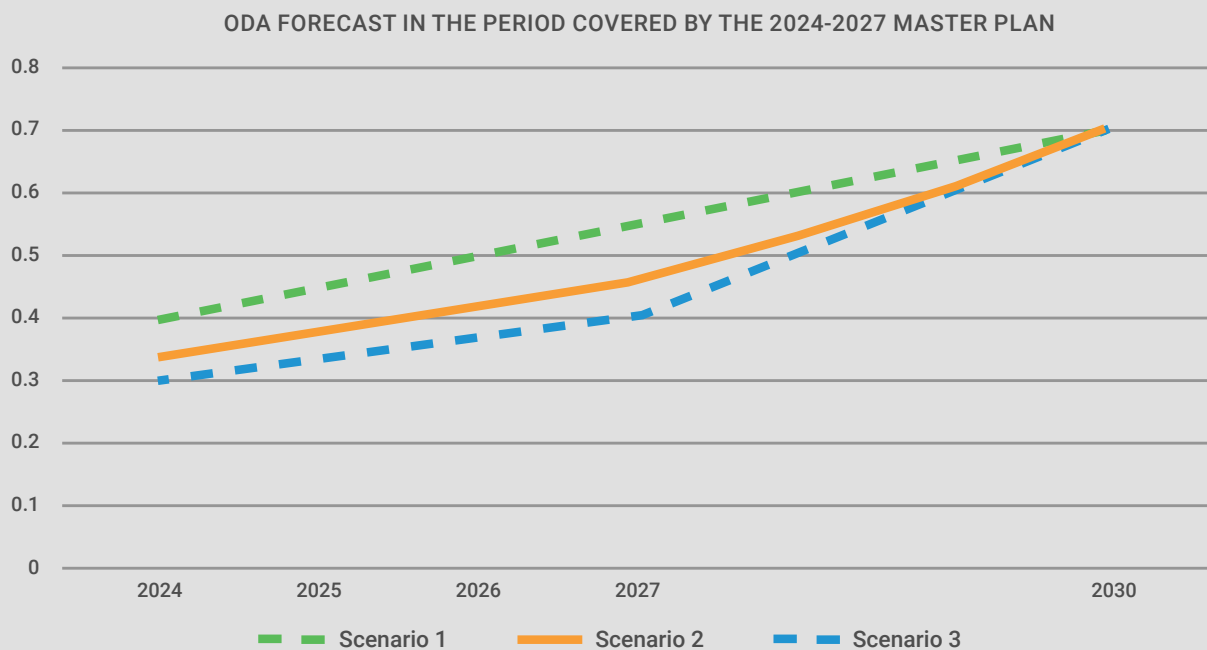
Enactment of the GSSDC Act, with the backing of a robust majority in parliament, serves as the framework for the ambitious goals set out in this Master Plan. In addition to reflecting the need to adapt Spanish Cooperation's legal framework to current global challenges, the GSSDC Act is rooted in a wish to strengthen the administrative, financial and operational instruments for sustainable development cooperation policy and humanitarian action.

This Master Plan is aligned with the Goals of the 2030 Agenda and has the following goals and priorities:

- Further cooperation within the framework of EU sustainable development policy, working within the European Consensus on Development, contributing to a stronger Pillar of Social Rights and urgently addressing the triple transition, with a view to creating fresh opportunities for lives of dignity, rather than new inequality gaps.
 - A strengthened commitment to the multilateralism that has traditionally guided Spanish Cooperation in the areas of sustainable development cooperation and humanitarian action. A new Multilateral Sustainable Development Policy Strategy will be drafted, in accordance with the GSSDC Act.
 - In terms of geographical priorities, work with partner countries and priority regions for Spanish Cooperation, as established in the GSSDC Act: Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, the Near East and sub-Saharan Africa, and particularly the countries of West Africa and the Sahel.
 - With respect to cross-cutting approaches and sectoral priorities, Spanish Cooperation will address the triple social, ecological and economic transition comprehensively, while focusing on sectors and issues where a greater impact and added value can be achieved, applying a human rights-based approach and recognizing cultural diversity. Further work will be done to design feminist cooperation, making gender equality and the feminist approach a cross-cutting and sectoral priority. Further work will be done on environmental sustainability, with this double approach.
 - Spanish cooperation and humanitarian action will also be undertaken with a strengthened humanitarian-peace-development nexus approach, in order to successfully address complex challenges while committing to peacebuilding and conflict prevention, resilience and anticipatory action with respect to disasters.
 - With respect to the internal aspect of the system, work will be done to bring about the institutional reform begun in the GSSDC Act and to incentivize innovation, capacity-building for the institutions and staff of Spanish Cooperation, and enhanced knowledge management. The governance bodies of the Spanish Cooperation system will be strengthened, improving their coordination and effectiveness, with an ambitious institutional reform of the system, including a new statute for AECID and a Spanish Cooperation Evaluation Office.
 - Improved coordination of all stakeholders, with an approach based on policy coherence and partnership-building; stronger links with decentralized cooperation and civil society; and a more prominent role for NGOs as key system stakeholders, as well as fostering participation by the private sector, trade unions, universities and research centres etc.
- Lastly, for the first time in the history of Spain, the GSSDC Act sets a target of 0.7% of GNI being allocated for ODA by 2030, which is a historic aspiration for Spanish society. Because of its nature, this target is dependent on factors that are external to sustainable development

cooperation policy, such as trends in Spain's national income and the global political and socioeconomic landscape, which can determine some aspects that can directly affect accounting of ODA, as was the case during the period

covered by the preceding Master Plan, with the Ukraine refugee crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, a variety of scenarios will be employed, all sharing the target set in the Act, as shown in the following chart:



We must take into account that achieving the 0.7% target is a collective goal, which involves several ODA decision-making and managing public bodies in different ministries and within the decentralized cooperation structure. Therefore, to achieve this goal it is essential that every one of these bodies is committed. The preparation process for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, among others, presents a great opportunity to arrive at

a consensus and agree on lines of work, which must be shared.

In addition, the different kinds of flows that make up ODA (bilateral, multilateral, multi-bilateral...) call for different capacities, strategies and instruments. The degree and pace of development and the strengthening of these capacities, strategies and instruments will also determine the speed at which objectives are achieved.

Based on these elements, we can identify three scenarios::

SCENARIO 1:

linear increase in ODA. In this scenario, ODA increases steadily until it reaches the target of 0.7%.

SCENARIO 2:

limited growth in the first few years owing to the need to strengthen system management structures first. This allows future budget increases to be absorbed in an orderly, effective, cohesive and strategic manner. The pace increases once these reforms, which enable mobilization of more resources, are in place.

SCENARIO 3:

similar to the second scenario. Modest growth at first due to the extension of the 2024 budget and the substantial increase in GNI. Instruments, new strategies and sufficient capacity to achieve a more pronounced increase can be expected in the years prior to 2030 thanks to the joint effort of all stakeholders and a reformed system.

2.2. The European and international context

The political and legal framework for sustainable development cooperation policy has changed since 1998, when the previous Act on international Development Cooperation entered into force in Spain. Milestones include the boost given to the aid effectiveness agenda, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, and the adoption of the European Consensus on Development, which represented a qualitative leap for EU international cooperation policy.

The multilateral and global situations call for unparalleled urgent action, just six years from the target year of 2030 and in the wake of various intersecting crises that have created a need for redoubled efforts to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. What is more, international sustainable development cooperation itself has changed considerably, with increasingly prominent roles for South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation, and enhanced participation for developing countries in the institutions of global governance. In addition, certain non-OECD stakeholders have become involved and consolidated their positions, and new cooperation instruments have

emerged. In this context, Spanish Cooperation will work to build international consensus on sustainable development cooperation, particularly in relation to reducing poverty, hunger and inequalities, promoting gender equality, human rights and democracy, and supporting new social compacts and just economic and ecological transitions.

Spanish Cooperation is committed to reforming and revitalizing rules-based multilateralism, to make it stronger, and to making the United Nations more inclusive; that is why its involvement in the multilateral system is important. At the multilateral level, the UN sustainable development system will be the main partner of Spanish Cooperation, which actively supports the ongoing reforms. Within OECD, Spanish Cooperation will continue to play a key role, particularly in discussions concerning the future of international cooperation. Spain will apply the recommendations of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), in order to take the lead with implementation of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Spain will work to ensure that DAC is true to its values and raises awareness of its standards and recommendations, but also that it engages with non-OECD countries that have different viewpoints, to learn from them, promoting, for instance, triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation. Above all, Spain will encourage OECD to apply an approach that is suited to global challenges and is multidimensional, going beyond the income levels of partner countries.

G20 offers another key framework. More specifically, the Development Working Group, established in 2010, focuses on reducing development gaps and poverty gaps, as integral parts of the wider aim of G20 to foster strong, sustainable, balanced growth and ensure that the world is stronger and more resilient for all, with a gender approach and respect for diversity. The Working Group is guided by the *G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Spain, as a permanent invitee of

G20, will remain fully committed to contributing its knowledge and views on sustainable development and to working with the different G20 presidencies to make the forum a key tool for meeting the SDGs.

To guarantee that all these actions are undertaken with a strategic approach and in accordance with the GSSDC Act, the State Secretariat for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (hereinafter, Foreign Ministry) will work with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business and other ministries to prepare a Multilateral Sustainable Development Policy Strategy.

Within the European Union there is a wide-ranging discussion taking place concerning cooperation and establishment of Partnerships for Sustainable Development in the new geopolitical landscape. Spain will continue to play an active role in this regard, in order to promote the principles and values of Spanish Cooperation and to converge EU cooperation with that of Spain, and vice versa. Spain will also continue to work to connect multilateral development banks with the cooperation agendas of the European Union and the United Nations, thus contributing to better coordinated action that is more strategic.

2.3. Sustainable development finance

Mobilizing the means to produce significant impacts in terms of global fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda is one of the aims of this Master Plan, in the framework of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Spanish Cooperation has played an important role in this regard in recent years and will continue to do so, looking ahead to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Spain in 2025. The Conference will be a valuable opportunity for the international community to promote mobilization of all the policies and resources required to step up progress towards the SDGs, to meet them by 2030.

The ongoing debt crises and costs of financing are affecting most developing countries and billions of people around the world. Work is required to strengthen mechanisms to prevent debt crises, improving their management and transparency; to identify solutions for developing countries that are facing severe fiscal limitations; and to improve mechanisms to resolve debt crises. At the global level, models for growth and financial flows are not fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda, and are still based on an indicator (gross domestic product, GDP) that does not properly reflect the complexities of sustainable development. Developing countries' access to concessional financing must be significantly expanded. Discussions of the reform of multilateral development banks must centre around the priorities of recipient countries and improvements in effectiveness and impact on sustainable development.

Despite some progress, most countries still have considerable potential to mobilize more domestic resources for development. To do this, reforms are needed, to make fiscal systems more progressive, transparent, efficient and effective, supported by technical training, technological innovation and improvements in the drafting and application of international fiscal standards. Fiscal rules must be simplified, adapting them to the needs and priorities of developing countries and properly addressing the ways that modern markets work and do business, ensuring that fiscal practices are equitable and foster effective use of national income.

The selection of Spain to host the Conference is a reflection of the country's leadership in consensus-building, openness to dialogue and forging links between different stakeholders. This is possible thanks to the support and solidarity of the Spanish people. The financing agenda combines—in a single framework based on sustainable development—fiscal policy, international cooperation to combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion, the volume and effectiveness of ODA, mobilization of domestic resources and private financing, links between trade and devel-

opment, the sustainability of debt, science and technology and the reform of governance of the international financial system. The Conference will also be a crucial opportunity to align the development agendas of the United Nations, international financial institutions and development banks.

The Foreign Ministry, through the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, will work with dedication with other ministries (including as part of the Interministerial Committee for Sustainable Development Cooperation) to prepare for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and to coordinate Spain's positions on the different matters that are interconnected and addressed in the agenda, with a Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) approach. Spaces will also be created for dialogue and exchanges on these issues with the bodies of decentralized cooperation, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector, and with the International Development Cooperation Committees of the Congress of the Deputies and the Senate.

2.4. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda has changed the concept of policy coherence in foreign action, as reflected in a specific target for Goal 17 (target 17.14). The global indicator framework for the SDGs and targets of the 2030 Agenda highlights several aspects of the institutional mechanisms that interlink the system of PCSD, such as political and institutional commitment at the highest level, inclusion of a long-term vision, the need for interministerial and intersectoral coordination, processes for stakeholder participation and inclusion, integration of the various dimensions of sustainable development, multilevel consultation and coordination, reporting and accountability, and adequate financial resources and tools. For all these reasons, a whole-of-govern-

ment and whole-of-society approach must be applied, to accelerate progress towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. At the international level, multilateral bodies (UN, OECD) including the EU have provided key guidelines and conceptual frameworks for applying a new public policy management culture to PCSD, thus boosting effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As set out in the GSSDC Act, the Foreign Ministry is responsible for planning, overseeing, implementing and evaluating the sustainable development cooperation policy formulated by the Central Administration as a whole and by the subordinate public bodies. The Ministry is also responsible for coordinating all of the activities in this regard of other ministries and for promoting joint, collaborative work with other public administrations that operate in this area as part of their remits, always in accordance with the principles of institutional loyalty and collaboration among administrations. Specifically, the State Secretariat for International Cooperation is the senior body of the Ministry that is directly responsible for planning and implementing government activities in the area of sustainable development cooperation. The Secretariat also manages the sustainable development cooperation policy of the Central Administration and subordinate public bodies, coordinating sustainable development cooperation policy and thus ensuring that leadership exists when applying the policy coherence principle in this respect.

When formulating the policy coherence proposals contained in this Master Plan with respect to the sustainable development cooperation framework, in addition to the aforementioned approaches of international organizations, the peer review performed by OECD DAC in 2021 was also taken into account, as well as the evaluation of the previous Master Plan and the contributions of the 2030 Agenda Working Group of the Development Cooperation Committee. In the context of the reform of the Spanish Cooperation system, centred on the basic principle

of PCSD, various actions are proposed to foster the system and strengthen it:

- The GSSDC Act stipulates that, with respect to development cooperation policy, PCSD will be addressed within the coordination and consultation bodies established by the Act. The strengthened Sectoral Conference on Sustainable Development Cooperation and Global Solidarity, Interministerial Committee and High Council for Sustainable Development Cooperation and Global Solidarity will therefore be key to promoting sustainable development policy coherence.
- Promoting interaction between the new High Council for Sustainable Development Cooperation and Global Solidarity and the Sustainable Development Committee.
- Continuing to expand and build on spaces for participation in planning and consultation processes relating to strategic planning tools, to bring together and link as many stakeholders as possible that have an interest in these processes.
- Convening, annually, the Spanish Cooperation Planning and Effectiveness Forum (Spanish acronym: Foro PECE) as a space for dialogue and open participation by all Spanish stakeholders, to promote exchanges of multi-stakeholder information that go beyond those in the consultative and participatory bodies provided for by the GSSDC Act.
- Improving and optimizing reporting of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development, as a vital tool for determining PCSD with respect to the SDGs, expanding the base of respondents and reported flows.

3

SPANISH COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TRIPLE TRANSITION: APPROACHES AND PRIORITIES



The period covered by this Master Plan (2024–2027) will be decisive in terms of reversing the setbacks caused by the health crisis, the food crisis and the energy crisis, responding to the repercussions of the climate emergency and addressing the threat to multilateralism and peace from the rise in illiberal agendas. In addition to the key goals of combating poverty (which increased for the first time in three decades in the wake of COVID-19) and all kinds of inequalities, there is also a need to close gender gaps –with a feminist approach– promote democracy, foster full participation by citizens, safeguard the human rights of all people (especially those who suffer from more severe discrimination or vulnerability), and protect the environment.

The starting point for the transformation arising from the triple transition differs from region to region and country to country. This Master Plan identifies three key dimensions of this transition or transformation at the global and local levels; it is in this context of three transitions that Spanish Cooperation will focus its efforts on central lines of action, while remaining mindful of the cross-cutting approaches that have been identified as priorities.

Defending multilateralism and strengthening democratic institutions form the foundation on which the Spanish Cooperation agenda is structured. The related priorities fall within the main goal of Spain's foreign action: promotion of peace and peacebuilding. That peace must be lasting, with respect for human rights. Therefore, democratic governance with a rights-based approach should also be viewed as an enabling goal of the three transitions, in the framework of Goal 16. In this context of a crisis in the international system and a threat to political pluralism, priority must be given to consolidating public institutions that ensure all people enjoy their human rights, based on good governance and the fight against corruption. Public institutions must defend diversity and non-discrimination throughout the activities conducted under this Master Plan.

3.1. Cross-cutting approaches

3.1.1 Human rights-based approach

The human rights-based approach in the context of sustainable development cooperation, comprises, in regulatory terms, compliance with international norms concerning human rights, and in operational terms it consists of promoting and protecting those rights, which are universal, inalienable, indivisible and interdependent and not subject to statutes of limitations. The purpose of the approach is to rectify discriminatory practices and gaps in equitable access to public services and decision-making spaces that hinder progress on sustainable development, as indicated by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations.

Spanish Cooperation will work to build the capacities of partner countries, civil society, economic agents, and multilateral and regional organizations, with a view to applying this approach and supporting measures that improve inclusion, social cohesion, equal access to rights and non-discrimination, to guarantee access to quality services for all, in accordance with Spain's Second National Human Rights Plan (2023–2027) and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy.

Through this approach –the foundation of which is each and every activity performed by Spanish Cooperation– Spain is promoting the empowerment of all people to fully exercise their rights, as well as political participation, social justice, decent work, accountability, and non-discrimination on the basis of gender and other factors such as race, ethnicity, culture, language, origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Spain will also work to combat other forms of intolerance, paying special attention to persons suffering from vulnerability or discrimination, promoting and protecting civil and political rights, including freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly; this will

strengthen the civic space and guarantee an enabling environment for active participation by civil society in the defence of human rights and social justice.

Spain will remain committed to protecting and promoting the human rights of all, and will also pay special attention to the human rights of specific groups, many of which are particularly vulnerable. This includes –naturally, es-

pecially as part of feminist foreign policy and cooperation– the rights of women and girls, which will be addressed in application of the main international frameworks on the matter, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which this Master Plan also builds on specifically and in detail, with a feminist and gender approach.



Children's rights and youth rights, particularly for young girls and adolescent girls

Spain ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. Policies on sustainable development cooperation and humanitarian action will be characterized throughout by effective consideration of the rights of children and adolescents, pursuant to the different instruments of Spanish Cooperation, such as the 2015 Strategy on Childhood, the Framework Document on the Rights of the Child (Keys to integrating children's rights into Spanish Cooperation) prepared by the Working Group on Children's Rights of the Development Cooperation Committee and its road map for ensuring that children's rights are present throughout all activities, including specific or sectoral activities.



Rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)

The fundamental human rights mechanisms of the United Nations have reaffirmed the obligation of States to ensure effective protection of all persons from all forms of discrimination or violence on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Spanish Cooperation will promote the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in all of its activities, as well as advocating the need to close the gaps that LGBTI persons face in equal access to rights and services, political participation and economic opportunities.



Rights of persons with disabilities

Spanish Cooperation will continue to work to include persons with disabilities and their rights in the international cooperation agenda, including in the various international forums in which it participates. Key partners in this area include the Spanish organizations that represent persons with disabilities. Both sustainable development cooperation and Spanish humanitarian action include this cross-cutting approach, promoting application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the AECID Guide on Inclusion of Disability in Development Cooperation..



Rights of older persons

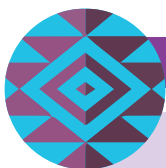
In 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030). The GSSDC Act includes older persons as a group for special consideration, given the vulnerability they often face. Spanish Cooperation will therefore work to effectively include an age approach, with an intersectional perspective, taking into account the 1991 United Nations Principles for Older Persons and the reports and recommendations of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.



Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The recognized rich cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples and of their development models contrasts with the exclusion and poverty they often suffer, in addition to frequently being displaced from their ancestral lands. Moreover, significant gaps remain in terms of effective enjoyment of the rights provided for in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and other international human rights instruments. Since its beginnings, Spanish Cooperation has been particularly attentive to cultural diversity as a cross-cutting principle in its activities, and has firmly supported the need for specific attention to Indigenous Peoples, as set out in the Strategy for Spanish Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples and reflected in gradual strengthening of the AECID Indigenous Programme.

Therefore, Spain will continue to support Indigenous Peoples' organizations, with a view to building their capacities to organize their own economic and social development and to effectively participate in political decision-making, paying special attention to empowerment of Indigenous women. Spain will also continue to support full and effective political participation by Indigenous Peoples in all processes that concern them at the international level; effective implementation of international norms on rights, paying special attention to consultation and to free, prior and informed consent; use of the media as a tool specifically to produce impacts; and contributions to the institutional workings of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC).



Rights of people of African descent

Drawing on the experience accumulated under the Spanish Cooperation Programme for People of African Descent and the Programme of Heritage for Development, work will continue, with a cultural diversity approach, to address the impacts of the triple transition on people of African descent. Specifically, work will be done in Latin America and the Caribbean, supporting initiatives that promote consultation of and effective participation by affected populations and access to justice, and fostering spaces for dialogue among key stakeholders (organizations of people of African descent, national racial equality offices, and international cooperation stakeholders). Activities will also be undertaken to promote improvements in the quality of life of people of African descent, by supporting public policies that support racial equality and gender equality with an intersectional approach, paying special attention to the gaps that specifically or disproportionately affect women and girls of African descent and to strengthening of initiatives to produce impacts in regional and international political and economic spaces.

3.1.2 Feminist and gender approach

Spain's sustainable development and humanitarian action policies will be expressly feminist, in accordance with the GSSDC Act and the principles set out in the Guide on Feminist Foreign Policy. To implement this, a transformative approach will be applied, based on the lessons learned over 25 years of applying the double –cross-cutting and specific– strategy of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the International Conference on Population and Development (1994). The goal of the approach will be to step up and accelerate efforts to address the root causes of structural gender inequalities, taking into account the overlaps with racial, ethnic and cultural inequalities, and inequalities relating to factors such as disability, age or sexual orientation.

This feminist approach must take the form of strengthened gender mainstreaming at all levels: this must encompass planning, programming, sufficient budgets, knowledge management and evaluation, and include specific activities to empower women and girls, in all of the areas covered by this Plan, ensuring support for equality policies in partner countries and organizations as required, and thus fostering and strengthening partnerships and work with local women's organizations and feminist organizations. This cross-cutting priority is made stronger by its link to the human rights-based approach, with an intersectional approach, and should be applied to gradually align sustainable development cooperation policy, humanitarian action and the other foreign action policies and instruments. Therefore, an enabling environment must be created that allows feminist organizations and defenders of women's rights to carry out their work effectively and in safety, as well ensuring that women participate fully in decision-making affecting them. To this end, changes must be pursued in the organizational culture of Spanish Cooperation's stakeholders and further awareness must be raised of gender equality and feminist cooperation, including training in these areas.

In the period covered by this Master Plan, Spanish Cooperation will have a target for at least 60% of new activities (to be gradually increased to the 85% proposed by the EU) undertaken by components of the Spanish Cooperation system to have development outcomes that have a clear positive impact on gender equality and equity. In addition, a new Feminist Cooperation Strategy for Spanish Cooperation will be prepared, within the first of the years covered by this Master Plan.

3.1.3 Reducing poverty and inequalities approach

The GSSDC Act states that a basic principle of Spanish Cooperation policy is to reduce inequalities around the world, and that its priority goals and criteria for action include promoting sustainable human development by reducing poverty and inequality in all their dimensions, leaving no one behind. This approach is aligned with the guiding principles of Spain's national regulatory framework, with the EU regulatory framework (European Consensus on Development) and with the international regulatory framework (2030 Agenda), and specifically aligned with Goals 1 and 10 and the different recommendations of OECD DAC.

The approach will be put into practice for most of Spanish Cooperation's usual activities, and will bring together into a coherent whole the rest of the cross-cutting approaches that have been applied under different Master Plans, within the framework of the first cooperation law. The aim of this new approach will be for all Spanish Cooperation activities to incorporate the fight against inequalities, fostering inclusive and sustainable societies and strengthening the goal of ending child poverty and intergenerational poverty.

Spanish Cooperation will develop tools to effectively mainstream this horizontal principle and support will be given to partner countries,

to build their internal capacities to assemble reliable statistical systems that facilitate monitoring of poverty, well-being and inequalities, going beyond income levels and other economic indicators, and to ensure —through appropriate mechanisms— that the systems are accessible for the local population, fostering accountability of government and other key stakeholders with respect to the demands and needs of civil society. In this regard, work will be done to contribute to these aims being included as priorities in the public policies of partner countries, allocating sufficient resources to bring about effective transformations in this area.

3.1.4 Climate justice and environmental sustainability approach

Climate justice and environmental sustainability will be hallmarks of policies

on sustainable development cooperation and humanitarian action, including protecting and defending biodiversity, in keeping with the GSS-DC Act and the commitments made by Spain in international forums. This is also aligned with the 2030 Agenda, which sets out various goals with respect to environmental challenges —in areas such as climate change and environmental degradation in oceans and on land— and up to 24 environmental targets for different SDGs, addressing issues such as recycling, pollution, habitable conditions and clean energy.

Given that human lives and activities depend on the environment and that they are affected by climate change and biodiversity loss, this Master Plan will promote a climate justice and environmental sustainability approach, as a cross-cutting and specific priority. In doing so, it



will draw on the lessons learned by Spanish Cooperation over the course of 30 years, responding to the need to address the planet's requirements and people's requirements together, and reflecting the conviction that human development that is not environmentally and socially sustainable cannot be viable. The climate crises and biodiversity crisis represent the greatest threat to sustainable development and the prosperity of the planet; therefore, climate-related and environmental SDGs must be addressed alongside the rest of the SDGs.

The need to strengthen and expand this approach is particularly important taking into account recognition of a healthy environment as a human right. Therefore, in the interest of PCSD, all Spanish Cooperation stakeholders must incorporate the environmental sustainability approach into their work and ensure that positive impacts are achieved. The approach must take the form of support for environmental and climate change policies and for the institutions of partner countries, taking into account contributions of ecofeminism, sustainability of life and care policies and promoting partnerships with local authorities and organizations that defend the land and the environment, and paying special attention to Indigenous organizations, organizations of people of African descent, and environmental human rights defenders, enhancing their systemic integration into international cooperation.

All of this entails redoubled institutional efforts to raise awareness and offer training on environmental matters and to strengthen frameworks, teams and budgets, with a view to efficiently integrating the environment and climate change into all activities and throughout project cycles. It is crucial to foster public participation, particularly by children, adolescents and youth, in drafting of climate policies. All development and humanitarian activities that can have an impact on the environment must have adaptation and mitigation plans or plans to offset those effects. Spanish Cooperation must also aim to make its activities carbon-neutral.

In addition, Spanish Cooperation's Sustainability and Environment Strategy will be updated, as will the AECID guides on mainstreaming the environment and climate change, integrating the environment into activities, and humanitarian emergencies. Special attention will be paid to environmental indicators, good practices and lessons learned that contribute to progress on fulfilment.

3.1.5 Cultural diversity approach

Spanish Cooperation has been a pioneer in viewing culture as a core component and key driver of sustainable development policies. The successive Master Plans and the Culture and Development Strategy have highlighted recognition and protection of cultural diversity as a cross-cutting priority in all areas of action, to enable this diversity to be expressed openly and freely.

Under this Master Plan, culture is addressed both as a priority area and as a cross-cutting approach, in permanent connection with a human rights-based approach; it is undoubtedly crucial to realizing inclusive sustainable development in economic terms (cultural and creative industries, etc.) and in intangible terms. Culture is also fundamental in building democratic societies that are fairer and more participatory and in fostering social cohesion, by recognizing and unlocking the value of cultural and linguistic plurality.

Spanish Cooperation must adopt a cross-cutting approach to cultural diversity in all of its programmes, from planning processes to formulation, implementation and evaluation, fully recognizing the importance of intercultural understanding in societies and acknowledging culture as a global public good that is key to a sustainable future, as affirmed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In addition, in the period covered by this Master Plan a new Spanish



Cooperation Culture and Development Strategy will be prepared.

3.1.6 Peacebuilding approach

Peacebuilding and peacekeeping are two of the main aims of the foreign policy of Spain, and of the country's sustainable development cooperation and global solidarity policy. Therefore, this Master Plan includes an approach aimed at preventing conflict, fostering peaceful resolution of conflicts, and a culture of peace and promoting peacebuilding.

In many partner countries and settings for Spain's cooperation work and humanitarian action, this approach also incorporates the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The needs of populations in difficult situations can-

not be met, and their rights cannot be defended, without this combination of three approaches. The triple nexus approach should promote comprehensive human-centred responses that meet people's needs and reflect their aspirations, addressing the structural causes of vulnerability and inequalities, applying an approach that is sensitive to conflicts and building capacities for prevention, management and recovery at all levels. This approach entails strengthening coordination, synergies and coherence of humanitarian action, sustainable development policies and peacebuilding, while respecting the principles for action and added value of each area.

In situations that are fragile and affected by conflicts, it is also vital to strengthen civic space, to foster reconstruction, peace and reconciliation. A safe, enabling environment is needed, that enables civil society to partic-

ipate in peacebuilding, conflict resolution and management of humanitarian crises. This calls for guarantees of freedom of expression, of association and of peaceful assembly, and promotion of inclusive dialogue among different stakeholders to reach lasting, sustainable solutions. The triple nexus approach, in the context of armed conflicts, must include community-based post-conflict processes of social cohesion and reconciliation involving all groups in society, including youth, with a prominent role for women in decision-making spaces during and after conflicts, in keeping with United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions.

This approach will be applied in fragile situations where humanitarian action occurs alongside sustainable development cooperation. In such cases, the two types of activity will be performed in keeping with the nexus approach. In these contexts, partnership frame-

works, strategies and planning instruments will include a nexus-based analysis and identification of operating priorities and actions to mainstream the nexus in all activities. Shared working methods will therefore be prepared for location-based teams and humanitarian teams, to ensure the nexus approach is properly integrated into all activities.

3.2. Sectoral priorities

Spanish Cooperation is committed to building just, sustainable, inclusive, resilient societies and economies, working together with partners and with all cooperation stakeholders within Spain. The transformations required to bring about this change of model at the heart of the 2030 Agenda can be redirected towards a triple transition or transformation. The aim of the triple transition is to shape a comprehensive vi-



sion that brings together the three key dimensions of sustainable development –which are interrelated and interdependent– with a view to identifying sectoral priorities: the social transition, the ecological transition and the economic transition. For each sectoral priority, lines of action are set, which can be adapted to the changing contexts of countries and to specific needs that may arise.

A transition is needed to a socioeconomic model that is green, digital and just, putting people and care for life and the planet at the centre of public sustainable development policies. It is crucial to reduce the harmful impacts of the enormous transformations that must be implemented, distributing their benefits equitably, leaving no one behind, and addressing the major challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Economic prosperity must be pursued under a development model that is sustainable in both social and environmental terms, the results of which benefit all of society, diversifying production and adopting the measures necessary to distribute and redistribute those benefits, preserving the planet and addressing environmental and social challenges.

3.2.1 Social transition

The social transition entails recognition of the fact that global challenges –such as climate change, poverty and inequalities– call for joint responses and coordinated action that prioritizes the well-being of the population, ensuring gender equality and human rights, including civil and political rights, and the rights to health, education and culture, among others. The lines of action proposed in this Master Plan cover different sectors and are structured around: (i) democratic governance; (ii) global health and health-care systems; (iii) food security and ending hunger; (iv) inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all; (v) gender equality and empowerment

of all women, girls and adolescent girls; and (vi) culture and sustainable development.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE: GOAL 16



The priorities of democratic governance include ensuring that institutions are of quality, based on criteria concerning transparency and open government,

respect for human rights and civil liberties, enhanced public participation, access to justice, anti-corruption, territorial development and multilevel governance. Building capacities at all levels of public administrations is another priority, to foster inclusive sustainable development within the framework of the principles and norms of the international human rights treaties signed by Spain.

Spanish Cooperation will continue to promote participatory and representative democracy and political pluralism around the world. The role of technology and communication, with a rights-based approach, is key in this new stage. Through initiatives such as the AECID Democracy Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean, support will be given for initiatives linked to building more inclusive democratic systems, with social dialogue (including the activities of trade unions and union cooperation) and fiscal justice, creating channels and spaces for interaction among different political stakeholders and forming new leaderships. Special attention will be paid to promoting and defending freedom of expression and freedom of the press and to protecting human rights defenders. In addition, Spanish Cooperation will continue to support its partner countries and particularly institutions that formulate and apply public policies, by providing assistance for plans for reforms, modernization, and digitalization or to increase professionalism among civil servants, among other areas.

Supporting citizen participation and fostering and safeguarding civic space.

Work will be done to promote establishment of legal and regulatory frameworks that are favourable for civil society and enable exercise of freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, including enjoyment of the right to establish and join trade unions freely. In this respect, support for citizen participation will be key, with an intergenerational perspective, as will promotion and safeguarding of an active and participatory civil society and formation and strengthening of networks and partnerships among civil society organizations, with a view to strengthening democracy, human rights, freedoms and the rule of law. Research into and analysis of the state of civic spaces will also be encouraged, to identify challenges and opportunities and formulate effective promotion and protection strategies. Civic education and democratic values will be fostered from an early age, involving educational institutions and civil society in educating active and well-informed citizens. Inclusion and equality in civic spaces will also be promoted, ensuring that women, excluded groups and minorities participate equitably in decision-making processes. Activities will be carried out to support and strengthen mechanisms for equal access of women, Indigenous persons and people of African descent to political power and their participation in decision-making spaces.

Promoting and strengthening inclusive and representative governance systems that manage quality, transparent public services, fostering social cohesion.

Work will be done to build the capacities of public administrations to guarantee the quality of the services they provide, facilitate access to public information and improve transparency of management, ensuring that government data and decisions are accessible and easy to understand for citizens –including young people– and thus building trust in institutions and social cohesion. Collaboration between the public and private sectors will be promoted when formulating, applying and evaluating public policies, fostering spaces for dialogue and effective participation, building consensus and forging social compacts in societies. Support will also be provided for decentralization processes undertaken by partner countries.

Building institutional capacities in the areas of equality, access to justice and promotion and protection of human rights.

Spanish Cooperation will continue to support legislative frameworks and public policies concerning equality and human rights, to help bring them into line with relevant international norms and standards. In addition, further work will be done to promote establishment or strengthening of observatories to monitor progress on human rights. Furthermore, improvements in judicial services will be supported, to ensure they are specialized, streamlined and independent. Use of public registers and modernization of those registers will be encouraged, with a view to protecting and acknowledging people's rights. Work will also be done to combat human trafficking.

Protecting human rights defenders.

Activities will be carried out that focus on in situ protection of persons and organizations that defend human rights, Indigenous and women's organizations, social and community leaders and civil society activists, with an approach based on collective protection and self-protection, ensuring their safety and preventing repression or intimidation, promoting special programmes and strengthening existing mechanisms.

Promoting peacebuilding and democratic stability.

Participatory peacebuilding and social reconciliation processes will be promoted through inclusive and transparent governance mechanisms, rooted in promoting a culture of peace. Support will be provided for activities to prevent, manage and resolve crises and armed conflicts and meet humanitarian needs. The resilience of societies to risks and crises will also be strengthened, to build lasting peace and good democratic governance of security, applying the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach.

Work will be done to strengthen the role of United Nations peacekeeping operations, to create an enabling environment for protection of civilians. Spanish Cooperation will continue to work to prevent conflicts, to mediate and to reduce all forms of violence, while also offering training in demining. Emphasis will be placed on protecting women and girls in armed conflict situations (pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, as well as resolution 1820 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security) and in contexts of natural disasters, paying special attention to their increased vulnerability to sexual violence. Protection of minors in armed conflicts will be a priority and further work will be done to ensure continuous respect for international humanitarian law and access for humanitarian assistance, without restrictions and in safe conditions.

Supporting public administrations to ensure effective prevention of and responses to disasters and reducing risks of falling back into poverty: targets 1.3 and 1.5.

Public institutions will be strengthened to enable them to appropriately manage risks through risk management plans, providing support for design of basic tools such as information systems and early warning systems, which contribute to resilience to crisis situations and stopping people falling back into poverty.

Strengthening and safeguarding cultural rights: targets 16.3 and 16.7.

Support will be provided for activities that foster recognition and protection of cultural, political and economic rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, by promoting intercultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity and their worldviews and societal structures, through development of life plans and other instruments. In addition, initiatives concerning respect for, care of and support for their languages, cultures and traditions will be promoted, as well as preservation and recognition of their ancestral lands, means of working that land, and relations with the environment.

Strengthening development of fiscal and wage policies that ensure progressiveness and social protection for the population: targets 10.4 and 1.3.

The capacities of public administrations to manage effective, efficient, inclusive fiscal systems will be strengthened, and further work will be done to reinforce tax authorities, with a view to obtaining fiscal data and statistics. International fiscal coordination and cooperation will be pursued, to improve regulatory frameworks and boost the fight against tax evasion and fraud, as means of improving generation of domestic resources by partner countries and reducing their dependence on external finance.

Supporting partner countries' formulation of planned and well-managed migration policies: target 10.7.

To ensure that migration and human mobility are safe, orderly and regular with full respect for the rights of migrants and their safety, activities will be carried out to strengthen institutions, bolstering the link with child protection policies, to enhance care for child migrants, paying special attention to the situation of unaccompanied minors.

GLOBAL HEALTH AND HEALTH-CARE SYSTEMS: GOAL 3



Health is a fundamental human right and vital for all development. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic made

it even more apparent that there is a pressing need to invest in health-care systems and services around the world, and to strengthen international cooperation in this area. Progress towards universal health coverage and global health security are two sides of the same coin.

Differences in the area of health have been made even clearer by globalization. In developed countries, cutting-edge advanced scientific knowledge and innovative twenty-first century technology is being applied to health services and access to quality health services has been guaranteed for almost the entire population, reaching levels of excellence that benefit people's health. However, the least developed countries are still encountering enormous difficulties in applying and implementing health policies and strategies, in operating and ensuring

the quality of health services and units, and in providing the majority of the population with access to such services. This results in significant inequalities among people in terms of exercising their right to health and a healthy life, and puts children and adolescents in a particularly vulnerable situation.

It will also be crucial to work to guarantee that sexual and reproductive rights can be exercised, in accordance with the Cairo Programme of Action (1994) —which has been a stated priority of Spanish Cooperation since 2005— and to ensure effective fulfilment of target 5.3 (Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation) and target 5.6 (Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences) of Goal 5.

To achieve health-related goals in today's globalized and interdependent world, Spanish

Cooperation will prioritize work in the area of global health, through multilateral, coordinated and solidarity-based activities, such as vaccine research, medicine, health-care technology and investment in human resources. In this regard, Spain will also continue to support strengthening of the new global health architecture with the central leadership of WHO, and carry out activities at the bilateral level to bolster national health systems and services in partner countries, with a view to achieving the goal of universal health coverage and the

remaining targets of Goal 3. Activities to promote and protect the right to health will be prioritized, in keeping with the commitments made in the framework document prepared by the Cooperation Committee entitled “Keys to incorporating children’s rights into Spanish Cooperation”.

To make further progress and strengthen this sector, preparation of a Global Health Strategy is planned in the period covered by this Master Plan.

Strengthening national health systems and services: target 3.8.

National health systems and services will be strengthened, and work will be carried out to ensure a continuum of care for the population, through all levels of public health care –primary health care, including community health care, mental health care, specialized hospital health care– supporting implementation of countries’ national health plans and strategies, and gradually improving access to quality health services. Spain aims to contribute to increasing partner countries’ national and institutional capacities through initiatives such as the Specialized Medical Training programme. Activities will also be carried out to share experiences and good practices from the Spanish National Health System and to promote models based on universal health coverage, prevention, and the continuum of care at the different levels of health care, as well as fostering technical and scientific knowledge and continuing education of health-care professionals, adapting initiatives to the needs and contexts of each country.

Strengthening health systems in preparation for and in response to health emergencies: targets 3.8 and 3.d.

Contributions will be made to strengthening of the new global health architecture, taking into account the lessons learned from the pandemic, with global health initiatives that add value to health and worldwide health security, based on multilateralism and supporting the leadership and central role of WHO. Further work will be done to ensure that the WHO Pandemic Agreement is ambitious and reflects the challenges identified during the COVID-19 pandemic: epidemiological surveillance, research, equitable access to essential supplies, medical countermeasures, and strengthening of global production and distribution capacities. Development of the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) will be promoted, along with its links to similar networks in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and other regions.

Strengthening access to the right to sexual and reproductive health: targets 3.7, 5.3 and 5.6.

Work will be done to guarantee the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls, while taking into account sexual diversity, with a gender and feminist approach, and the sexual rights of LGBTI persons.

Supporting research, development and easy access to vaccines and essential medicines, contributing to universal health coverage: target 3.b.

Strategic support will be provided for multilateral initiatives —such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance— that pool the efforts of the international community in this area. Actions will be supported that combat disinformation on vaccines and contribute to raising awareness. Research programmes to develop vaccines or increase their coverage will also be promoted, to ensure that vaccines are accessible and affordable and meet the needs of each country. Activities will also be carried out to foster a new model of innovation and access for essential medicines that is more effective and equitable.

**FOOD SECURITY AND ENDING HUNGER:
GOAL 2**



The repercussions of health crises, increasingly extreme weather conditions, and above all a proliferation of conflicts and wars have severely affected food and nutrition security worldwide. Food insecurity is particularly acute for persons in conflict situations or fragile settings, as well as for those living on islands. Therefore, with a needs-based approach, food assistance programmes will be implemented to support distribution of food and access for populations to appropriate food and nutrients in sufficient quantities, prioritizing children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, older persons and other particularly vulnerable groups. The effects of climate change will hamper efforts to reduce poverty and will affect food and nutrition security by reducing the availability of food and access to it, as well as the stability of reserves of food and the volatility of prices.

Spanish Cooperation has a long-standing commitment to food and nutrition security worldwide and will continue to prioritize ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by: combating food insecurity (whether chronic, temporary or seasonal); combating obesity, overweight and undernutrition; and contributing to realizing the human right to suitable food, guaranteeing access for all to healthy, nutritious food in sufficient amounts, while casting light on hidden hunger. Special attention will be paid to combating infant undernutrition and to the role of defending biodiversity and supporting agroecology as pillars of the response to the triple transition. Spanish Cooperation's approach to this area is based on the human right to food. To make progress in this respect, during the period covered by this Master Plan, a Right to Food Strategy: Zero Hunger will be prepared by Spanish Cooperation. Work will be done in collaboration with the Spanish Parliamentary Alliance for the Right to Food and similar structures in partner countries.

Combating chronic undernutrition and guaranteeing access to food and food security: targets 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4.

Work will be done to combat chronic, temporary and seasonal food insecurity, and to promote farming that is resilient to climate change, to guarantee food security and balanced nutrition for all, now, without jeopardizing the economic, social and environmental foundations that enable food and nutrition security for future generations. Agrifood systems must enable all people to access sustainable diets. Initiatives to preserve seeds will be promoted, with a view to guaranteeing food security. Emergency food assistance will be provided, to support distribution of suitable food and nutrients to the population, and ensure their access to it.

Capacity-building in policymaking to support the human right to food and national food security strategies: target 2.1.

Support will be provided for activities to build the capacities of institutions to prepare national food security strategies, which promote public policies that support the human right to food. In a context of increasingly frequent violations of international humanitarian law, Spain will continue to combat the use of hunger as a weapon.

INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL: GOAL 4



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, which generated a global crisis in education, Spanish Cooperation has renewed its commitment to contributing to inclusive and equitable quality education across the world and in every context, as provided for by Goal 4. Education is a fundamental human right and recognized common good, as well as a basis for peace, tolerance and respect for other human rights, in line with Article 4.1.f of the GSSDC Act, which incorporates the goal of guaranteeing the “universal right to education with a focus on quality, equality and inclusion”. Measures in education will be adapted to context, seeking to meet needs in basic education, vocational training, university education and

specialist education, in order to facilitate job market access, with a focus on lifelong learning. Spanish Cooperation follows the Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action for the implementation of Goal 4, the declaration of the Transforming Education Summit held in September 2022, and the guidelines of the International Commission on the Futures of Education, and remains committed to supporting the SDG4-Education 2030 High-Level Steering Committee.

Spanish Cooperation is firmly determined to protect children whose right to education is compromised by humanitarian crises. Therefore, this Master Plan will promote inclusive and equitable quality education for all in humanitarian crisis situations, especially in cases of conflict, violence and insecurity. Moreover, a boost will be given to international mobility and study grants, through both AECID and the Carolina Foundation.

Access to inclusive and equitable quality education: targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.a and 4.b.

Initiatives aiming to improve education systems based on political dialogue with our partner countries, in order to favour education processes that contribute to students’ safety and well-being. Work will be continued to improve the quality of education systems, to make them more inclusive and reduce discrimination against women and girls, applying positive action to achieve parity. This entails a determined commitment to supporting and training teachers from a feminist and gender approach and to the governance of education systems.

Exclusion from education will be tackled by identifying the people affected – often girls, women and adolescent girls, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons. In the context of conflict, special attention will be paid to the exclusion of children.

Efforts will be made to convince more countries to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration and to comply with action plans in endorsing States. A contribution will also be made to the gradual digital transformation of education systems in our partner countries through the improvement of teachers' and students' digital skills.

Support for the development of education policies based on acquiring skills not only at school but also later in life: target 4.7.

Programmes will be developed for older persons, Indigenous peoples, cultural and linguistic minorities, students from rural areas, stateless persons, internally displaced persons and refugees. Support will be given to initiatives to strengthen sexual and socio-affective education, especially among young people, and to bolster education for peace from a feminist and gender-based approach.

Student grants for technical, professional and advanced training: target 4.b.

Spanish Cooperation will develop initiatives to support Spanish and migrant students looking for their first work experience while they are in comprehensive training. This will create new paths for entrepreneurship. Support will also be given to foreign students by teaching them Spanish as a foreign language, as a tool for their personal and professional development.

Access to inclusive technical and vocational education allowing access to employment and decent jobs: targets 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

Support will be provided for vocational training and for initiatives such as Spanish Cooperation's workshop schools. Moreover, Spanish Cooperation will collaborate with the private sector, as an essential partner in the transition from education to employment, and will seek to generate opportunities to access quality employment and ongoing training.

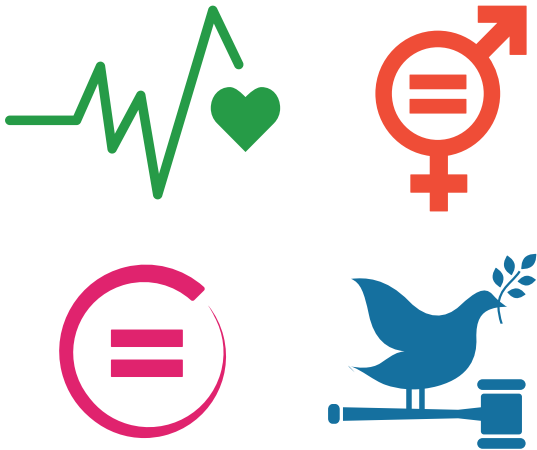
Promote inclusive, quality university education and the sharing of knowledge between universities: targets 4.3, 4.5, 4.c and 12.a.

The lifelong learning of professionals from partner countries, especially those working in the public sector, will be promoted by supporting access to university and post-graduate courses. Collaboration between Spanish and foreign research centres and universities will be encouraged to promote the international mobility of students and academic and non-academic staff. Similarly, support will be given for the design of university cooperation development projects with the aim of sharing knowledge and of creating new university and scientific cooperation networks. The skills of teachers of Spanish as a foreign language in education systems will be strengthened in order to promote multilingualism.

Education for sustainable development and global citizenship: target 4.7.

Support will be provided for awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives with positive reinforcements seeking to help the public to get involved and act in favour of sustainable development and global solidarity, as established in domestic and international guidelines, through culture and sport. Moreover, local and international volunteer programmes will be promoted, as will awareness-raising programmes, fair-trade initiatives and partnerships with private-sector organizations and companies to champion the principles of fair trade and the adoption of fair and sustainable business practices. Initiatives to educate and raise awareness about climate change that have an impact in partner countries will also be promoted.

While this Master Plan is in force, once the evaluation of the current Education for Sustainable Development Strategy has been completed, a new Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Strategy will be designed.

GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENT GIRLS: GOALS 3, 5, 10 Y 16.

In addition to a cross-cutting gender approach, because Spanish Cooperation is a feminist cooperation agency, it identifies gender equality as a priority sector, in compliance with the two-pronged approach (mainstreaming and empowerment) proposed by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Spanish Cooperation's work in this field is anchored in existing Spanish legislation and equality plans. It recognizes the boost achieved by Spanish Cooperation's Gender and Development Strategy and fits into international frameworks and commitments, from the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

against Women (CEDAW) (a binding international convention), the International Conference on Population and Development regarding sexual rights and reproductive rights as human rights, and resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, on Women, Peace and Security, as well as the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III: An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action. Furthermore, Spanish Cooperation accepts all major agreements in the field of humanitarian action regarding gender and combating violence against all women, girls and adolescent girls, as reflected in Spanish Cooperation's 2019-2026 Humanitarian Action Strategy, which lists goals (and results) aimed at consolidating the mainstreaming of gender, age and diversity-based approaches in humanitarian action as part of the feminist cooperation agenda.

To achieve this, programming instruments and bilateral and multilateral instruments focusing on gender will be strengthened. Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge-management mechanisms, covering over thirty years of progress and consolidation of the gender-based approach to sustainable development cooperation from a feminist standpoint in Spanish Cooperation, will also be strength-

ened. Spanish Cooperation will seek to contribute to ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls around the world, with the overarching goal of ensuring their human rights and full citizenship as the best path to eradicating poverty and inequalities and to advancing towards sustainable development from a feminist approach, taking into account the multiple intersectionalities which too often continue to mean that women are

subjected to the worst forms of social, political and economic exclusion.

In the first year covered by this Master Plan, a new Feminist Cooperation Strategy will be created and adopted in order to consolidate Spanish Cooperation's feminist vision and advance towards the goal of achieving a social transition which guarantees gender equality and human rights.

Fight against all forms of gender violence and establish legal frameworks to guarantee the rights of women, girls and adolescents: targets 5.1, 5.2, 16.1 and 16.2.

Campaigns will seek to raise awareness and prevent gender violence and domestic violence by proxy from an early age. Networks to provide care to victims will be established, legal frameworks will be created and put in place in order to guarantee victims' rights, and local women's, youth and feminist organizations working in this field will receive support. Furthermore, special emphasis will be placed on the fight against trafficking of women, girls and adolescent girls, especially trafficking for sexual exploitation. Support will be provided for actions against violence, abuse, workplace harassment and sexual harassment at work.

The gender-based approach to humanitarian action and specific actions to empower women in peacebuilding processes will be strengthened, focusing on work to develop early warning systems, protection and humanitarian action in conflicts and disasters, the inclusion of the gender and age approach to transitional justice, disarmament, mobilization and reintegration processes. Special attention will be paid to the support and protection needs of women, girls and adolescent girls stemming from sexual violence and armed conflict, as well as the needs of other vulnerable groups, especially children, adolescents and persons with disabilities, based on an intersectional perspective. Special attention will also be paid to their autonomy and response capacity so they may recover their livelihoods and role in society. Furthermore, special emphasis will be placed on the fight against the trafficking of women, girls and adolescent girls, especially trafficking for sexual exploitation in emergency and conflict situations.

Promote the civil and political rights of women and their real and effective participation: targets 5.1 and 5.5.

Public policy seeking formal equality (laws and regulations) and real equality (national equality mechanisms and management programmes and initiatives) will be strengthened, as will the promotion of political participation of all women, girls and adolescent girls at global, national and local level. Spanish Cooperation will endeavour to improve the access of all women, girls and adolescent girls to the justice system, to raise support for improvements

to said systems at all levels and to promote the empowerment and leadership of women in social and economic dialogue. To do this, Spanish Cooperation will bolster partnerships with rights, land and environmental defenders, paying special attention to the strengthening of local women's, youth and feminist organizations. Furthermore, women's and feminist organizations' access to funding through mechanisms such as aid to third-party organizations will be championed.

Foster and protect the sexual and reproductive rights of all women, girls and adolescent girls and combat harmful practices: targets 5.3 and 5.6.

Support will be provided for initiatives, programmes and projects seeking to eradicate harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation. Spanish Cooperation will seek to champion, protect and guarantee the sexual and reproductive rights of all women, girls and adolescent girls through universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services. To this end, national, regional and local women's, youth and feminist organizations working in the field of sexual diversity and the defence of sexual and reproductive rights will receive support.

Progress towards care societies, policies and economies and support for the economic and labour rights of women for sustainable development: targets 5.1, 5.4 and 5.a.

Spanish Cooperation will carry out actions to promote labour and economic rights in feminized sectors; encourage the creation of decent jobs in the care sector, in line with feminist economics for sustainable development and paying close attention to the promotion of productive initiatives; boost entrepreneurship and job opportunities for women in rural development, the use, access and ownership of land and means of production by women, and access to loans based on sustainability and rights, including women who work in the informal economy, the green economy and for the ecological transition and, in general, guarantee equal access and equal continuity in decent jobs in the formal economy.

Spanish Cooperation will seek to empower women and raise the profile of women's role in the informal economy and of paid and unpaid domestic and care work carried out by women in order to formalize, value and dignify said work. Moreover, actions to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work – which disproportionately affects women and girls from an early age – will be supported, and initiatives to teach new, positive masculinities will be promoted.

Support will be provided for initiatives based on gender-responsive budgeting and satellite accounts for local, regional and national public budgets. In addition, Spanish Cooperation will promote research and knowledge management regarding good practices for alternative programmes based on the care economy and policy approach.

CULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GOAL 11



At the recent World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT (Mexico, 2022), UNESCO Member States unanimously adopted a final declaration which, for the first time, recognizes culture as a global public good, setting out a global road map for cultural public policy in the coming years. Therefore, culture must be conceived both as a cross-cutting medium with an impact on all areas of human development and as a specific sector for interventions. Spanish Cooperation's work on culture and sustainable development will continue to take this into account, benefiting from the international recognition of its experience in fostering cultural rights (access, participation, intellectual and creative freedom), cultural industries as a driver for social innovation and decent work, public policies on culture with an impact on effective participation of civil society and on culture's contribution to reflecting on the broader subjects on the international agen-

da: inclusiveness, gender equality, participatory governance, intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, sustainable cities, environment and combating climate change.

In this sector, special attention will be paid to cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, whose impact on sustainable development in regions and cities is expressly mentioned in Goal 11. Spanish Cooperation has long worked in this area, promoting actions to enhance technical and participatory management within the framework of Spanish Cooperation's strategies to recover inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and connected public spaces.

Spanish Cooperation will seek to update the 2007 Culture and Development Strategy to adapt it to international development agendas and to comply with the mandate stemming from the MONDIACULT World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development. In this regard, current programmes and instruments will be revitalized, and new activities will be considered in order to maintain Spanish Cooperation's place at the forefront of cooperation and cultural action for development cooperation.

Support protection, remediation and recovery of historical and cultural heritage: target 11.4.

Continued support will be provided for the Heritage for Development programme as an effective instrument for carrying out work in cities and regions. Special relevance will be given to the comprehensive recovery of public spaces. Moreover, the AECID cultural centres network will continue its work, which is a crucial asset for Spanish Cooperation. It will continue to host collaborative cultural programmes and projects in concert with local counterparts (public, private and from civil society) to achieve the SDGs. Spanish Cooperation will seek further progress in the creation of ever more inclusive and sustainable spaces, where cultural rights can be fully enjoyed. Moreover, there will be continued support for training and capacity-building programmes in the cultural sector, including the ACERCA Programme, a useful tool for strengthening public policies, supporting civil society and advancing towards the SDGs.

3.2.2 Ecological transition

The world currently faces overlapping environmental crises and challenges without precedent in the history of humanity, starting with a climate emergency and a loss of biodiversity, which put the very survival of our planet at risk. A healthy environment is a requirement for sustainable development, as it provides free irreplaceable goods and services which are necessary for human survival, especially for the poorest or most vulnerable, who are more directly dependent on the environment. This led to the recognition by the United Nations General Assembly of the right human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in July 2022.

Considering, on the one hand, the socio-economic consequences resulting from the degradation of the environment –noticeable in the soil, oceans, loss of land and sea biodiversity, pollution and climate change– and, on the other hand, the opportunities to create economic prosperity and quality jobs improving the environment, this Master Plan, in line with the European Green Deal, promotes a fair ecological transition. To achieve this, it is necessary to make decisive progress towards climate neutrality and compliance with Paris Agreement targets through environmentally friendly socio-economic options which do not exacerbate inequalities, and instead share efforts towards decarbonization –among other efforts– fairly, supporting productive sectors (agriculture, farming, fish-farming), prioritizing, alongside a healthy environment, the creation of decent jobs and dignified living conditions, reducing risks and increasing resilience, leaving no one behind.

It is necessary to address this transition from a perspective of fairness and equality. This transition requires unsustainable development models to be challenged; instead, practices that are beneficial for the environment, the preservation of biodiversity and the appreciation of local and Indigenous peoples' knowledge must be

fostered. Furthermore, this transition will seek to ensure the active and significant participation of women, Indigenous peoples and people of African descent in decision-making and the creation of sustainable development models compatible with the conservation of natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity, promoting gender equality and socio-environmental justice.

Non-governmental organizations and society as a whole play a key role in the fight against climate change, in terms of both adaptation and mitigation. It is essential to promote public participation, inclusive governance and the involvement of non-state actors in decision-making and the rolling out of climate action. Moreover, strengthening civic spaces guarantees transparency and accountability and access to information, which are key elements for tackling climate change effectively and fairly.

Promoting a fair ecological transition globally and in partner countries will be paramount to Spanish Cooperation's policies. To this end, the capacities of partner countries' public administrations will be strengthened and the knowledge and experience acquired will be exploited to create partnerships at the service of development plans in said countries. Lines of action will encompass different productive sectors and will focus on (i) the fight against climate change, in terms of both mitigation and climate adaptation; (ii) access to clean energy; (iii) protection and promotion of biodiversity; and (iv) human rights to water and sanitation. Spanish Cooperation will foster synergies between these sectors.

To strengthen and update the work and the approach towards an ecological transition, a new Environment and Climate Change Strategy for Spanish Cooperation will be drawn up during the period covered by this Master Plan. To this end, it will be necessary to take the assessment of the strategy in force into account, in order to enhance it and optimize its results with regard to the conclusions reached.

COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE: ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION. GOAL 13



Global warming caused by climate change provokes distortions in ecosystems, society and the economy, which have direct repercussions on key aspects for survival, such as farming and fishing output and the availability of water. This deepens the effect of crises and leads to increases in migrations, poverty and humanitarian and emergency operations. This situation is not compatible with the goal set by the international community of keeping the rise in global surface temperature to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Consequently, adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change are necessary to maintaining global development, equality and well-being standards. Moreover, the commitment to decarbonization must find mechanisms that enhance effectiveness in order to approach climate neutrality.

Spain is clearly committed, both politically and legally, to mobilizing resources to support climate change mitigation and adaptation processes, especially with regard to developing countries that are the most exposed to climate change and generate the least greenhouse gases. The aim is to increase these countries' resilience, improve disaster risk reduction and response systems, and support technological innovation, planning and capacity-building in this field. Spain is committed to increasing its climate funding levels by 50% by 2025. Part of the increase for ODA in this period will support efforts made by Spanish Cooperation's partner countries towards mitigation and adaptation from a climate justice perspective, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in the face of climate change. Climate change is the greatest social, intergenerational and gender injustice of our times. In the future, today's girls and boys, adolescents and young people will have to deal with the increasingly severe and prolonged impacts on their environment.



Therefore, in line with the international and domestic climate agenda and with the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Spanish Cooperation prioritizes the fight against climate change and its impacts, taking into account Spanish Cooperation's financial commitments and the close interrelation between climate change, the economy and society, and other strategic sectors for Spanish Cooperation. Spanish Cooperation will foster a justice climate approach, promoting a greener Spanish ODA and helping to ensure that climate financing supports partner countries in their adaptation to the effects of climate change and

in achieving an ecological transition towards decarbonized economies and societies. Synergies will be sought between humanitarian and climate action, with a focus on the nexus between humanitarian action and sustainable development, adopting a precautionary approach. Climate adaptation and mitigation actions will be managed locally, especially by youth and women's organizations, which play a crucial role in the response during and after emergencies. Their leadership is key for the development of resilience to climate change, as well as for mitigation and recovery when faced with the effects of climate-related disasters.

Manage and build resilience and support adaptation efforts in the face of climate risks: targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3.

Support will be provided for actions using natural systems (nature-based solutions) to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and promote adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Incentives will be offered for actions to combat desertification and to increase resilience to extreme events, such as conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems, paying special attention to the soil and water and to the need to promote and strengthen early warning systems.

Climate adaptation and mitigation actions will be managed locally, ensuring, in particular, the participation of youth and women's organizations, which play a crucial role in the response. Initiatives in partner countries seeking to educate and raise awareness on climate change will also be promoted.

Support partner countries in drafting policies and strategies to combat climate change with a focus on mitigation: targets 13.2, 13.3 and 13.b.

Support will be provided for institutional capacity-building initiatives allowing countries to plan and manage against climate change effectively in order to prevent and mitigate disaster risk, taking into account the needs of the most vulnerable. Accountability and transparency in climate policies will be encouraged.

Put into practice the international commitments adopted in the fight against climate change: target 13.a.

Initiatives seeking to strengthen partner countries' institutional planning and monitoring capacities regarding international commitments adopted in the fight against climate change will be carried out. Moreover, there will be continued support for their nationally determined contributions, which reflect their needs and priorities for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in the framework of their own sustainable development plans and strategies.

ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY. GOAL 7

Access to energy is a crucial factor for inclusive and sustainable development. Therefore, the effort to guarantee universal, affordable and reliable access to clean energy sources is central to the international development cooperation agenda. The OECD DAC Declaration on a new approach to align development cooperation with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2021) includes the commitment to support partner countries in their transition towards zero emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), taking into account their needs and commitments made through nationally determined contributions. Therefore, ODA is recognized to have an important role in helping partner countries to change their policies, regulations and laws in support of mitigation.

This commitment requires handling several interrelated priorities. Firstly, access to sustainable energy services, owing to their crucial role in healthcare, in education and in reducing poverty and inequalities. Nevertheless, 733 million people still lack access to electricity, and 2.4 billion people lack access to clean appliances and fuel for cooking. The number of people living without electricity continues to grow –by almost 20 million in 2022– especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Insufficient access to funding is a barrier that must be torn down, as funding currently stands at about a third of the amount necessary to achieve Goal 7. In second place, projections of the growth in energy

demand are concentrated in developing countries, which are home to two thirds of the global population. The challenge of access to energy is combined with a rising population, rapid urbanization, growth in industrial activity and increasing demands for improved lifestyles. Thirdly, developing countries are making an effort to achieve energy security. Interruptions in supply and energy systems limit economic and social development. This requires investments to be approached in line with development needs.

In transitioning towards decarbonization –to keep the temperature increase below 1.5°C or 2°C and avoid the worst impacts of climate change on global development– sustainable development cooperation must respond to all three priorities at once. This effort also has positive impacts in terms of the right to health, the promotion of gender equality, the preservation of land and sea ecosystems, and combating indoor and outdoor air pollution.

Therefore, Spanish Cooperation shall continue to address the problem of access to energy, considering that lack of access may obstruct efforts to achieve many other SDGs or development targets, and that said access generates multiple socio-environmental and economic benefits. Moreover, renewable energy will continue to attract the attention of Spanish Cooperation as a means of achieving decarbonization and also as the most affordable option in isolated rural communities, while energy efficiency will be promoted as the option with the greatest impact and potential to create decent jobs.

Promote the use of energy from renewable sources and improve energy efficiency: targets 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

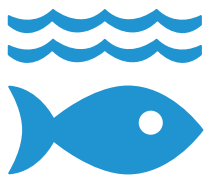
Institutional capacity-building initiatives for the development of plans and policies on renewable energy use and on improving energy efficiency will be promoted as a means to achieve decarbonization and as the most affordable option in isolated rural communities. Public participation in the planning and design of energy scenarios will be encouraged in order to reduce

negative impacts on communities. The problem of access to energy will remain on the agenda, taking into account that lack of access may obstruct efforts to achieve many other SDGs or development targets, and that said access generates multiple socio-environmental and economic benefits, such as clean and safe cooking systems or the provision of associated social services.

Foster research, technological development and training in sustainable energy services: targets 7.a and 7.b.

Research will be encouraged and continued support will be provided for partnerships with the private sector, as well as R&D&i investments for the development and roll-out of sustainable, affordable and scalable supply models. Priority will be given to initiatives in areas where it is not possible to extend electricity or renewable energy grids to meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

**PROMOTE AND PROTECT BIODIVERSITY.
GOALS 14 AND 15**



Ecosystems' biodiversity and services are vital in order to achieve the SDGs. Nature is subject to growing human pressures, which destroy or endanger the goods and services it offers for free and which are essential for our survival (oxygen, climate regulation, crop pollination, food, animal feed, construction materials, etc.). Current trends in changing land use, deforestation, pollution and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources limit the population's options for addressing the crisis and reducing poverty, and also give rise to greater inequality. The loss of both land and sea biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems threaten advances towards 80% of SDG targets related to poverty, hunger, health, water, cities, climate, the oceans and the land.

Alterations have been made to 75% of the Earth's surface and many ecosystems are on the brink of collapse or have already collapsed.

One million species are in danger of extinction, and genetic diversity is also in decline, as millions of hectares of forest areas and tonnes of fertile soil have been lost. Over half of the global economy depends directly on nature and is therefore vulnerable to its degradation. According to the World Economic Forum's annual Global Risks Report, loss of biodiversity is the third most severe risk the world faces. Moreover, it exacerbates other global risks, such as food and water crises, environmental disasters, interstate conflicts and involuntary migration.

In line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, approved in 2022 at the Conference of the Parties 15 (COP15) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, this Master Plan supports a substantial increase in ODA for the biodiversity of Spanish Cooperation's partner countries, and the integration of the sustainable use of biodiversity in sector policies and planning and development processes. Spanish Cooperation's actions in this sector will allow progress towards the goal of doubling Spain's ODA funding for biodiversity by 2025, in line with the general level of ambition shown in the recently approved Global Biodiversity Framework.

Promote the protection of biodiversity in partner countries' policies and support initiatives for the sustainable and inclusive management of ecosystems: targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.7, 15.9 and 15.a.

Institutional capacity-building initiatives for the protection of biodiversity in partner countries' policies will be promoted, paying close attention to the sectors which have the greatest impact. In particular, practices favouring the sustainable management of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and fish farming and the prevention of and fight against climate change will be fostered. Furthermore, support will be given to the establishment of conservation and sustainable management plans for ecosystems.

The active participation of local communities, Indigenous peoples and women in decision-making for the construction of sustainable development models compatible with the conservation of natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity will be encouraged.

Support for creation, expansion and management of terrestrial and marine protected areas: targets 14.2, 14.C, 15.1 and 15.2.

Protection and effective management of terrestrial and marine areas, as well as of protected species, will be encouraged. Support will be provided for the creation of biosphere reserves and for institutional capacity-building and technical training. Reforestation, sustainable forestry, sustainable water management and firefighting initiatives will also receive support.

Promote the restoration of degraded land and sea ecosystems, genetic diversity of seeds, flora and fauna: targets 14.c, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6 and 15.8.

Support will be given to institutional strengthening initiatives for the development and implementation of degraded ecosystem restoration plans, including through nature-based solutions, and for the development of seed banks. Moreover, initiatives seeking to fight the introduction and establishment of invasive alien species and the illegal trade in species will be encouraged.

WATER AND SANITATION: GOAL 6



Spanish Cooperation states its commitment to human rights to water and sanitation, an area in which it has displayed international leadership, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. Access to water and sanitation are essential for the sustainability of human development, and crucial for eradicating poverty, combating inequalities and advancing in the different aspects of development, such

as productive activity and fighting hunger, not forgetting social justice. Water's vital role in sustaining human life is reflected in the 2030 Agenda's Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.

Goal 6 encompasses both social cohesion and the environment, among other matters, in so far as it relates to waste treatment and purification, and to integrated water management. All of this is essential for all climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as for the environment, including for addressing the risk of extreme events such as droughts. Neverthe-

less, the availability of water and its quality are affected, on the one hand, by pollution, and, on the other, by extreme weather events that impact the water cycle and create multiple risks. This situation causes serious harm to people at risk and exacerbates inequality and existing vulnerabilities. Some key elements include concentrating on services rather than infrastructure; water security; the integrated management of water resources; adaptation to climate change; risk management in the face of extreme water events (droughts and flooding) and the water-food-energy nexus.

Therefore, Spanish Cooperation accepts that water is an essential environmental resource and remains convinced of the importance of prioritizing the integrated drainage basin management approach as a water conservation criterion, seeking improved indicators of access to drinking water (mainly, but not only in rural areas) and paying closer attention to the following key factors: the impact of climate change and pollution.

This reality is linked to sanitation and health. As for sanitation, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vital importance of sanitation, hygiene and proper access to clean water in order to prevent and contain disease. All these aspects coexist with and feed off crisis situations.

Ensuring the implementation of Goal 6 is, moreover, essential to protecting and advancing human rights for the most vulnerable. Safe access to water is also a critical question at a time when a quarter of the global population has no access to safe water and sanitation. This affects the most at-risk and vulnerable groups, such as women, children and marginalized or displaced groups. It

is in these cases that the need for international cooperation, especially through funding and support programmes, is the most essential.

This effort to achieve the targets linked to Goal 6 requires efficient and sufficient funding. Although this Goal has been prioritized, the needs remain substantial and require sustainable models, appropriate infrastructure and participatory and democratic management. A hallmark of Spanish Cooperation is its commitment to water and sanitation, as shown by the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Masar Water Programme in the Arab world.

The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation aims to make the human right to water effective. Its work contributes to the resilience of people whose access to water is at risk and seeks a real transformation that guarantees sustainable water and sanitation. Experience has proven the effectiveness of combining Spanish Cooperation's instruments, not only making use of bilateral grants but also financial cooperation, technical cooperation and the creation of pathways for other donors, with delegated cooperation from the European Union in order to achieve said goals. All of these instruments will continue to evolve.

During the period covered by this Master Plan, efforts will be made to project the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation's experience beyond Latin America and the Caribbean. The prioritization of Partnership Frameworks and other planning instruments, as well as the availability of delegated cooperation operations will support an allocation of funds to implement Goal 6 in a way that boosts a fair ecological transition.

Universal and equitable access to safe drinking water services from a rights-based approach: targets 6.1 and 6.3.

Efforts will be made to improve and expand networks supplying safe drinking water to the population in a sustainable way, especially in rural areas, from a gender and rights-based approach, paying special attention to the effective access of disabled people, children and adolescents.

Enhance systems for basic sanitation services and hygiene equipment: targets 6.2 and 6.3.

Sanitation infrastructure will be built and initiatives to manage solid waste and purify wastewater will receive support. Institutional planning and management capacities will be increased and support will be given to programmes educating on and encouraging hygiene habits.

Support inclusive water governance and the integrated management of water resources in a sustainable manner: targets 6.5 and 6.b.

Priority will be given to initiatives focusing on institutional strengthening for water security planning and the adoption of the integrated drainage basin management approach as a water conservation criterion, incorporating the human rights-based approach to water and sanitation and a gender approach to management, while seeking improved indicators of access to drinking water (mainly, but not only in rural areas) and following key factors such as climate change and pollution more closely. Moreover, local communities will be encouraged to take part in managing water and sanitation.

Efficient use of water resources, ecosystem conservation and prevention of associated risks: target 6.4.

Initiatives focusing on the conservation of water resources and on measures to prevent and mitigate risks will be encouraged. Support will be provided for initiatives to reforest drainage basins and conserve aquifers, as well as to produce environmental impact reports. Moreover, support will be given to initiatives to guarantee the sustainability of extraction and for those to treat pollution, overexploitation and eutrophication.

3.2.3 Economic transition

In order to boost the economic transition, there is a need to shift towards more sustainable production models that conserve ecosystems and recognize the value of the land's natural resources, taking into account existing inequalities, among them, gender and underlying power dynamics. Traditional economic models have historically excluded and exploited women, as well as those groups and communities most affected by poverty and exclusion. Such models also discriminate against persons with disabilities, LGBTI and other vulnerable groups in Spanish Cooperation's partner countries, perpetuating inequalities, the gender divide and economic marginalization.

It is therefore necessary to encourage economic initiatives that favour sustainable development and the conservation of natural resources, improving the population's economic and living conditions. All the while, decent working conditions must be guaranteed, and recognition and value given to unpaid labour such as domestic and care work which, historically, have been neither valued nor recognized. Protection of biodiversity and support for agroecology also play a key role: they are cross-cutting components of the necessary response to the triple transition, and are also critical to food and nutrition.

Therefore, it is fundamental to promote the active participation of local communities, In-



digenous peoples, women and civil society, allowing inclusive governance and the promotion of solutions based on consensus and equity. Economic development will be inclusive when socio-economic inequalities are addressed and sustainability is guaranteed. By giving voice to local communities, inclusion and shared responsibility are fostered, local knowledge used and sustainability and resilience encouraged. This contributes to the generation of more effective and equitable solutions, boosting an economic development that benefits all parts of society.

Moreover, efforts must be made to strengthen public policies promoting small farmers' equitable access to productive resources that improve living conditions for rural communities and facilitate market participation under fair conditions. In addition, it is important to support access to fair trade markets and networks, as well as innovation in farm production techniques that guarantee the sustainability of natural resources, the social economy and the strengthening of local value chains, promoting opportunities for new generations.

As part of this economic development, a tourist industry which adopts sustainable consumption and production practices that preserve and recognize the value of cultural identities and mutual understanding and provide decent work can play a significant role in the global transformation towards sustainability.

Guaranteeing digital inclusiveness and equitable access to technologies, and strengthening communities' technological skills is essential to foster sustainable and inclusive development. Moreover, the expansion of connectivity, the digitalization of public administration, the protection of digital rights and civil society's participation in digital decision-making contribute to ethical and transparent digitalization, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

RURAL TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS: GOALS 2, 11 AND 14



In order to foster rural territorial development, production and institutional aspects must be addressed simultaneously. This will make it easier for local stakeholders to organize themselves in a local institutional framework in order to build consensus around a long-term vision of development for their area, including institutional reforms, decentralization and strengthening of local governments, social partnerships, etc. Moreover, a medium and long-term action time frame must be put forward.

To advance towards sustainability, it is vital to recognize and strengthen farm production methods that explicitly improve ecosystem services and build the natural capital that sustains food systems. Therefore, farm production adapted to climate change and with access to fair trade markets and networks must be championed. It is also essential to ensure the participation of women, local communities and Indigenous peoples, who, thanks to their knowledge, have protected natural resources through traditional productive practices.

It is crucial to provide an appropriate environment for the active participation of rural communities and civil society, allowing inclusive governance, collaboration between different stakeholders and the promotion of solutions based on consensus and equity. Fostering societal participation allows the challenges related to access to resources, innovation, environmental protection and the promotion of an inclusive and sustainable rural development to be tackled in a more efficient manner.

Spanish Cooperation promotes a model based on small-scale peasant and family agriculture, which is more focused on production for local consumption and usually seeks to adopt a sustainable approach. In this regard, vegetable plots and family holdings are often vital biodiversity reserves for agriculture and food. Family agriculture refers to farm production, forestry, fishing, livestock and fish farming activities managed by families and dependent on their labour. Moreover, in many cases it is believed to generate positive externalities beyond farm production, such as the preservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage, the conservation of rural landscapes and ecosystems, and territorial cohesion.

In addition, support must be given to fair trade networks and to public policies that seek to promote equitable access for families to productive resources, improve living conditions, and facilitate access to market participation under fair conditions.

To mitigate the effects of ever more frequent droughts and facilitate market access for family-farm produce, support will also be provided for the installation of efficient watering systems that improve small and medium producers' income, based on efficient water use and management and ensuring equitable access to all families, guaranteeing quality and taking present and future generations into account.

Agro-ecological intensification is an alternative to industrial agriculture. It seeks to make farmers less dependent on external inputs, provide greater support for knowledge and make use of natural processes. It also integrates ecological principles and strives to increase the productive capacity of systems' biotic and abiotic components, minimizing environmental costs and conserving biodiversity through wildlife-friendly farming systems.

Support and encourage farm production systems that are sustainable and resilient to climate change: targets 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.a and 2.c.

Farmers will be encouraged to adopt climate change adaptation strategies, fostering sustainable and resilient agriculture that is compatible with the preservation of biodiversity and offers diverse produce. The use of native seeds will also be encouraged, the genetic diversity of farm animals conserved and technical support and training provided to families and cooperatives.

Support will be provided for programmes that increase production and generate added value, such as sustainable watering systems and agricultural infrastructure for fair storage, processing and marketing. Public policies will be strengthened in order to support families' access to productive resources and markets offering favourable conditions.

Research on the adaptation of traditional production systems to climate change and on plant and livestock gene banks will also be supported.

Support and encourage sustainable fishing systems: targets 14.4 and 14.b.

Continued support will be offered to families to enable them to access resources that promote sustainable fishing that respects water ecosystems' biodiversity to guarantee the survival of species in the medium and long term and the fishing activities on which mainly the most vulnerable groups are dependent.

Institutional strengthening programmes aimed at the drafting of national regulations and strategies for sustainable fishing will also be encouraged.

Support policies that foster inclusive rural territorial development promoting the active participation of communities and civil society in decision-making processes: target 11.3.

Support will be provided for inclusive and sustainable spatial planning from a gender-based feminist approach. This will incentivize public policies that foster equitable development in rural areas, promoting the active participation of communities and civil society in decision-making processes.

INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: GOALS 8, 9, AND 12



Another of the great challenges of the sustainable development agenda are the increasing socio-economic inequalities between regions and countries, as well as within countries. Therefore, Spanish Cooperation can have a significant influence in mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships involving civil society, governments, the private sector and international organizations to seek inclusive development and respect for economic, social and cultural rights as an essential component of human rights and of Goals 1 and 10, which are the core and cross-cutting Goals driving our action. In this regard, it is essential to strengthen the micro-, small and medium-sized enterpris-

es (MSMEs) on which the economic and social structure of many countries depends and, more generally, to stress the importance of fair taxation, increase workers' powers to exercise their rights effectively, and support the transition of companies in the informal economy towards the formal economy, in order to contribute to truly inclusive development.

Thanks to this multi-stakeholder collaboration, effective participation of civil society in decision-making processes, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes related to inclusive and sustainable economic development, and respect for economic, social and cultural rights will be promoted. Moreover, Spanish Cooperation will seek to improve access to financing and entry into the formal economy for the MSME sector, traditionally known as the "missing middle". In this regard, Spanish Cooperation will use its funding instruments to tackle inclusive and sustainable economic development challenges, supporting measures to increase social protection and to make it easier to register a company and its workers. Likewise, Spanish Cooperation will seek to leverage public and private funding to create an impact on the production structure.

Support and encourage the effective protection of labour rights to achieve decent, quality employment, creating safe and inclusive working environments: targets 8.5, 8.7 and 8.8.

Initiatives aimed at promoting labour rights will be encouraged, fostering the creation of decent jobs and paying particular attention to feminized sectors. Spanish Cooperation will champion decent working conditions at the workplace, the prevention and eradication of child labour, the fight against violence at the workplace, and the equal participation of women as social partners and in social dialogue. Efforts will be made to foster the economic and labour rights of women, in line with a feminist care economy, and trade union cooperation will be supported. Spanish Cooperation will bolster initiatives supporting regulatory frameworks and policies that guarantee formal and stable labour conditions, promoting a transition from an informal to a formal economy in order to support decent employment and inclusive and sustainable economic and social development.

Support the development of sustainable economic activities: targets 8.3, 8.4, 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3.

Spanish Cooperation will promote initiatives that incorporate sustainability into the business model of non-agrarian MSMEs, generating greater competitiveness and productivity and fostering value chain sustainability and decent working conditions. Loan programmes, as well as innovation and improvement programmes in the business sector and in the social economy will be encouraged.

Boost sustainable services and infrastructure that promote social and economic development: targets 9.1 and 12.5.

Spanish Cooperation will boost initiatives to improve infrastructure and services for local development, enhance mobility, road safety, and the accessibility of persons and goods, increase the well-being of the population, and mitigate existing inequalities. It will also encourage waste management and promote recycling and other actions of benefit to the social and circular economy, and support awareness-raising campaigns. Initiatives to strengthen existing community support networks and fair trade networks impacting on non-agrarian cooperatives, family businesses and MSMEs will also be carried out.

Boosting tourism policies and plans as a driver for decent and inclusive employment benefiting communities: targets 8.9 and 12.b.

Sustainable tourism, tourist route development, community-based tourism and tourism aimed at preserving cultural heritage will be supported, promoting gender equality and accessibility and opportunities for persons with disabilities. Spanish Cooperation will also carry out actions to strengthen institutional capacities for designing sustainable and resilient tourism plans and policies. Training and labour market integration for the young and vulnerable under decent work conditions will be encouraged.

DIGITALIZATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GOALS 4, 9 AND 16

The UN World Summit on the Information Society, organized in two phases (Geneva 2003, Tunis 2005) marked a turning point in the evolution of digital development and its position on the global development agenda. In the following two decades, some European cooperation agencies drafted and implemented digital strategies. However, digitalization in particular and new technologies in general have not been the main focus of Spanish Cooperation, some isolated cases notwithstanding.

Nevertheless, the current ubiquity of Information and Communication Technologies and, in particular, of mobile technologies, as well as the

2020 pandemic, during which digital networks and services made a difference when tackling the long periods of lockdown, have made clear that this sector can be key for countries and their citizens. COVID-19 made clear that connectivity is quickly becoming the global metric for inclusiveness and exclusion: 2.9 billion people live with no access to internet. Several digital divides, in particular the gender digital divide, and a lack of digital skills prevented many people, especially the most vulnerable, from working or studying from home during the crisis. Paradoxically, 93% of the global population lives in areas with internet coverage, which in itself proves that we are not facing a purely technological challenge. Recent advances in artificial intelligence have opened up endless possibilities, enabling tools that can radically change the way people work and socialize.

Therefore, digitalization for development has recently considerably increased in importance. The idea of connectivity and internet access as a global public good and even as a human right is gaining ground at the UN, the OECD and the G20. In the European Union, digitalization is at the top of the development agenda. Initiatives

such as the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub or the European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Digital Alliance (EU-LAC Digital Alliance) show the importance of establishing partnerships to achieve the best results in a field which requires the cooperation of several stakeholders (governments, civil society, technology companies, etc.).

Multiple challenges lie ahead. Providing quality internet to the 4.1 billion inhabitants of the least developed countries is a huge challenge. However, so is the arduous task of regulating the digital ecosystem, which encompasses complex issues related to human rights, such as cybersecurity, disinformation, intellectual property, harassment, artificial intelligence and totalitarian surveillance, some of which pose a serious threat to democracy.

Therefore, digital development is an opportunity for Spanish Cooperation, together with other European cooperation agencies, to establish alliance frameworks with our partner countries conducive to streamlining efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda targets through a rights-based digitalization of societies.

Promote digital connectivity, services and skills in partner countries: targets 4.7 and 9.c.

Spanish Cooperation will promote the roll out of connectivity infrastructure in its partner countries. Moreover, access to safe digital technologies and services, especially those that improve people's quality of life, such as those relating to health and education, will be championed. Digital technologies and services aiming to modernize partner countries' public administrations will also receive support. To ensure these technologies and services are accessible and in order to reduce any kind of digital divide, inclusive training activities will be encouraged, especially those focusing on vulnerable groups, rural and remote areas and on public-sector workers.

Ensure the protection of rights and digital privacy through legal and regulatory frameworks in partner countries: target 16.10.

Support will be provided for initiatives seeking to guarantee personal privacy and digital rights through appropriate and up-to-date legal and regulatory frameworks inspired by European frameworks. In doing so, the opportunities and challenges for the rule of law arising from areas such as cybersecurity and artificial intelligence will be taken into account. Moreover, the use of technology to ensure government transparency and accountability will be encouraged.

3.3. Geographic priorities

The GSSDC Act establishes a set of geographic priorities and pays special attention to the privileged position of North Africa, the Near East and Sub-Saharan Africa (in particular the countries in Western Africa and the Sahel and Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries), as well as countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in an Ibero-American framework. The aforementioned geographical regions are those where Spanish Cooperation has historically played a more important role, acquiring experience and establishing stable and lasting partnerships. This allows Spanish Cooperation to offer greater added value in sustainable development cooperation.

New challenges and needs in a global context of multiple crises highlight the urgency of establishing appropriate support and collaboration mechanisms with those partner countries of Spanish Cooperation that are graduating as non-recipients of ODA based on strict criteria of income, but

which still face challenges and gaps that are being tackled by international cooperation through development in transition. This perspective sees development processes as complex, gradual and continuous processes which do not end when countries reach a certain level of income; rather, they remain a challenge until achievements are sustainable, which is why measurements based on income are insufficient to assess a country's situation. Adopting this approach means establishing an international cooperation strategy which is in keeping with the universalist spirit of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, surpassing the vision of cooperation solely focused on the eradication of poverty through inclusive economic development and advancing towards broader development cooperation, whose goals must be to prevent development traps, combat inequalities, promote global public goods



and ease countries' transitions to more sustainable development models. Thanks to the GSS-DC Act (and to this Master Plan, which is the first developed thereunder), Spain has become a DAC donor country which establishes sustainable development cooperation priorities alongside "graduate" countries in the understanding that cooperation cannot be solely determined by one indicator (a country's average income). Therefore, Spanish Cooperation will continue pushing for reflection and debate at the heart of the OECD regarding the best manner to advance from this perspective, and in connection with the multidimensional character of the development financing agenda.

Consequently, partnerships will be sought with those countries which suffer the greatest inequalities and whose achievement of the 2030 Agenda is the most challenging, as well as with countries with which Spanish Cooperation has partnership or cooperation agreements and which share interests and values in the field of sustainable development to a greater degree. In coordination with the EU, initiatives may be carried out in countries and regions of special importance for external action, based on the geographic and sector priorities established in this Master Plan. Special cases of human rights violations in contexts of fragility and in situations with a high social and environmental impact with global repercussions may also be addressed.

This Master Plan splits Spanish Cooperation's geographic priorities into three levels: priority regions, priority countries and other countries of interest. Cross-cutting approaches and sector priorities defined in this Master Plan and in Spanish Cooperation's humanitarian strategies will be implemented in all priority countries and countries of interest, but also through the regional approaches described below, which will need to be adapted to countries' specific context and needs.

As for humanitarian action, in line with leading humanitarian organizations, context strategies will be implemented every six months and re-

spond to a humanitarian needs analysis from a vulnerability approach. Likewise, taking into account the unpredictable nature of emergencies (of any kind), the geographic priorities of this Master Plan and of Spanish Cooperation's humanitarian strategies notwithstanding, humanitarian interventions may be carried out in other geographic areas if required by humanitarian needs.

3.3.1 Priority regions and countries for Spanish Cooperation

In order to identify priority countries, and based on the analysis of Spanish Cooperation's experience and added value, indicators for human development, inequalities and intersectional and multidimensional vulnerabilities are taken into account from a human rights and gender equality approach, as are indicators relating to the environment, the climate emergency and the goals of peace, security and good governance agreed by the UN.

Differentiated strategies will be defined in cooperation with priority countries in order to note different context sensitivities and provide a work framework that limits and facilitates the scope of programmes linked to each situation's specifics. To this end, a planning document will be drafted for each country. In line with the classification above, this document may be: a sustainable development partnership framework, a partnership for sustainable development, or a cooperation strategy.

This Master Plan does not establish which countries require a sustainable development partnership framework or a partnership for sustainable development, as experience has taught us that countries do not progress in a linear fashion and that circumstances change over time. The principle of ownership is key to relationships with partner countries: Spanish Cooperation always seeks a horizontal partnership between equals, addressing shared priorities and making

the most of both parties' synergies, resources and capacities in order to achieve the SDGs.

Spanish Cooperation's priority regions are Latin America and the Caribbean; North Africa and the Middle East; the countries of West Africa and the Sahel and Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking African countries.

Spanish Cooperation will prioritize:

Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

North Africa and the Middle East: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Sahrawi refugees and Tunisia.

Asia: Philippines.

To maintain and reinforce the geographical specialization of Spanish Cooperation and channel possible budgetary increases to achieving a greater impact in partner countries, rather than favour a geographical range that would disperse Spanish Cooperation's action, cooperation instruments will concentrate on the aforementioned countries and regions. Nevertheless, in addition to priority countries (where interventions will be especially intense), Spanish Cooperation may work in and with other non-priority countries in the priority regions mentioned in this Master Plan. This work will preferentially adopt a regional approach and, after a detailed case-by-case analysis, will clearly define the modalities and cooperation instruments to be used and the manner in which the proposed actions are to be monitored. In these cases, priority will be given to work through multilateral channels or in collaboration with regional bodies, through financial cooperation or tenders for NGOs.

This new approach will be especially relevant in the Sahel and West Africa, where Spanish Cooperation must respond to regional dynamics that may not be limited to priority countries.

Therefore, in addition to bilateral programmes and in line with the support for regional cooperation and integration, in the coming years Spanish Cooperation will strengthen its action at regional level. In Asia, the purpose of the time frame of this Master Plan will be to draft a strategy which, based on Spanish Cooperation's programme in the Philippines and the work of other stakeholders, will identify potential lines of work and instruments in order to build an interlinked working programme for Spanish Cooperation.

3.3.2 Regional cooperation

Latin America and the Caribbean

Recent multiple crises at global level have had an impact on the region, increasing the levels of poverty and inequality gaps, with a marked impact on the rights of children and adolescents. Moreover, regionalism and integration processes are in crisis, a situation aggravated by internal conflicts, socio-economic instability, restriction of civic spaces and authoritarian political drift.

Spanish Cooperation has always sought regional integration as a driver of sustainable development. In this context, Spanish Cooperation's efforts to strengthen relations with SICA, CARICOM and CELAC will continue, and the possibility of supporting other processes, such as MERCOSUR, will be considered. Furthermore, Ibero-American countries have created instruments to reach consensus on essential issues for the region.

Spanish Cooperation will also continue to prioritize cooperation with Ibero-America by bolstering the different mechanisms for action in this respect. Within the framework of Ibero-American Cooperation, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) coordinates a network of



stakeholders –Ibero-American bodies, networks and dependent programmes, initiatives and projects– in order to achieve the objectives of the Third Four-Year Action Plan for Ibero-American Cooperation (PACCI) 2023-2026, approved at the 28th Ibero-American Summit in Santo Domingo, as well as to support the Ibero-American Charter of Principles and Rights in Digital Environments, the Ibero-American Environmental Charter and the Critical Path to Achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Food Security in Ibero-America, also approved at the 28th Ibero-American Summit in Santo Domingo.

In non-priority countries in the region, where the presence of Spanish Cooperation is not so well established, work will follow regional approaches such as those mentioned above (for example, in the Caribbean in partnership

with CARICOM and other subregional organizations). Some countries, such as Chile and Uruguay, have become high-income countries, thus graduating from the ODA receiver list published by the OECD DAC. In these cases, initiatives will preferentially adopt a regional or triangular cooperation approach.

Thus, Spanish Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean will go beyond bilateral programmes with each of the priority countries: it will focus on strengthening cooperation strategies with regional bodies, but also on designing horizontal approaches with a regional or subregional perspective. In this regard:

- The new Democracy programme will continue its work strengthening democratic systems, providing spaces for dialogue to build

consensus, support civil society and other stakeholders which may improve the quality of democracy, and protect and promote the effective exercise of human rights. A programme will be designed for human rights defenders, including journalists, to foster the creation of community protection networks and muster support for human rights defenders' remaining in the area

- A new Cooperation Programme will be set up with SICA, which will enable expansion of intervention sectors and instruments and which will be part of the broader Spain-SICA fund.
- The Spain-CARICOM fund will be reactivated, focusing on impact sectors in an area where Spanish Cooperation has a smaller presence. It will coordinate with interventions related to Ibero-American Cooperation, focusing on health, food security and the prevention of natural disasters.
- A programme will be designed for cooperation with Southern Cone countries, in line with the concept of development in transition, allowing work along lines jointly identified through exchange and knowledge-creation activities.
- A triangular cooperation model will be designed to enable a response to institutions' demands by establishing partnerships between providers.
- The design of the regional programme Intercoconnecta, which focuses on incorporating public innovation into programming, will be perfected through co-creation processes alongside the administration's different bodies.

Africa and the Arab world

Africa is home to most of the countries with the lowest Human Development Indices on the planet. Poverty, hunger, the effects of climate change

and institutional weakness constitute key elements that affect the continent's sustainable development processes. Violence, food insecurity and a lack of opportunities have increased this vulnerability, which leads to the displacement of people, mainly within the continent.

Africa has a young population, whose job and stability expectations are not easily met. Political instability, health emergencies, armed conflicts, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, social tension and the effects of climate change have increased humanitarian needs in a context of chronic crises. The impact of crises on children is especially acute, with high rates of child mortality, alarming childhood malnutrition figures, high levels of violence, impact on access to education, and a lack of access to social and health services.

Countries in North Africa and the Middle East, a neighbouring region with which Spain has close historical and cultural ties, are mostly middle-income countries and face a series of shared challenges, such as the effects of climate change and the fight against desertification, and the need to enhance regional cooperation mechanisms and policies to achieve gender equality and generate opportunities for young people.

In both regions, Spanish Cooperation will double down on its efforts to foster inclusive economic development, paying special attention to generating opportunities for young people, especially women. Moreover, water and sanitation work will be expanded based on experience in Latin America and the Caribbean. Efforts will be made to further initiatives to improve governance (including support for decentralization), empower women economically and politically, strengthen civil society and fight climate change and its impacts.

As part of the boost to regional cooperation in Africa and the Middle East, Spanish Cooperation has set itself the following objectives:

- A Spanish Cooperation strategy in sub-Saharan Africa will be defined.

- A new regional cooperation strategy for the Southern Mediterranean will be defined. It will adapt Spanish Cooperation's goals and means to the challenges currently faced by the region, prioritizing coordination of the intervention throughout the Southern Neighbourhood and favouring the establishment of lasting partnerships in the region.
- Spanish Cooperation will renew regional cooperation programmes with ECOWAS, especially in fields such as agriculture, renewable energy and gender equality, and with the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), among others.
- Efforts will continue in West Africa and special attention will be paid to the Sahel, benefiting from lessons learned during the Spanish Presidency of the General Assembly of the Sahel Alliance in support of countries in the region.

3.3.3 Countries of interest for Spanish Cooperation

In addition to the aforementioned countries and regions, other countries of interest may be identified, where Spanish Cooperation may work on an ad hoc basis, particularly to promote global public goods or respond to (non-humanitarian) crises or development challenges.

Therefore, if appropriate, Spanish Cooperation may act in cooperation with the EU in non-priority countries or in countries that do not belong to priority regions:

- Although Spanish Fund for Sustainable Development (FONPRODE)/Spanish Sustainable Development Fund (FEDES) financial cooperation will be directed at priority countries first, it may also finance interventions in other countries in priority regions and even in other non-priority developing coun-

tries if financing global public goods (such as the fight against climate change or global health).

- In the event that an ODA recipient country not included above is struck by an emergency or falls into a crisis situation, multiple cooperation pathways exist from a combined approach based on humanitarian action, development and peacebuilding. Once the humanitarian emergency phase has been addressed and, where appropriate, early recovery has commenced, cooperation may take on a more stable character through initiatives to support recovery and reconstruction processes that further tackle the needs and challenges from a cooperation development and peacebuilding perspective. Afghanistan and Ukraine (where Spanish Cooperation remains firmly committed to humanitarian action, as well as to supporting the country's recovery, resilience and reconstruction) were of special interest for the drafting of this Master Plan.
- Actions may be carried out in countries in priority regions (as well as the EU Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans) where Spanish Public Administrations are engaged in public technical cooperation projects in the sectors defined in this Master Plan aimed at achieving SDGs. In such cases, said projects may be managed by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public (FIAPP).

It will not be necessary to sign Country Partnership Frameworks, Country Partnership Agreements for Sustainable Development or Provisional Cooperation Strategies with these countries of interest. However, ad hoc agreements may be reached with organizations capable of delivering development cooperation if necessary. In any case, a specific action strategy will be established for each country in this situation, defining goals by field, budget and area.

3.4. Multilateral priorities

Spain seeks a strong, reformed and reinforced multilateralism, which can be more efficient, effective, coherent, transparent, democratic and inclusive. Spain will therefore support greater and better global governance to address the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly connected and interdependent world. At the heart of this initiative stands Spain's work at the UN, especially in the framework of the process to reform the UN development system.

This process seeks a reorganization of the system to improve coordination between agencies, as well as with other public and private cooperation stakeholders to establish an efficient and transformative partnership with partner countries in order to accelerate achievement of the SDGs. In this regard, contributions will be made to the general budget and to strategic programmes and projects at a global, regional and local level to finance specific lines of work of interest and give the system sufficient room to be flexible and adaptable. Spanish Cooperation will also seek to work alongside other specialized multilateral cooperation stakeholders, promoting a balance between these multilateral partners. This also includes UN and International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement international humanitarian organizations.

Spanish Cooperation will concentrate especially on the following lines of action in its cooperation with these organizations and other priority organizations mentioned above (G-20, OECD):

- Promoting and protecting the rights of children, adolescents and young people.
- Promoting and protecting the rights of people with disabilities.
- Promoting and protecting the rights of LGBTI people.
- Strengthening the global health architecture, with a strong WHO at its core and close ties between its different instruments.
- Supporting improvements to democratic institutions, with special attention paid to electoral processes, to the creation of efficient and transparent institutions, and to support for the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while promoting open and inclusive democracies that guarantee the effective exercise of human rights (including the rights of children, adolescents and young people; the rights of people with disabilities; the rights of LGBTI people; the rights of people in mobility situations; the rights of Indigenous peoples; and the rights of people of African descent).
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change and combating the loss of biodiversity.
- Conserving and promoting sustainable food systems in every phase, guaranteeing food security, promoting the right to food and establishing partnerships in favour of guaranteeing the right to healthy, adequate and accessible food.
- Supporting the design of economic, tax, social and public service management policies aiming to create inclusive societies that reduce inequalities.
- Promoting an approach based on stakeholder partnership in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda goals (Goal 17).
- Strengthening the multilateral system, enabling a stronger, more effective, reformed and revitalized rules-based multilateralism, with a strengthened and inclusive United Nations at its core.
- Reducing the gender gap, paying special attention to the effective exercise of sexual and reproductive rights, the fight against gender violence, and the political participation and economic empowerment of women.

4 PLANNING



4.1. Bilateral planning

As stated above, differentiated strategies will be drawn up with priority countries, which will provide a framework shared with partners. A specific planning document for Spanish Cooperation's activities will be drawn up for each priority country according to established criteria. There are three types of strategy:

1. Partnership Frameworks for Sustainable Development

Partnership Frameworks are consolidated as Spanish Cooperation's geographic strategic bilateral planning instruments, which allow it to work in line with partner countries' development goals and pursue the SDGs, concentrating on those sectors where Spanish Cooperation offers greater added value. Its result-oriented approach, based on sustainable development, ownership and alignment, enables Spanish Cooperation to advance the aid effectiveness agenda. It also creates spaces for dialogue around policy, consistency and multi-stakeholder multilevel partnerships to maximize the transformative impact of Spanish Cooperation's activities in the partner country and its regions.

2. Partnerships for Sustainable Development

These differentiated strategies, agreed with partner countries and implemented through bilateral agreements, will be based on a development-in-transition approach and will focus on development cooperation in sectors or fields that have been identified as catalysts for the achievement or protection of global and regional public goods, and for providing a boost to inclusive and innovative public policies. These partnerships substitute, in part, previous Advanced Cooperation Agreements (ACA).

3. Cooperation Strategies

Moreover, Cooperation Strategies may be drafted for countries where it is not pos-

sible or appropriate to develop and agree Partnership Frameworks or Partnerships for Sustainable Development with the relevant authorities. In these cases, Spanish Cooperation will design these Strategies in line with a new methodology that will be developed while this Master Plan is in place. In any case, it will include a consultation and dialogue process involving civil society. These strategies will be simpler and will only remain in place until the conditions arise for the establishment of a Partnership Framework or Partnership for Sustainable Development. Their content may include provisional activities or pilot programmes, allowing Spanish Cooperation to explore broader and more stable cooperation programmes.

Therefore, Partnership Frameworks and Partnerships for Sustainable Development will establish the strategic framework for cooperation and dialogue around the sustainable development policies of Spain and its partners, reflecting the priorities agreed with partner countries and their institutions. These agreements will guide the Spanish system's bilateral sustainable development cooperation and will be included in joint committee agreements signed by Spain with each partner country. These bilateral planning tools will be governed by the principles of effectiveness and of PCSD and the protection and guarantee of human rights.

Efforts will be made so that this dialogue around policy is coordinated with the process set forth in EU programming and, especially, with joint programming as part of Team Europe. In addition, Spanish Cooperation will seek to bring this dialogue into line with the policy dialogue coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office with all international stakeholders to define the UN Development Assistance Framework with the partner country, and the Integrated National Financing Frameworks, which will serve as a reference for a global partnership for sustainable development and the SDGs pursued by the partner country.

Spanish Cooperation considers the territorial dimension as necessary to accelerate the transformation proposed by the 2030 Agenda. Spain has added value due to its decentralized structure and its experience in localizing SDGs. Partnerships, including institutional partnerships, will be sought between Spanish Cooperation's stakeholders and the partner country's stakeholders. This will allow the establishment of global partnerships between public and private stakeholders to tackle shared sustainable development challenges and goals in the long term, resulting in a different way of acting and a new way of working to complete the shared missions defined. This planning model would make it easier to mobilize both financial and non-financial resources, capacities, technologies, data and the innovation each stakeholder can add to the implementation of initiatives to achieve the SDGs.

4.2. Planning of multilateral action

With the aim of applying a coordinated strategic approach in the multilateral sphere, and in accordance with the mandate set forth in the GSSDC Act, the Foreign Ministry, through its State Secretariat for International Cooperation, will define a Multilateral Sustainable Development Policy Strategy in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Enterprise and with the participation of other ministries. This transformative Strategy will lay down the priorities, guidelines and principles needed to ensure the coherence and predictability of the web of partnerships and contributions established with different stakeholders over the coming years. In addition, it will determine our strategic partnerships, focused on specific goals, with the UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes or multilateral entities and bodies that offer the greatest added value in each sphere. The Strategy will also aim to guarantee the effectiveness, efficiency, predictability and quality of multilateral cooperation and improvement of its management. Moreover, as far as possible, innovation

for sustainable development will be promoted in this sphere, as will complementarity with other work modalities used by Spanish Cooperation to which it can offer particular added value.

In the framework of the aforementioned strategy, Spanish Cooperation will strengthen its institutional and human capacities to play a key role within the United Nations Sustainable Development System, thereby enabling active, strategic, transformative and continuous multilateral cooperation. The presence of Spanish nationals at all levels of multilateral organizations, including those of the UN system, will also be boosted.

With a view to improving impact and coherence, Strategic Partnership Frameworks (SPFs) will be defined with the financial and non-financial multilateral bodies and institutions prioritized by Spanish Cooperation, updating existing SPFs with Spanish Cooperation's traditional partners among the UN Agencies and Programmes (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) and establishing new SPFs with those entities which, due to their importance and contribution of funds, require a special collaboration framework. Each SPF, based on dialogue and coordination with the corresponding counterpart, will contain the following: mission, vision and shared principles; priority lines of joint work; and accountability for results and effective public communication.

4.3. Spanish Cooperation planning in the framework of the European Union

The Team Europe approach, which emerged in 2020 as a result of the joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic adopted by the European Commission, is based on joint work between the EU, its Member States, and their financial and development institutions. The Team Europe

vision seeks to define synergies in the strategic interests of its members so as to optimize the resources contributed and achieve a sustainable impact in a specific country or region. The aim is to convey a strong message of union, solidarity and collaboration in responding to human development priorities, building together in a just, sustainable, inclusive and ecological manner, and strengthening the visibility of EU operations under the slogan “Working Better Together”. Spanish Cooperation is committed to basing its partnerships on political dialogue, giving rise to commitments to work on specific policies and instruments that implement agreements and respond to our partners’ needs.

The Team Europe approach is a guiding principle of the EU Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes and an essential part of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI – Global Europe) programming guidelines. This

approach is being progressively applied to other actions, such as EU-Member State coordination with international development organizations and multilateral conferences, or the Global Gateway strategy, which aims to mobilize EU resources for public and private investment in connectivity and infrastructure in partner countries. Spanish Cooperation will work to enhance alignment between the Team Europe approach and programming and implementation. Within the Global Gateway initiative it will focus on inclusive governance and social objectives (strengthening institutions, reducing inequalities, and responding to the climate emergency) and transparent due diligence procedures. Moreover, it will seek to guide the Global Gateway initiative towards priorities shared with partner countries and



development results, channelling investment towards sustainable and inclusive development with a governance mechanism shared among stakeholders, including civil society stakeholders, from different regions.

The more than 160 TEIs defined since 2020 are the product of collaboration between the EU Union and its Member States and are focused on six spheres: the green transition, which includes the blue transition; digital development, science, technology and innovation; economic growth and employment; migration; governance, peace and security; and human development.

Spanish Cooperation is fully involved in defining and implementing regional and national TEIs with its partner countries, shoring up joint work in the aforementioned spheres. This exercise, which is subject to constant change, must be based on the work carried out in the different modalities at a national and regional scale, thereby fostering a coordinated and coherent Team Europe effort to produce a transformative impact.

In this context, Spanish Cooperation will continue to play a key role within the EU, advancing mechanisms and accumulating additional experience in implementing EU delegated cooperation funds and, in an incipient manner, funds from other European stakeholders, a mechanism that has enabled Spanish Cooperation to strengthen its position in a wide range of areas in which it seeks to offer tangible added value.

To this end, Spanish Cooperation will continue to support existing networks for good practices in cooperation, using them as platforms for fostering synergies between technical and financial cooperation stakeholders. Such networks include the Practitioners' Network, as well as JEFIC, a network of bilateral banks and financial institutions that manage cooperation funds and which comprises AECID, the French Development Agency, Italy's Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP) and Germany's KfW Development Bank. Spanish Cooperation will continue sharing infor-

mation and experiences with these networks, seeking synergies to improve development cooperation at EU level.

Within this framework, of particular relevance is Spanish Cooperation's joint work on the ground, coordinated through Spanish Cooperation's Offices, which report to AECID (and, in those places where no office has been established, by Spain's embassies) together with EU delegations and public entities in partner countries. This work must enable the identification of potential actions that would be eligible for EU funding (to which Spain also contributes) through delegated cooperation actions aligned with the geographic and thematic priorities defined in this Master Plan.

These actions could make a major contribution towards achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda, and Spanish Cooperation must commit to making a decisive effort to optimize their management and deliver a significant development impact in its partner countries.

5 KEY INSTRUMENTS AND MODALITIES



To be as effective as possible, Spanish Cooperation must optimize the use of the instruments at its disposal. The GSSDC Act provides guidance on the different instruments, which are set out in this chapter, specifying those to be used in a priority manner during this period in order to meet Spain's commitments to the development effectiveness and financing for development agendas, with a view to achieving the greatest impact and effectiveness in sustainable development. To this end, efforts will be made to further the development of mechanisms to improve the coordination and complementarity of Spain's different cooperation policy instruments.

Moreover, wherever possible, different instruments shall be used to secure additional public and private resources, with the aim of improving technical support and development knowledge and financing in partner countries. The cross-cutting approaches and sectoral priorities defined in this Master Plan will be implemented through the different instruments to respond to countries' needs, taking into account the importance of their participation in their definition through the localization and territorial approach to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The AECID handbook on cooperation modalities and instruments will be updated to adapt it to the new context.

As regards projects and programmes, during the period covered by this Master Plan progress will be made in revising the different financing instruments, adapting them to current cooperation requirements and to the need to forge strategic partnerships with NGOs and other stakeholders, eradicating some of the difficulties detected and making them more flexible by reforming the legislation regulating grants and assistance and improving the different instruments and calls for applications. With respect to the promotional activity carried out by AECID, the focus will be placed on designing mechanisms and calls for applications that are better adapted to the different types of potential beneficiary (not only NGOs, but also

universities and social partners) and on combining general instruments (actions, projects, agreements, etc., adapted as necessary) with specific calls for applications for programmes or lines of work.

In addition to programmatic assistance, projects and programmes, under this Master Plan renewed impetus will be given to the instruments and modalities described below:

5.1. Technical cooperation and knowledge transfer

The GSSDC Act establishes technical cooperation as one of Spanish Cooperation's main instruments, and identifies public technical cooperation in particular as a specific form of cooperation that mobilizes the specialized knowledge of public institutions in order to promote sustainable development reforms and policies and that fosters knowledge sharing between peers and through institutional alliances with partner countries. In this same vein, the GSSDC Act also stipulates that Spanish Cooperation must carry out and support training, research, development and innovation actions for global sustainable development, both directly and in collaboration with research centres and universities, fostering the multidisciplinary approach to development studies. These activities will include study and academic mobility grants for students and research staff, and will pay attention to both basic and applied research, to knowledge transfer activities with a view to promoting practice-based learning and encouraging innovation in all stakeholders. The fundamental objective of Spain's technical cooperation will be to effectively support, on the basis of structured policy dialogue, the institutional capacity of partner countries, including through triangular cooperation. In addition to institutions, technical cooperation will be extended to civil society organizations, including NGOs, trade unions and professional associations, as well as to universities and research centres, due

to the specificity of the knowledge they generate and contribute.

The importance of the public technical cooperation of all stakeholders will be taken into account, with both AECID and FIIAPP considered to play especially significant roles. The latter entity will act as a component of the cooperation system and will participate in the operational coordination thereof, under AECID, within the framework of the Master Plan, at headquarters, regional and country level, with a view to improving effectiveness, complementarity and coherence, pursuant to Article 31.4 of the GSSDC Act.

5.2. Financial cooperation

A core aspect of the GSSDC Act is its reform of financial cooperation, which will enable Spanish Cooperation to secure additional resources and ensure that its partner countries are able to obtain funding that was frequently unavailable to them in the past. There are multiple reasons why financial cooperation is becoming established as one of Spanish Cooperation's main instruments for sustainable development: it is aimed at achieving the SDGs and the priorities of this Master Plan; it is based on the co-responsibility of beneficiary countries' governments; it is anti-cyclical and boosts strategic partnerships with local private sectors and private investors, EU institutions and agencies and international financial institutions. Compared with the previous Spanish Fund for Sustainable Development (FONPRODE), the new fund (FEDES), while still a budgetary fund without legal personality, features important elements of flexibility in operational processes, greater autonomy of management, and new instruments that are better suited to the changing financing needs of emerging economies.

FEDES, which is attached to the Central Administration through AECID and therefore included in the organizational structure of the Foreign

Ministry, will have an annual appropriation in the General State Budgets. In addition to this budgetary appropriation, its resources will include repayments on the loans and credit facilities extended, as well as flows stemming from fees and interest accrued and charged on said financial assets. Pursuant to Additional Provision Two of the GSSDC Act, the creation of FEDES will be accompanied by that of a group of experts that will formulate a proposal for the future institutional design of Spanish financial cooperation for sustainable development.

Financial cooperation does not operate in a vacuum; rather it is based on integration, complementarity and a policy of fostering strategic partnerships, not only with other ministries and the private sector, but also with EU agencies and international financial institutions. Co-financing agreements are a good example of this, as highlighted by AECID participation in the JEFIC platform together with the French Development Agency, Italy's Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (CDR) and Germany's KfW Development Bank to carry out co-financing operations, or the co-financing framework agreements entered into between Spain and the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development for the co-financing of public operations through FONPRODE/FEDES. It is important to highlight, in both cases, the importance of combining technical cooperation resources with lines of credit, to improve regulatory frameworks in partner countries and strengthen the public institutions, private companies or civil society organizations that carry out the projects or accelerate their commencement, thus improving their prospects for success and for achieving development impacts.

The core aims of FEDES are to:

- Adopt financial instruments already used by countries similar to Spain, such as budget support loans, refundable and non-refundable contributions to international development financial institutions and multilateral development bodies, the establishment of

vehicles to provide counter-guarantees or guarantees for lines of credit for operations with the private sector or large programmes with international financial institutions (this aspect is essential for major initiatives such as JEFIC, trust funds, and TEIs), as well as credits and loans and lines of financing, temporary direct or indirect acquisitions of equity or quasi equity in financial institutions or financial investment vehicles aimed at supporting MSMEs in beneficiary countries, impact investments, and technical assistance.

- Extend untied financing on an award basis. Said financing will respond, where appropriate, to the ODA or Total Official Support for Sustainable Development metrics established by OECD DAC, enabling an orderly transition both for countries close to graduating from the least developed country (LDC) category and for those that have already graduated from this category.
- Provide financing to any of the countries included on the OECD DAC list. This represents a broader spectrum of action than that of Spanish Cooperation's list of partner or advanced cooperation countries, particularly because it includes countries that have already graduated. Obviously, in the case of public operations requiring sovereign guarantees, eligibility will take into consideration the criteria of the Secretariat-General for the Treasury and International Financing, including the beneficiary country's debt sustainability, as well as Spain's exposure in that country.
- The management and approval process for FEDES operations will be defined through regulations, with a view to establishing more streamlined processes than those of FONPRODE, identifying those operations that should be raised to the different collegial bodies of the government, and defining a road map for FEDES for the coming years, with input from different stakeholders, including from civil society.

The safeguards necessary to meet due diligence requirements related to human rights, labour rights, the rights of the child, child labour, the environment and transparency stipulated in accordance with Spanish, EU and international legislation on these matters will be established both for all operations carried out by Spanish Cooperation, as well as for combined financing operations with other financial institutions. Application of Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization will also be considered.

FEDES will blend different resources and (refundable and non-refundable) instruments, including resources from the fund itself, technical assistance from AECID and EU delegated cooperation funds.

The magnitude of the challenges involved requires that FEDES work in collaboration, partnership and alignment with:

- Business internationalization and debt sustainability policies: Irrespective of the untied nature of the assistance offered by FEDES—and which is a defining feature of this fund— synergies will be sought with other international financing instruments aimed at internationalization, to secure additional private sector resources.
- The private sector: The thematic and geographic priorities of FEDES largely coincide with sectors and markets in which the private sector has experience and is present.
- Civil society and the NGDO sector: This sector has a great deal to contribute during the design and project evaluation phases, especially in terms of ensuring that the values pursued by Spanish Cooperation, and which guarantee a sustainable development impact, are included and respected.
- Other international bilateral and multilateral donors, in the context of the Global Gateway initiative and the TEIs, as well as with inter-

national financial institutions, through co-financing agreements.

- Priority sectors for action, which will first seek to contribute to sustainable economic development in priority countries and regions (including countries in transition), but also in any other country eligible for ODA or Total Official Support for Sustainable Development in the sectors prioritized in this Master Plan.
- Spanish Cooperation's Accountability Indicators, to measure the development impact of Fund actions in the communities in which it operates.
- Feminist and women's organizations and organizations defending human life and rights, in particular as regards affording them access to direct financing, in line with the demands of civil society organizations and the indications of EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III.

FEDES could also contribute to climate funding to support the commitment adopted by the Spanish Government at COP26 to raise its climate financing to 1.35 billion euros per year as of 2025. These funds must come from other budget items when they are contributions to global climate financing funds. Lastly, efforts will be made to strengthen Spanish Cooperation's capacities as regards managing interventions, developing sustainable development impact indicators, improving accountability and establishing transparent due diligence procedures.

5.3. Delegated cooperation

Spanish Cooperation will play an active role in the strategic management of delegated cooperation, as an instrument for facilitating coherent action and maximizing sustainable development impacts. Delegated cooperation actions will be streamlined and conceived in more stra-

tegic terms during the period covered by this Master Plan, maximizing the impact of the TEIs (in whose design Spanish Cooperation actively participated) as well as their synergies with all Spanish Cooperation actions.

Delegated cooperation actions will be chosen based on clear criteria, focusing on the sectors prioritized in this Master Plan –and in which Spanish Cooperation's public system stakeholders can provide the greatest added value– and after resolving any difficulties arising due to discrepancies between EU and Spanish regulations concerning grants and procurement.

5.4. Triangular and South-South cooperation

Spain continues to set high standards in terms of the effectiveness of the triangular cooperation partnerships it establishes, and the results and impacts they achieve. More specifically, Spanish Cooperation has earned a prestigious reputation for its triangular cooperation operations and support for South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Spain will continue working to forge triangular cooperation partnerships, a development cooperation modality that is on the rise and has expanded beyond cooperation between governments involving three partners that solely contribute technical, financial, material or other types of resources. Instead, its actions are based on the characteristic principles of this cooperation modality: horizontality, mutual benefit and responsibility, mutual learning and knowledge management, shared management for development results, effectiveness and efficiency.

Spanish Cooperation continues to maintain a presence in countries that have graduated from the LDC category (Chile and Uruguay) as well as in upper-middle-income countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico. Spanish Cooperation seeks to consolidate

a cooperation model with these countries that responds to the needs particular to their level of development, adopting triangular and technical cooperation instruments for this purpose. Spanish Cooperation's Montevideo Office will foster triangular cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean in situ, defining prototypes aimed at generating multi-stakeholder partnerships. Moreover, a specific line of financing will be developed for triangular cooperation projects. Spanish Cooperation will seek to extend this experience beyond Latin America and the Caribbean to other priority regions.

Spanish Cooperation firmly defends the need to highlight the value of South-South cooperation and to improve the quality of this cooperation, in addition to increasing the volume of funds and activities. Moreover, it seeks to bring the standards of South-South cooperation closer to those of the OECD by publicizing standards and involving emerging donors in the work of the OECD.

6 HUMANITARIAN ACTION



As set forth in the GSSDC Act, humanitarian action comprises all those activities aimed at protecting and saving lives, preventing and alleviating human suffering, attending to basic and immediate needs, and protecting the rights and dignity of people affected by crises, generalized violence and armed conflicts, and forced displacement. Humanitarian action is governed by international humanitarian law and other applicable legislation and by the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, giving priority, in a non-discriminatory manner, to those in greatest need of assistance.

Spain's humanitarian action is based on Spanish Cooperation's 2019-2026 Humanitarian Action Strategy and is focused on the following objectives: disaster risk prevention and preparedness; emergency response; attention to complex, protracted and recurrent crises; early recovery; the protection of especially vulnerable people; and humanitarian diplomacy. The 2023-2026 Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy seeks to guide and strengthen the humanitarian perspective in Spain's external action and promotes the use of all instruments in addressing humanitarian crises, safeguarding the humanitarian space and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, and committing to underpinning the framework of reference of the political and legal commitments adopted by Spain.

The humanitarian action considered in this Master Plan is aligned with UN and EU planning instruments, thereby strengthening Spanish Cooperation's commitment to multilateral humanitarian efforts. Spain's humanitarian action will be based on humanitarian principles and will promote and respect international law; in addition, it will be carried out in the framework of the Agenda for Humanity and of the commitments assumed in the Grand Bargain 3.0, revised in June 2023. In this regard, to adapt resources and instruments to internationally adopted commitments, over the next four years particular emphasis will be placed on the following objectives:

- Supporting local stakeholders: Instruments will be aimed at strengthening the participation in the humanitarian response of those stakeholders with the greatest knowledge of the context and situation on the ground, including women's organizations. In this regard, support will also be received from specialized Spanish NGOs, whether as counterparts or as collaborating entities.
- Strengthening cash assistance as a tool for empowering and protecting the dignity of vulnerable populations in humanitarian crises, enabling greater recognition of the people affected and increasing their capacity for action.
- Gradually reducing the proportion of earmarked assistance: In a changeable international context characterized by largely unforeseeable impacts, it is essential to ensure a flexible response that can be adapted to circumstances and needs as they arise; this is why this Master Plan advocates a gradual increase in non-earmarked resources that must necessarily be channelled through flexible, rights-based mechanisms.
- Gradually increasing multiannual planning and financing.
- Improving the quality of assistance and of accountability.

The multidisciplinary approach with which this Master Plan conceives humanitarian action means that the following aspects and principles are taken into account in all planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation thereof: rights; gender equality; childhood, adolescence and diversity; prevention; resilience; do-no-harm; conflict sensitivity; environmental sustainability; centrality of protection; and, lastly, the triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus, in those contexts where this is appropriate. Specifically, the gender equality, age and diversity, and environmental sustainability approaches will guide Spain's humanitarian action in a cross-cutting

manner, ensuring that assistance, resources and services reach all people based on their specific needs and abilities, paying particular attention to women, adolescents and children. Another priority will be to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian crises.

6.1. Adequately funded, coordinated and principles-based humanitarian action

To ensure that Spain's humanitarian action respects the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, under this Master Plan the programming and implementation of humanitarian action will not be determined by the geographic and thematic priorities defined for the other cooperation instruments and modalities included herein.

Included within the organizational structure of Spain's Foreign Ministry, AECID, as Spanish Cooperation's main management body, seeks to

combat poverty and promote sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, thus including humanitarian action among its priorities. AECID is responsible for managing and implementing official humanitarian action in the sphere of the Central Administration and will be allocated a specific budget for humanitarian action for each year covered by this Master Plan. This budget will be decided in part by Spain's commitment to assign at least 10% of its ODA resources to humanitarian action by 2030, as stipulated in the GSSDC Act. AECID will work in close collaboration with the bodies that manage the humanitarian action of Spain's regional administrations and local authorities.

AECID will strengthen its capacities dedicated to this sphere of action, both at central level and at Spanish Cooperation Offices, as well as its human, technical and financial capacities and resources, to ensure that Spanish Cooperation offers an appropriate and high-quality humanitarian response. To improve the effectiveness of its humanitarian response, in the framework of the Humanitarian Action Strategy and of this



Master Plan, the Humanitarian Action Office will define two-year plans for its actions in priority humanitarian contexts, which will be incorporated into its annual programming, with a view to responding to the principal needs identified by concentrating on specific sectors, applying the multidimensional approach at all times. The Foreign Ministry's 2023-2026 Humanitarian Diplomacy Strategy will also be taken into consideration for planning purposes as this Strategy complements Spanish Cooperation's Humanitarian Action Strategy.

6.2. Non-governmental humanitarian organizations

Spanish civil society has an indispensable role to play in the humanitarian sphere, given its capacity for dialogue with Spanish citizens and its proven capacity to respond to multiple crises. This Master Plan aims, therefore, to strengthen existing coordination mechanisms between public administrations and specialized humanitarian organizations. To this end, a working group will be created between the AECID Humanitarian Action Office and specialized NGOs operating at a national level to optimize coordination between stakeholders and to advance together towards meeting the commitments adopted in Spanish Cooperation's Humanitarian Action Strategy.

In accordance with the criteria of the OECD DAC, and in line with the aforementioned Humanitarian Action Strategy, the commitment to allocate between 20% and 30% of the total humanitarian action budget to NGOs will be taken into account in the distribution of funds.

The work of Spanish NGOs is particularly important in terms of localizing the SDGs. Spanish NGOs and their international networks have a commitment and a very specific mission to strengthen local counterparts in partner countries. This is of particular relevance in the case of strengthening the capacities of women's or-

ganizations, local feminist organizations, and organizations or associations of Indigenous peoples and people of African descent, among other groups. Therefore, during the period covered by this Master Plan, instruments supporting the role of Spanish NGOs in localization will be reinforced.

6.3. Decentralized humanitarian action

The universal, comprehensive and multi-level nature of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the challenge of localizing its SDGs, mean that the different levels of the Administration all have important roles to play. This Master Plan recognizes the importance of decentralized cooperation in the humanitarian sphere and seeks to underscore the value of existing instruments for coordination between the Central Administration and decentralized cooperation, including the Joint and Coordinated Humanitarian Action Agreement entered into between AECID and the majority of Spain's regional administrations and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (Spanish acronym: FEMP). This is an example of a coordinated humanitarian effort in which all technical, economic, human and strategic resources are jointly focused at improving the management, impact, quantitative and qualitative results, monitoring and evaluation of the action undertaken. This Agreement is intended to serve as an example of efficiency and effectiveness in public management and has produced good results to date, but it does not represent or encompass the full scope of coordination between AECID and Spain's decentralized cooperation bodies.

Under the commitment to strengthen this coordination, in the period covered by this Master Plan, the following targets for decentralized cooperation will be established: on the one hand, the extension of this legal framework for cooperation to include all of Spain's regional administrations and; on the other hand, enhanced com-

munication between different bodies and joint progress towards meeting the commitments of Spanish Cooperation's 2019-2026 Humanitarian Action Strategy and the Grand Bargain 3.0.

Similarly, to mobilize partnerships that have transformative humanitarian action impacts, AECID will strengthen channels of communication and collaboration with decentralized cooperation stakeholders, especially in emergency response and in the achievement of the objectives adopted by all stakeholders in the framework of the Humanitarian Action Strategy. Spain's regional administrations and local authorities may be integrated into this system of coordination and bidirectional exchange of information to improve the quality of the assistance provided.

Similarly, collaboration will be sought to foster a critical, co-responsible citizenship, mobilized in defence of human rights and of providing an orderly and professional response to humanitarian crises, through education for global citizenship.

6.4. Approaches and sectors

Spain's humanitarian action will continue to employ approaches based on the following cross-cutting principles and concepts that inspired the Humanitarian Action Strategy: human rights; gender equality and feminism; intersectionality; the rights of children and adolescents; age and diversity; disaster risk reduction and prevention; risk-informed development; resilience; do-no-harm; conflict sensitivity; environmentalism; centrality of protection; and the triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Specifically, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will constitute a cross-cutting and sectoral area of work. The special areas of work defined are: access to services pertaining to sexual and reproductive

rights; prevention and mitigation of and response to all forms of gender violence, including human trafficking, female genital mutilation, early, forced marriage, and sexual exploitation and abuse; and empowerment, including economic empowerment, of women and of local women's organizations in the humanitarian response architecture. Furthermore, efforts will be made to implement UN Resolution 1325 regarding the women and peace and security agenda as far as possible in humanitarian contexts.

Spain's humanitarian action recognizes that cultural diversity is an asset that must be respected and conserved, attaching particular importance to the protection of tangible and intangible cultural assets and the promotion of intercultural dialogue. This is why Spain's humanitarian action will always take into account the traditional cultures and technology of the places where it carries out its activities. Furthermore, as set forth in the GSSDC Act, specific humanitarian action interventions will be designed and implemented with a comprehensive approach encompassing humanitarian priorities, sustainable development and peacebuilding.

In addition, priority will be given to work in the core sectors highlighted, which are included in The Sphere Handbook: water and sanitation, health (including mental health and psychosocial support), protection, food security, nutrition and education in emergencies. These sectors may be expanded in accordance with possible revisions of The Sphere Handbook. In humanitarian crises, priority will be given to refugees, internally displaced people, and other vulnerable people, and to their access to decent work. Guaranteeing access to education and protecting the educational community as a whole will be a priority in emergencies, protracted crises, conflict and post-conflict contexts and early stages of rehabilitation. In conflicts and violent situations, Spanish Cooperation will carry out its work in coordination with all the stakeholders involved, in the framework of the Safe Schools Declaration.

6.5. Geographic scope

One of the objectives defined in the 2019-2026 Humanitarian Action Strategy is that of intensifying efforts in forgotten crises. During the period covered by this Master Plan, the response to these crises will be strengthened by employing the Forgotten Crisis Assessment index of the European Commission's Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO) in the decision-making of Spanish Cooperation's stakeholders. AECID humanitarian action, which has focused on this type of crisis for several years, will continue to address protracted crises in its humanitarian context strategies (including, at the time of drafting this Master Plan, those for Latin America and the Caribbean, refugee camps for Sahrawi people, the regional crisis in Syria, and Palestine, the Sahel, Afghanistan and Ukraine), while at the same time responding to other crises, depending on the needs identified and on the humanitarian calls of the multilateral system. Similarly, Spanish Cooperation will continue to support the emergency response to unforeseen natural and anthropogenic disasters, prioritizing those countries in which it can provide the greatest added value.

6.6. Emergency response and disaster risk reduction

In line with its Humanitarian Action Strategy, Spanish Cooperation will continue to work to improve and consolidate its emergency response capacity, enhancing coordination mechanisms, reviewing instruments, and establishing clear action procedures for all the public and private stakeholders involved.

Beyond the emergency response itself, Spanish Cooperation will strengthen its work on disaster preparedness and early response and recovery, thereby reinforcing the risk-based approach to humanitarian action and contributing towards reducing crisis impacts, paying particular attention to those regions and countries most vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. To curtail

risks, consideration will be given to the origins and causes of emergencies, including climate change, and to international commitments, such as the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition to humanitarian action, this will require sustainable development cooperation activities aimed at climate change adaptation and at strengthening identification, management, mitigation and response with respect to these risks.

In this regard, the Spanish Technical Aid Response Team (START) will continue to play a central role, consolidating its place as a flagship project of Spanish humanitarian action. This elite team, made up of top health professionals from the public health system, showcases Spain's capacity to respond immediately and effectively to global humanitarian emergencies, in line with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

7

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP



The effectiveness and relevance of a development cooperation system depend as much on citizen support and solidarity as they do on the efforts and commitment of the institutions responsible for strategic planning and management at headquarters and on the ground. For this reason, revitalizing and fostering the support and commitment of Spanish citizens to the SDGs and to global solidarity are among Spanish Cooperation's key objectives and actions.

According to UNESCO, education for sustainable development and global citizenship aims to instil in learners the knowledge, values, attitudes and behaviours that support critical and responsible global citizenship: creativity, innovation and commitment to solidarity, social justice, peace, human rights, equality between men and women, and sustainable development. This is why, this public policy will be applied to all dimensions: formal, non-formal and informal education; research; awareness raising and mobilization; fostering critical thinking; and strengthening and generating multi-stakeholder and multi-level partnerships, especially involving decentralized cooperation and civil society. To this end, the following actions and initiatives will be promoted during this period:

- Update and revision of planning and strategic documents on education for sustainable development and global citizenship, strengthening the gender-based and feminist approach for transformative citizenship. This will include updating Spanish Cooperation's strategy on this matter, taking the European Declaration on Global Education to 2050 adopted in Dublin in November 2022 as a starting point. Spanish Cooperation will also foster the inclusion of education for sustainable development and global citizenship in documents on other public policies that could also contribute thereto, furthering policy coherence.
- Capacity-building of educational staff, as well as the transformation of learning environments and educational programmes

at schools and universities, for the achievement of target 4.7 of Goal 4.

- Awareness-raising campaigns and actions, as channels of non-formal and informal education, at leisure and recreational spaces aimed particularly at young people. These efforts, which will foster lifelong learning, will use positive reinforcements to help citizens get involved and take action in favour of sustainable development and global solidarity, as established in national and international principles.
- Local and international volunteer programmes that develop the full potential of citizen participation to establish committed societies, linked to the promotion of democratic values and the global quest for the common good.
- Awareness-raising and promotion of fair trade practices and their benefits for producers and workers in Spanish Cooperation's partner countries, partnerships with private sector companies and organizations to foster the principles of fair trade and the adoption of sustainable and fair trade practices.
- Efforts in coordination with the Communication for Sustainable Development area, working from and with the media to reach people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds, and participation in forming public opinion based on interdependence and solidarity.
- Maintenance and strengthening of work spaces with all of Spanish Cooperation's stakeholders to promote social and political changes that foster sustainability and global solidarity. Spanish Cooperation will seek to intensify its work with Spain's regional administrations and local authorities and its collaboration with universities, schools and civil society organizations. All of these agents hold a privileged position as agents of education for sustainable development due to their closeness to citizens, which is essential to having an effective impact.

- Fostering of global citizenship initiatives and partnerships in Ibero-America and Europe and in Spanish Cooperation priority countries.
- Strengthening of the links between sustainable development cooperation, humanitarian action and education for global citizenship programmes and projects, creating connections that bring the realities faced by developing countries closer to home.
- Reinforcement of actions with other ministries that could have a positive impact on education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

Cross-cutting training will be provided to the technical staff responsible for programmes that include educational, awareness-raising or citizen participation components so that they include a vision that is both local and global and that identifies impacts and points of interdependence between countries, paying particular attention to the ties with Spanish Cooperation's partner countries, but also to the protection of global public goods through cooperation.

To undertake this work, the capacities and resources of the education for sustainable development and global citizenship area at AECID will be strengthened and greater resources will be allocated to this public policy.



8

PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SHARED PROSPERITY



8.1. Stakeholders

Spanish Cooperation is enriched by the broad range of diverse stakeholders with which it works. This plurality offers important strengths inherent to its very diversity, while at the same time presenting challenges such as the coordination and creation of mechanisms for coordination between all actors.

The systemic and universal nature of the SDGs has changed the paradigm of international cooperation, which, having broadened its traditional sphere of action, also requires more ambitious institutions with greater capacities. The GSSDC Act has not missed the opportunity to tackle this much-needed reform, and has done so, furthermore, by adopting a systemic approach and improving conditions so as to furnish the cooperation system as a whole with these institutional and human capacities. The ultimate objective is to strengthen institutional design and improve governance, with a view to establishing a more efficient structure and more coordinated, effective, transparent, open, participative and accountable action, in line with the principles of the Global Alliance for Effective Development Co-operation.

The work carried out through partnerships for sustainable development is therefore considered essential to the achievement of the SDGs and their targets. Said multi-stakeholder collaborations combine the resources, skills and capacities of different public, private and civil society actors, both from within Spanish Cooperation and from its partner countries, to carry out initiatives focused on shared goals and targets. As set forth in the GSSDC Act, to pursue cooperation policy objectives and establish partnerships between several stakeholders or entities in an effective and flexible manner, in particular for the provision of global and regional public goods, strategic partnerships may be established between several public or private entities which can then make use of one or more of the instruments described in this Master Plan, in addition to

sharing knowledge, technical capabilities and financial and non-financial resources. Specifically, in the framework of this Master Plan partnerships will be sought with public and private institutions and civil society organizations and platforms that can help to operationalize and channel the needs identified in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to the different stakeholders of the public administrations, civil society, academia and the private sector, it is important to highlight the importance of the role of the houses of parliament and of their members in forging consensus and fostering sustainable development cooperation policies, as well as the potential of parliamentary diplomacy to strengthen initiatives, such as the parliamentary fronts against hunger, which Spanish Cooperation has supported.

8.1.1 Decentralized cooperation

The GSSDC Act recognizes the importance of the sustainable development cooperation programmes, projects and actions carried out by Spain's local and regional authorities (town and city councils, provincial and regional councils, island councils), within their areas of competence, as one of the hallmarks and strengths of Spanish Cooperation, and its capacities, contribution and differential value as an expression of plurality and solidarity. The aforementioned Act also recognizes the special capacity of Spain's regional administrations and local authorities to carry out tasks related to education for sustainable development and global citizenship, whether directly or through other stakeholders, in particular NGOs, schools and universities.

Spain's regional administrations and local authorities participate both in implementing sustainable development cooperation policy and in shaping said policy through their participation in the Sectoral Conference on Sustainable De-

velopment Cooperation and Global Solidarity and in the High Council for Sustainable Development Cooperation and Global Solidarity; and through the planning processes of each regional administration and local authority.

As part of the Spanish cooperation reform process, the GSSDC Act includes provisions regarding strengthening and fostering innovation in coordination and advisory bodies. The reformulation of the collegial bodies represents a major change in the relationship model applicable to the system's different stakeholders. Spain's regional administrations and local authorities support the coherence of sustainable development policies as a principle and as a fundamental element of Spain's contribution to achieving the SDG targets, and incorporate sustainable development cooperation goals in all internal and external policies, with a single approach for the entire Administration. This Master Plan seeks to foster proper coordination, complementarity and division of labour, as well as the progressive standardization and simplification of management procedures, while respecting the autonomy of each body to set its own objectives and develop its own policies within its area of authority, in order to improve implementation on the basis of the principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.

Particular mention should be made of the role of local and municipal cooperation entities, which have a long-standing tradition within the Spanish Cooperation system. Of particular note are the Cooperation and Solidarity Funds, which help to coordinate the solidarity actions of the municipalities. This Master Plan seeks to strengthen collaboration with municipal cooperation bodies both directly through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (Spanish acronym: FEMP) and the Confederation of Cooperation and Solidarity Funds (Spanish acronym: CONFOCOS).

As regards participation in the instruments and modalities included in this Master Plan,

the aim is to promote the role of decentralized cooperation in technical cooperation and knowledge transfer, as well as in education for sustainable development and global citizenship. This Master Plan seeks to pool more of the experiences of Spain's regional administrations and local authorities and to include decentralized cooperation in the efforts to manage knowledge about the contribution of public technical cooperation to sustainable development results.

8.1.2 Non-governmental development organizations and other civil society entities

The role of civil society is one of Spanish Cooperation's strengths as it helps to ensure that Spain's sustainable development cooperation policies and actions and humanitarian action are broad-reaching and impactful. Citizen mobilization has been key to driving public policy on development cooperation since the dawn of democracy. The cooperation for sustainable development and global solidarity network is abundant and diverse, and the participation of NGOs in this network has enhanced the complementarity and coordination of its action. Ensuring that this network is united despite its diversity is a challenge that must be overcome in order to guarantee that this large associative network realizes its full potential, contributing its particular strengths to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at a global level.

Spanish society and its partner countries are aware of and recognize the role of NGOs in sustainable development cooperation, humanitarian action and in education for sustainable development and global citizenship, and this is reflected in the GSSDC Act. The prestige of these organizations among citizens is another substantial value that makes them key players in the definition and implementation of this new Master Plan.

Under the new relationship framework between Spain's Central Administration and NGOs, one fundamental objective will be to foster and improve the quality of our collaboration, with the ultimate goal of increasing its impact and effectiveness in terms of contributing to democracy, advancing sustainable human development, ending poverty, promoting social and economic justice and gender equality, ensuring the full exercise of human rights, and fostering a just ecological transition.

8.1.3 Private business and the social economy

The business and social economy sectors jointly constitute a key stakeholder for addressing the systemic and structural challenges of the 2030 Agenda. This is why, in the framework of this Master Plan, public-private partnerships and collaboration with social economy companies and entities will be fostered to achieve the SDGs in Spanish Cooperation's partner countries and to disseminate good practices in sustainability and due diligence. The spheres of action of these partnerships will include labour rights, the defence of the environment, compliance with due diligence requirements regarding human rights (placing particular emphasis on the rights of the child), labour market inclusion, the fight against labour exploitation and trafficking, transparency, and the mobilization of resources to achieve the SDGs, in accordance with Spanish and EU regulations on these matters and with international standards. Similarly, work will be carried out with corporate networks committed to the SDGs in partner countries, as well as with the UN Global Compact networks, and mechanisms such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), which may generate scale effects for the better integration of sustainability principles, the SDGs and human rights in corporations.

8.1.4 Trade unions

Partnerships will be fostered with the largest trade unions to mobilize their full potential with a view to promoting open, equitable and democratic societies by achieving the SDGs and to establishing fundamental labour rights and principles in Spanish Cooperation's partner countries, including the elimination of workplace violence and harassment.

A key tool in the 2030 Agenda is the role of social dialogue in addressing the basic social and economic agreements promoted by the ILO, safeguarding the Fundamental Labour Conventions, and promoting decent work, equality and non-discrimination, training and capacity building, and the eradication of forced labour and child labour. This is why, the spheres of action of these partnerships will include promoting and defending labour and trade union rights and decent work, strengthening trade unions in partner countries, and fostering dialogue, social consensus and the democratic participation of workers, and combating labour exploitation and human trafficking.

8.1.5 Universities and study and research centres

Universities and research centres play a key role in building partnerships for sustainable development, which in recent years has been reflected in the formulation of university development cooperation policies based on their singular capacity to generate transdisciplinary knowledge essential to understanding the complexity of sustainable development processes, to contribute basic and applied research into and for development processes, to participate in policy dialogue processes and in the co-creation of multi-stakeholder plans and strategies in Spain and in partner countries, to implement technical cooperation actions, and to build strategic partnerships for sustainable human development, thanks to their extensive

and stable relationships with public and private international institutions. Moreover, universities, which include sustainable development on academic curricula and carry out non-formal education and political impact actions, are at the heart of the efforts to shape a socially responsible and committed citizenship. For all these reasons, this Master Plan seeks to facilitate the following:

- Design of incentives to foster recognition of research into sustainable development as well as its application to partnerships with the public sector, civil society and companies, and to advance the SDGs in partner countries.
- Generation and transfer of expert knowledge for sustainable development through the creation of cooperation networks for the institutional strengthening of partner universities, research programmes involving partner countries, technical assistance, and the participation of specialists in sustainable development cooperation tasks.
- Inclusion of sustainable development on the academic curricula of different university courses.
- Strengthening of tools (study and mobility grants) for research, knowledge and the training of academic and non-academic staff in partner countries.
- Creation of incentives for universities and think tanks that are advancing knowledge of specific situations as a necessary basis for both political and cooperation action.
- International cooperation efforts to allow refugees access to higher education, and to foster their social and academic inclusion and their transition to the job market.
- Support for the organization of seminars, promotion of research and publication of academic reports.

8.2. Support for Spanish Cooperation's staff

8.2.1 Improvement of institutional capacities

Final Provision Three of the GSSDC Act refers specifically to the future adoption of implementing regulations that will define areas for improvement among Spanish Cooperation's institutional capacities. One such regulatory development will be the new AECID Statute, which will strengthen the Agency's capacities in terms of coordination, analysis, dialogue, programming, policy design and dialogue, and humanitarian response. AECID will be able to act autonomously in terms of budget management and flexibility to ensure that it is more streamlined and effective and managed on the basis of objectives and results. In addition, the new organizational structure will enable better integration of AECID promotion, programming, operational coordination, management and implementation duties, as well as of shared or support services extended to other Spanish Cooperation stakeholders. Moreover, the GSSDC Act provides for a review of the legislation governing grants and the drafting of a new Royal Decree on grants and assistance in the sphere of international cooperation, which will reduce the volume of red tape and enable a more streamlined, transparent and effective management of cooperation instruments.

As mentioned previously, in the sphere of financial cooperation, the creation of FEDES represents a first step towards reforming the architecture of the Spanish cooperation system.

8.2.2 Improving human capabilities

Under this Master Plan, efforts will be made to increase the Central Administration's human resources assigned to sustainable development cooperation and to improve knowledge about sustainable development cooperation

throughout the Administration. Following the instructions of the State Secretariat for the Civil Service, Spanish Cooperation will review the syllabuses of the Central Administration's civil service entrance exams, to ensure that they include content related to development cooperation and humanitarian action. In addition, and in collaboration with the National Public Administration Institute, Spanish Cooperation will design a civil service training programme on Spanish Cooperation policy and the international sustainable development agenda and on building partnerships for advancing the 2030 Agenda to ensure that Spanish civil servants are familiar with cooperation policy and so that cooperation is included more comprehensively in the public policies of other ministries. Similarly, a specialized training programme for Foreign Ministry civil servants will be designed in collaboration with the Diplomatic School and Spanish Cooperation will work with other public and private training centres to develop study plans with sustainable development cooperation and humanitarian action content. Lastly, investments will be made in individuals' professional skills to ensure the presence and influence of Spanish Cooperation in international and multilateral organizations through the secondment thereto of Spanish specialists in sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda.

One of the main tools for improving the capacities of the system as a whole is the new Aid Workers' Statute, which will encompass, among other aspects, aid workers' rights and obligations, training, career opportunities, standardization of the services they provide, social welfare modalities, health system access, support on the ground, and the list of economic activities which aid workers are prohibited from engaging in.

It is also important to highlight the role of technical cooperation as a means of sharing knowledge and good practices across public administrations. The work undertaken with Spanish Cooperation's Training Centres will be especially important in this regard. In the framework

of the Intercoconnecta Programme, the Training Centres have a long-established tradition and huge potential as generators and drivers of applied knowledge and as co-creators of directly applicable content produced in response to demand, featuring active listening and understanding of regional contexts, this being a highly recognizable characteristic of Spanish Cooperation's action.

9 MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY



The GSSDC Act includes the requirement that Spanish Cooperation have a system for monitoring its actions to ensure proper management of the cycle of activities and results. Moreover, it stipulates the need to include actions in the monitoring system through the entities that manage or implement them, delimiting the specific duties of each agent and the resources allocated to discharge them. This system must include information on the monitoring of the Master Plan, the Partnership Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Partnerships for Sustainable Development and the Strategic Partnership Frameworks with multilateral organizations, and other planning documents, as well as on the approval and implementation of each operation and its related payments, as well as its formulation documents and monitoring and evaluation reports, irrespective of the stakeholders that produce them.

Accountability is considered a principle of Spanish Cooperation's action that consolidates trust in institutions and the ownership of development and participation processes. To this end, it is necessary to strengthen the capacities of public institutions to report on their activities to the public in an open and transparent manner. The InfoODS 2030 platform will be strengthened to facilitate access to data and to increase accountability, and actions will be undertaken to ensure that stakeholders are able to report on their organizations' SDG actions and impacts. To this end, Spanish Cooperation has been working hand in hand with a number of different stakeholders on the Accountability Indicator Framework included in this Master Plan.

Spain's Total Official Support for Sustainable Development statistics, which are included in the National Statistics Plan (Spanish acronym: PEN) 2021-2024 and enshrined in Act 12/1989 of 9 May, on Government Statistics, have been used as a source of information for monitoring purposes. These statistics enable annual measurement of all ODA provided by Spain. This makes it possible to perform the monitoring stage of the integrated cycle of Spain's

cooperation policy, in addition to the planning and evaluation stages, and functions as a link between these two processes. This is fundamental to strategic oversight and informed decision-making.

Preparing statistics is a macro-process involving those public (central, regional and local institutions) and private stakeholders that each year channel and finance ODA and Total Official Support for Sustainable Development in Spain. The data are recorded and consolidated through the Info@OD platform in order to be able to provide different types of aggregated, high quality information that enables, on the one hand, the monitoring and verification of the actual volume and nature of Spanish ODA and other official flows, and, on the other hand, the undertaking of research studies related to cooperation issues.

During the first few months of application of the Master Plan, the Info@OD platform will be updated with the launch of InfoODS 2030. This new tool will increase Spanish Cooperation's capacity to publicize ODA data, as well as fostering participation and transparency, offering the flexibility, speed and autonomy needed for the design of new fields, questionnaires and questions. Moreover, having identified certain complexities in Spanish Cooperation's statistical database, the State Secretariat for International Cooperation will organize regular training sessions during the period covered by this Master Plan to maximize use of this tool for transparency purposes.

Spanish Cooperation will also begin to compile its accountability indicators and incorporate them into the InfoODS 2030 platform, so as to achieve greater transparency in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of each intervention. Spanish Cooperation is currently working with certain stakeholders that have carried out two pilot exercises, to progressively expand this initiative to other Spanish Cooperation stakeholders. To gather the necessary information, the dossier number of the original intervention allocated by each agent will be adopted to ensure

the proper traceability of data. There is already a list of 35 Spanish Cooperation Accountability Indicators and an initial methodology for their calculation and reporting. This new accountability mechanism –which does not replace, but rather complements the calculation of ODA– enhances transparency and improves communication aimed at key Spanish Cooperation stakeholders: the general public, the media, the EU, the UN, the Spanish Parliament, etc. In addition, it increases the visibility of the actual aggregated scope that its interventions have had in terms of budget allocation, aligning the results and indicators defined in the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and the Global Europe Results Framework (GERF).

During the period covered by the Master Plan, work will be carried out to improve Total Official Support for Sustainable Development reporting, increasing the number of stakeholders engaged in this process and thereby gathering a greater volume of information.

Similarly, on the basis of the two pilot operations for compiling Accountability Indicator data, Spanish Cooperation will continue to apply an expansive strategy to increase the number of stakeholders engaged in this reporting and will also carry out work to automate the compilation of this information in relation to the two pilot exercises with the list of indicators and the methodology established.

Monitoring results was one of the priorities established in the previous Master Plan. Said Plan established an innovative Results Management Framework to enable rigorous monitoring of gains in effectiveness and quality. In addition, a Management Results Framework will be established during the first year of the h Master Plan, in order to measure the management and procedural changes that Spanish Cooperation needs to make, including a graph illustrating the rationale behind these changes.

During the last four months of the year, an annual report will be prepared with the data sent

to the OECD DAC for the purpose of monitoring implementation of the Master Plan. The minimum content of said report will include information on payments related to the different lines of work, SDGs, targets and recipient countries. This report will be made available to the stakeholders involved, under the coordination of the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, to serve as a channel for feedback and consensus with stakeholders.

10 EVALUATION



Having been included in the 1998 Act on International Development Cooperation, evaluation has long been a fundamental pillar of the Spanish Cooperation system. Its use has not been limited to accountability; rather, it has served as an indispensable source of learning and knowledge generation, placing Spanish Cooperation at the cutting edge of public policy evaluation. In the context of Act 27/2022 of 20 December, on the institutionalization of public policy evaluation in the Central Administration, Article 8 of the GSSDC Act is devoted entirely to evaluation within the Spanish Cooperation system. In addition, the aid effectiveness agenda requires that the new stipulations regarding evaluation be extended to the evaluation systems of Spanish Cooperation's partner countries and associated institutions.

At international level, the Turin Agenda recognizes the essential role of robust evaluation systems in promoting the 2030 Agenda and advancing towards the SDGs. For its part, the DAC Network on Development Evaluation, which will turn 40 in 2024, is one of the most stable and enduring DAC subsidiary bodies. All of this points to the importance and value that the international sustainable development cooperation system accords to evaluation as an indispensable, core instrument for learning about and improving policy in this area, and Spanish Cooperation must therefore advance further on this path.

To this end, the Foreign Ministry, through the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, will continue to act as guarantor of the learning and transparency capacity of sustainable development cooperation policy. As an indication of its commitment to fostering evaluation, the new legislation provides for the creation of a Spanish Cooperation Evaluation Office attached to the State Secretariat for International Cooperation. Said Office will be independently responsible for defining Spanish Cooperation's evaluation plan, for managing strategic evaluations, for coordinating the stakeholders of Spanish Cooperation's evaluation system and for representing Spanish Cooperation in international forums.

To design a more influential evaluation policy that makes a greater contribution to the ongoing improvement of Spanish Cooperation, the new Evaluation Office will undertake to:

- Foster evidence-based decision-making by:
 - a) maximizing the relevance of evaluations, increasing the involvement of decision-makers in identifying evaluation needs in order to focus evaluation objectives on useful information; b) adopting the most appropriate approaches, methodologies, and techniques from evaluation quality systems and other knowledge products, such as meta evaluations and synthesis; c) ensuring that evaluations are conducted when most needed, planning and managing evaluations in step with decision-making, reducing evaluation times, paying particular attention to evaluations of Partnership Frameworks for Sustainable Development and other strategic evaluations by standardizing processes and methodologies; d) promoting the adoption of mechanisms for the evaluability of strategic programmes or plans and strategic planning documents that implement public policies, for which purpose a pilot initiative for the evaluability of Spanish Cooperation's planning instruments will be developed; e) improving feedback on multilateral cooperation decisions with information from evaluations of Spanish Cooperation itself or of other donors or networks; f) advancing the evaluation of cross-cutting priorities, to provide information about their degree of implementation; g) feeding analysis of political interactions based on their global impact and the principle of coherence of sustainable development policies.

- Strengthen the evaluation culture of the Spanish Cooperation system through a comprehensive initiative to improve the evaluation skills of its stakeholders. To this end, stakeholders' evaluation capacities will be strengthened with methodological tools, additional training and coordination, and joint work initiatives. Moreover, actions will be tak-

en to reinforce a culture of learning and decision-making based on available evidence and data and in which evaluation efforts are recognized. Coordination with public policy evaluation actors, in particular with the State Agency for Public Policy Evaluation, will be strengthened.

- Improve the communication and use of evaluation results, providing access to the knowledge generated through the systematization and organization of conclusions and guaranteeing appropriate communication to each recipient, encouraging recommendation-based decision-making, simplifying the management response of centralized evaluations, and consolidating the monitoring system.
- Underpin the planning of evaluations and accountability actions so that evaluations have greater strategic value for the cooperation system, pursuant to the criteria set forth in the Evaluation Policy, and where the Biannual Evaluation Plan coordinates and directs these efforts jointly.
- Consolidate advances in transparency by publishing and disseminating all evaluations and analyses of public funds. To this end, the Annual Evaluation Report, presented each year to the International Cooperation Committee of the Congress of Deputies, will continue to serve as a principal means of publicizing evaluations. The other tools will be coordinated around this report, such as the online evaluation database InfoODS-InfoEval, which will provide centralized access to the final evaluation reports and other documents relating to evaluations performed by Spanish Cooperation.
- Strengthen participation in international networks for the evaluation of sustainable development cooperation policies, thereby fostering learning, feedback and joint work with the Spanish Cooperation system, especially in the framework of the OECD DAC, the TEIs, the United Nations and Spanish Coop-

eration's multilateral cooperation priorities. Efforts will be made to avoid duplications, contributing to joint evaluation initiatives such as the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) and division of labour will be fostered based on respective comparative advantages, fostering harmonization with other donors and the participation of Spanish Cooperation's partner countries. Similarly, the use of partner countries' evaluation systems will be bolstered and local capacity building supported through mechanisms such as the Global Evaluation Initiative.

- Assess and update the 2013 Evaluation Policy, analysing institutional and organizational advances as well as the capabilities required for its proper implementation. The results of this analysis will be used to update the Policy, which will maintain its status as a living document.

This Master Plan will be evaluated in accordance with the principles and other fundamental elements of Spanish Cooperation's 2013 Evaluation Policy:

- Learning: pertinent information must be generated to provide feedback for decision-making.
- Timeliness: the evaluation must lead to the adoption of corrective measures during the implementation of the Master Plan and inform the decision-making of the subsequent planning process.
- Credibility, usefulness and flexibility: the evaluation must meet the information needs of Spanish Cooperation's decision-makers and policy managers, following a robust methodology to ensure that all findings and recommendations are well founded. The evaluation teams will be provided with all the available information necessary to carry out their work, and evaluation products will recognize their own limitations, reflect different visions, and balance strengths and weaknesses.

- Efficiency: available resources will be optimized; the resources required to carry out the evaluation will be weighed against the foreseeable usefulness of its results.
- Independence: evaluation processes will be developed independently of the design, management and implementation of the Master Plan.
- Impartiality: the evaluation team will be selected through the appropriate competitive process from a variety of backgrounds to ensure sufficient knowledge and experience and an absence of bias.
- Transparency: the evaluation team will be hired based on clear and established criteria and procedures, and the main products will be sent to or made accessible to all interested parties through appropriate channels.
- Participation: Spanish Cooperation's main stakeholders will be encouraged to participate.

The Master Plan will be submitted to a final evaluation that will assess the extent to which the commitments adopted have been met according to the data generated by the monitoring system, as well as additional information when so required. The final evaluation will entail an in-depth assessment of the progress made, supported by analysis of management results, as well as identification of the main risks detected and analysis of the adaptation of the Master Plan to changes in circumstance. This evaluation, to be carried out during the final year of the period covered by the Master Plan and based on the monitoring reports in addition to other data, will serve as the starting point for drafting the next Master Plan.

The final evaluation will be complemented with an exercise to summarize the main findings of the most pertinent evaluations carried out during the period and of the ad hoc studies based on inputs generated throughout the pe-

riod covered by the Master Plan. The Spanish Cooperation Evaluation Office will promote this exercise and the publication and dissemination of its results, to maximize its use as well as decision-making based on its recommendations.

Moreover, during the period covered by this Master Plan, and with a view to drafting the new sectoral strategies, the current evaluation of the Strategy for Combating Hunger will be completed and the Environment and Sustainable Development Strategy will be evaluated. In addition, given that the Education for Development Strategy was last evaluated in 2014, another evaluation will be conducted to cover the years that have passed since then, as a prior step to defining the new Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Strategy.

11

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



Knowledge management, understood as the totality of activities aimed at creating, sharing, exchanging and applying the knowledge required to improve performance, is a sphere in which Spanish Cooperation still has a long way to go, as indicated in the latest DAC Peer Review. Said activities must not be limited to the sharing of information systems, but must also be aimed at generating specific knowledge, strengthening networks for knowledge sharing with all stakeholders, and providing training to Spanish Cooperation staff and to society as a whole. Knowledge is the main tool for promoting sustainable development. Institutions and organizations that do not learn do not move forward.

Spanish Cooperation needs knowledge management mechanisms that take into account the bidirectional flows of knowledge between Spanish Cooperation's partner countries and stakeholders, fostering partnerships and taking advances in artificial intelligence into consideration.

The GSSDC Act provides for the creation of a knowledge management system, stating that such a tool is "indispensable for the incorporation of lessons learned from the planning, monitoring and evaluation cycle" and that it will "contribute to generating, organizing, consolidating, disseminating and incorporating knowledge and innovation regarding its practice and results". The Act attributes a strategic role to knowledge management, placing it under the leadership of the State Secretariat for International Cooperation, which will promote a Spanish Cooperation Knowledge Management Policy to guide its implementation in the cooperation system, on the basis of the experience of Spanish Cooperation's Transparency, Communication and Knowledge Management Programme and of its Inter-institutional Coordination and Monitoring Committee. Furthermore, knowledge will be managed both internally, within Spanish Cooperation, and externally. Specific resources will be allocated to external knowledge management to ensure its sustainability.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

- Spanish Cooperation will advance the implementation of its knowledge management model, which is based on three types of knowledge: strategic knowledge about the international agenda, the needs and context of partner countries, good practices and lessons learned in Spain and partner countries; methodological or instrumental knowledge regarding the cycle of interventions; and procedural knowledge about resource management.
- Generation of knowledge "before, during and after": knowledge management within Spanish Cooperation must be based on continuous learning throughout the life cycle of this policy. In this regard, work will be continued on systems based on gathering, processing and communicating relevant knowledge, thereby enabling the use of lessons learned and the linking of policies to evidence provided by evaluations. The use of digital media is essential to maximize the potential of knowledge management, as repositories of lessons learned and good practices, Q&A systems, collaborative working and online learning platforms. In addition, Spanish Cooperation must take full advantage of the efforts made in recent years to create tools such as InfoODS 2030, the Foreign Ministry's Digital Transformation Plan, and the AECID Action Plan, as well as the State Secretariat for International Cooperation's efforts to promote the Transparency and Knowledge Management Programme.
- Communities of practice and innovation networks: knowledge generation must be based on people and their experience, and must be applicable to contexts, making the formalization of communities of practice and innovation networks at the service of Spanish Cooperation essential. To this end, effective collaboration and communication platforms between Spanish Cooperation's Offices, Training Centres and Cultural Cen-

tres, and between Spanish Cooperation's different departments and stakeholders will be guaranteed, as a key aspect of internal knowledge management. Moreover, the sharing of experiences drives innovation by fostering virtuous learning circles. Initiatives in this regard will include the creation of innovation laboratories and the generation of knowledge products for development and of replicable and scalable methodologies for each context, maximizing existing good practices, as reflected in the experience of the Spanish Cooperation Training Centres attached to AECID. Similarly, efforts will be made to establish knowledge, innovation and skills groups. The work of the Practitioners' Network for Development will be taken into account.

Training, research, development and innovation actions for global sustainable development will be supported directly and in collaboration with research centres and universities, fostering a multidisciplinary approach to development studies. These activities will include study grants and academic mobility grants for students and research staff, and will focus on both basic and applied research and on knowledge transfer activities, to promote practice-based learning and encourage innovation in all stakeholders.

EXTERNAL MANAGEMENT

Knowledge management must not be limited to the entities included within the Spanish Cooperation system; sustainable development and global solidarity require synergies arising from transdisciplinary knowledge and these must therefore be maximized. Thus, during this period Spanish Cooperation will seek to collaborate with universities and other public and private stakeholders for the study, analysis and communication of proposals for increasing the innovation and effectiveness of sustainable development policies.






- Knowledge, research and innovation networks: the capacities of the State Secretariat for International Cooperation will be strengthened to enable the creation of a scientific-technical network for knowledge generation for sustainable development and global solidarity connecting universities, the Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Spanish Universities (Spanish acronym: CRUE), the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, and the cooperation agencies of Spain's regional administrations, to guarantee the generation, transfer and dissemination of knowledge. The creation of this network will form part of Spain's 2021-2027 Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation; in addition, Spanish Cooperation will foster research initiatives aimed at impacting on and transforming cooperation processes for advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in partner countries.
- Moreover, efforts will be intensified to ensure that the knowledge generated changes or transforms: the organizational and management models of public and private stakeholders; multi-stakeholder and multi-level partnerships; implementation of shared road maps for sustainable development; policies and projects seeking specific development impacts and/or to remodel development actions.
- Similarly, Spanish Cooperation will foster greater participation in international development cooperation knowledge and practice networks, including both those of the OECD and of the UN system and those of other international initiatives which have been localized by Spanish Cooperation's partner countries and in which they participate, facilitating the scalability of knowledge.
- Education for sustainable development and global citizenship: this strategic instrument has a key role to play in disseminating the knowledge generated through internal and external management instruments. Educa-








tion for sustainable development and global citizenship will therefore be incorporated into Spanish Cooperation's knowledge management system.




- Openness and public participation: Spanish Cooperation must listen to the voice of the global citizenry. To this end, it will create mechanisms for compiling comments made by the public so as to keep abreast of public opinion on development cooperation policy, both in Spain and in its partner countries, a tool that will be based not only on the transparency of the system but also on knowledge generation. In parallel, Spanish Cooperation must continue to participate in public debate, contributing to local and regional media and forums, and organizing forums on sustainable development policies, for which a formal plan will be established.

APPENDIX.
ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS AGREED
UPON APPROVAL OF THE MASTER PLAN



Associated SDG	Accountability indicator code	Description of the indicator
	iG.1	Number of beneficiaries (total, women and men)
	iG.2	Number of organizations strengthened, provided with training (organized civil society)
	i1.1	Number of bodies that have adopted disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies
	i2.1	Number of food insecure people receiving support/assistance (total, women and men)
	i2.2	Number of producers that receive support/assistance (total, women and men)
	i3.1	Number of people with improved access to basic care/healthcare (total, women and men)
	i3.2	Number of healthcare staff trained (total, women and men)
	i3.3	Number of women and adolescent girls that have received family planning or sexual and reproductive healthcare services
	i3.4	Number of children vaccinated (total, girls and boys)
	i4.1	Number of students receiving a better quality education (total, women and men)
	i4.2	Number of teachers trained (total, women and men)
	i4.3	Number of students receiving vocational training (total, women and men)
	i4.4	Number of participants in Education for Development (EfD) actions (total, women and men)
	i5.1	Number of people reached by gender equality information and education campaigns (total, women and men)
	i5.2	Number of victims of gender-based violence who have received assistance
	i5.3	Number of women taught to read and write
	i5.4	Number of specialized public bodies (TO) created/strengthened/provided with training
	i5.5	Number of civil society organizations (TR) specialized created/strengthened/provided with training

Associated SDG	Accountability indicator code	Description of the indicator
6 AGUA LIMPIA Y SANEAMIENTO 	i6.1	Number of people with new or improved access to drinking water (total, women and men)
	i6.2	Number of people with new or improved access to sanitation in their homes (total, women and men)
7 ENERGÍA ASEQUIBLE Y NO CONTAMINANTE 	i7.1	Number of people with improved access to sustainable energy (total, women and men)
8 TRABAJO DECENTE Y CRECIMIENTO ECONÓMICO 	i8.1	Number of people trained in/informed about labour rights and occupational health and safety (total, women and men)
	i8.2	Number of individual entrepreneurs that have received support for their business (total, women and men)
9 INDUSTRIA, INNOVACIÓN E INFRAESTRUCTURA 	i9.1	Number of MSMEs and cooperatives that have received business creation and development support
10 REDUCCIÓN DE LAS DESIGUALDADES 	i10.1	Number of migrants and displaced persons protected or assisted (total, women and men)
11 CIUDADES Y COMUNIDADES SOSTENIBLES 	i11.1	Number of public bodies (TO) that have implemented measures or policies to protect the environment and mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis
	i11.2	Number of civil society organizations (TR) that have implemented measures to protect the environment and mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis
12 PRODUCCIÓN Y CONSUMO RESPONSABLES 	i12.1	Number of companies trained in sustainable consumption, production and waste management practices with the support of Spanish Cooperation.

Associated SDG	Accountability indicator code	Description of the indicator
13 ACCIÓN POR EL CLIMA 	i13.1	Number of people reached by environment, climate change and DRR education and information campaigns (total, women and men)
14 VIDA SUBMARINA 	i14.1	Number of km2 of marine areas protected or managed sustainably
15 VIDA DE ECOSISTEMAS TERRESTRES 	i15.1	Number of hectares of natural areas protected, managed sustainably and/or reforested
16 PAZ, JUSTICIA E INSTITUCIONES SÓLIDAS 	i16.1	Number of young people (and/or people in general) vulnerable to radicalization or violence who are now participating in cultural, social or work spaces, and/or contributing to highlight the value of cultural heritage (total, women and men)
	i16.2	Number of people in post-conflict or peacebuilding situations, provided with direct support from Spanish Cooperation relating to security, border management, the fight against violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of the civil population and human rights (total, women and men)
	i16.3	Number of institutions and non-state actors provided with protection, conflict prevention and human rights support
	i16.4	Number of people with improved access to justice (total, women and men)

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