

**X Bilateral Consultations between the Kingdom of Spain
and the Republic of South Africa
Joint Communiqué
Madrid, 9th – 10th April 2015.**

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Spain, Mr Ignacio Ybáñez Rubio, and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Lluwelyn Landers, co-chaired the 10th Session of the Spain-South Africa Annual Consultations held in Madrid on the 9th and 10th April 2015.

The Annual Consultations are key to the relationship between Spain and South Africa which allow for a structured approach to exchange views on a wide spectrum of bilateral, regional and global issues of concern and mutual interest.

The two co-chairs reviewed bilateral political and economic relations and expressed satisfaction on the steady progress of cooperation. They further agreed to continue promoting high level visits and encourage the interaction of principals on the margins of multilateral meetings as well as study tours from various sectors in order to explore new areas of cooperation.

Both sides also exchanged views on developments in the DRC, Lesotho, Sudan/South, Sudan, Libya, Western Sahara, Sahel, maritime security and piracy. They underlined in particular the importance of strengthening joint efforts of the international community led by the UN to fight terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

The co-chairs agreed to foster the important relations between the EU and South Africa in all its multiple dimensions.

The co-chairs also discussed a broad array of developments on the international arena. The Spanish delegation presented their programme as non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2015-2016 and the co-chairs committed to foster regular exchange of views and close coordination particularly in the context of South Africa's active role in the International Community, specifically, in Africa as a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council and as Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security.

The Consultations were preceded by meetings of the Foreign Affairs Working Group as well as the Economy, Trade, and Energy Working Group at senior officials' level.

The Working Groups reviewed cooperation in different fields and discussed ways to further strengthen relations and undertook to advance the process of negotiations on various pending bilateral agreements.

Both sides noted the report of the last bilateral Defence Committee held in Madrid in November 2014 and its relevant conclusions.

The delegations expressed satisfaction with the robust growth in investments and trade relations. In this regard, they undertook to explore joint initiatives towards further enhancing bilateral investment relations through platforms such as the Spain –

Southern Africa Regional Investment Forum scheduled to take place in Johannesburg from 6-8 July this year.

Spain and South Africa stressed their shared commitment to multilateralism, to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and acknowledged the high level of mutual understanding and coordination in multilateral affairs.

Both sides exchanged views on the process of UN reform, the Post 2015 Development Agenda, G-20, the Paris Conference of the Parties on Climate Change as well as Human Rights issues.

Spain and South Africa agreed that these Consultations succeeded in further strengthening and growing the bilateral relationship. Both countries expressed their commitment to increase the effective implementation of the decisions made during this year's Annual Consultations.

The 11th Session of the Spain-South Africa Annual Consultations will be held in 2016, in Pretoria, South Africa.