EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A transformative 2030 Agenda for people and for the planet

Proposals for political action

“You cannot claim to support sustainable development when you are reluctant to reduce the consumption of the rich or transfer technology. You cannot preach about human rights while using mass surveillance. You cannot lecture about peace while being the world’s largest manufacturers of arms.”

Salil Shetty, addresses world leaders at the Opening Plenary Session of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 Development Agenda
An Agenda that offers opportunities for change

The Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda was signed by 193 countries during the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. Its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 Targets –together with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change–, demand a joint global action to solve the big social, economic, political and environmental challenges of the current globalisation process, focused on universal rights and equality –to leave no one behind– and coherence of all policies with sustainable development.

Three years after it was signed, the Agenda is a political space trying to pave its own way in different countries, regions and cities, with the difficulty of entering into conflict with other political agendas. This is why organized civil society has a crucial role in the promotion of a transformative Agenda.

For Futuro en Común, the 2030 Agenda is a framework that should put peoples’ rights and the care of the planet at the centre of political action. This report, with a national and European outlook, presents a diagnosis of Spanish reality that underlines the challenges ahead to make the 2030 Agenda effective in the social and environmental fields as well as for human security and democratic quality and for the role that Spain should play in the world. To achieve this, it sets out a long-term political proposal, both with a domestic and an international dimension, with an idea to reinforce the public and supported by the governance structures that have been announced by the current government.

Challenge 1: Leave no one behind

“The fact that I have experienced poverty made me see that one has to fight to change a certain system of values (...). Above all, I try to be a person”

Javier Pérez, who lives on a minimum income and is an activist against poverty

The 2030 Agenda recognizes the need to put people at the centre so that they can reach their full potential with dignity and equality in a healthy environment. However, the current economic model does not favour this. On the contrary, it is a source of inequality and poverty which, in the case of Spain, goes beyond the impact of the economic crisis and the austerity policies implemented.

Spain is facing a challenge in terms of inequality, poverty and exclusion. Despite the macroeconomic end of the crisis, in 2016 Spain was the fourth most unequal country in Europe.1 The recovery is not reaching everybody at the same level, as is shown by the fact that 70% of households stated in 2017 that they were not experiencing the recovery, increasing to 91% in the case of households below the poverty threshold.2

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In 2017 more than 12 million people in Spain were still at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion (26.6%) which is above the figure before the crisis (23.8% in 2008). The situation gets worse when considering it in more depth: children —almost 1 out of 3: 2.6 millions, and 2 out of 3 if their parents are foreigners—4, foreigners not belonging to the EU —more than half: almost 60%, Roma households—3 out of 4: 72.3%5 and single-parent households, mainly headed by women, in which case almost half of them (47.9%) are at risk of poverty and/or exclusion,6 are at a higher risk of poverty or social exclusion by different reasons, like the lack of investment in social protection and in networks to support these persons against discrimination.

To this reality one should add an increasingly more segmented and precarious labour market where poverty is added to low work intensity: 16.3% of people employed are at risk of poverty and/or exclusion (2016).7 Having a job is no longer a guarantee for a dignified life.

This happens in Spain with young people and with certain types of work, like domestic work and caregiving, especially unstable work, not recognized nor highly valued, and mainly carried out by women. It is time to create the dignified quality work that the 2030 Agenda is demanding for everybody, with a special emphasis on those in situations of greater vulnerability.

### Strong and equitable public policies

The 2030 Agenda underlines the importance of implementing key public policies such as nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all (SDS 1, target 1.3), achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all, (SDG 4), ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages (SDG 3), or eradicating extreme poverty (SDG 1). The 2030 Agenda is demanding for everybody, with a special emphasis on those in situations of greater vulnerability.

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6. INE, ECV, At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE indicator) by type of household, available in: www.ine.es/jaxiT3/Tabla.htm?l=10010&L=1
7. INE, ECV, Persons employed at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE indicator), available in: www.ine.es/jaxiT3/Datos.htm?l=10005
for all people everywhere (SDG 1, target 1.1.), making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries (target 11.3).

It is enough to take a look at these policies in Spain to see that there are many people that remain outside this system, a system that needs more and better resources through fairer and more equitable taxation in order to reduce and balance the impact of the inequalities created by the socioeconomic model.

Spanish social protection needs to improve its coverage and impact on dependency (during 2017 more than 100 people died every day without having received social benefits or assistance), on childhood (where investment is almost half of the European average and there is no universal provision per dependent child), on pensions, and on minimum income: only 42% of these households where all family members have no income receive minimum income support, which in no case reaches the minimum wage, and therefore makes it difficult for them to lead a dignified life.

One of the policies that can better contribute to creating fairer and more inclusive societies is education. However, the quality and inclusive capacity of the Spanish system presents serious weaknesses and does not compensate for the inequalities of origin. Spain continues to be the 3rd EU country in terms of early school dropout rates: 18.3% in 2017. Non-EU foreign pupils, gipsy pupils and low socioeconomic level households are the ones most affected by school dropout rates.

According to an analysis of the Spanish public health system, its universal nature, lost due to the Royal Decree-Law 16/2012, must be retrieved so as to have an impact especially on migrants in an irregular situation. It should focus on three aspects: achieving the maximum coverage for people, leaving no one behind, more services for the population and fewer individual payments.

For housing, the lack of public policies assuring universal access implies that the Human Right to Housing is not guaranteed. Spain is one of the OECD countries where people
allocate a higher part of their income to payment for housing.\textsuperscript{13} In 2016, 9.8\% of people had difficulties to cover payments for mortgage or rent.\textsuperscript{14} At the same time, energy poverty\textsuperscript{15} and evictions remain high,\textsuperscript{16} slums persist and the number of homeless people increases.

\textbf{Action against inequalities and poverty}

What unites people like Marta, Javier, Inmaculada, Serigne or Teresa?

While Marta, a domestic worker for more than seven years, is now part of the Servicio Doméstico Activo collective and works for the dignity of household workers and caregivers, demanding Spain’s ratification of the ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers, Javier travels the country with the EMIN bus – European Network of Minimum Wages - to explain the need and benefits of a dignified minimum income for people without resources.

Inmaculada, a neighbour facing her third eviction, is part of the Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca in Madrid. She feels that she is no longer alone and she believes that her story will end well: “it took me a great effort to do this, but here I am because I want to tell this story and make it known, because it is unjust”. The same idea encourages Serigne, from Senegal, another neighbour in Madrid, who was previously a fisherman, and is now a member of the Asociación sin Papeles (People without Documents) in Madrid and is a founding member of an organic, cooperative and vegetarian restaurant: “this is the way I promote ecological consumption, with local and small producers, which is precisely the way to avoid the issues that forced me to leave Senegal”.

Different difficulties that also affect the youngest women. And they act. Teresa, a young girl from Asturias, who moved to the United Kingdom for lack of opportunities in Spain, joined the so-called “Marea Granate”, a movement of young people “forced to leave”, so called for the colour of their passports, and which under the motto “We are not leaving, we are expelled”, claims specific rights for emigrants. Teresa says that she has hope.

Another young woman, also called Teresa, a student, feels the same while preparing herself for the labour market with a course for hairdressing.Teresa is a gipsy. Statistics and attitudes and beliefs of the people around her told her that she shouldn’t study. She insisted and today she is an example for other young gipsies around her. She participates in debates and awareness-raising campaigns, making the barriers visible to those who confront them and showing how to overcome them with support.

The experiences and initiatives of these people, as of so many others, show us the way to follow to work for sustainable development of people and the planet.

\textsuperscript{13} Spain is the OECD country where people allocate a higher proportion of their salaries to having a roof over their heads: 53\% of the population allocates more than 30\% of their income to this. Affordable Housing Database, available in: www.oecd.org/social/affordable-housing-database.htm

\textsuperscript{14} INE, ECV, People and households with material deprivation - Indicator of people that had delays when paying expenses related to their main dwelling: http://www.ine.es/prodyser/pubwebanuario18/anu18_07condi.pdf

\textsuperscript{15} In 2016, 4.7 million people in Spain could not keep their home adequately warm in winter: http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ilc_mdes01&lang=en

\textsuperscript{16} Eviction rates as a result of rentals and foreclosures: 58.7\% and 36.8\% respectively. Source: General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ), available in: https://goo.gl/YRg2nj
Challenge 2: We are the planet we inhabit

“Agriculture was being lost in the population and the owners gave us the fields to be able to retrieve them. So we started to plant in a sustainable way (...). Like this we contributed our grain of sand to the social economy of the villages of that area.”

Maite Cabo, a woman from rural Valencia and ecological businesswoman

The 2030 Agenda assumes that the planet is facing big environmental challenges (SDG 13, 15, 6 and 2, among others), the effects of which undermine the capacity of countries to achieve sustainable development and the welfare of societies. In Spain there are four main challenges: climate change and the energy model, biodiversity loss, misuse of water, and the production and consumption of food.

In 2017, CO₂ emissions in Spain were 17.9% higher than in 1990, and we are one of the European countries most vulnerable to climate change. One of the reasons is the obsolete energy model: apart from being expensive, it makes Spain dependent on more polluting energy sources: in 2016, only 17.3% of primary energy came from renewable energy, and 72.9% was imported.

At the same time, and despite the fact that it is one of the EU countries with higher biodiversity and with more protected spaces, factors such as intensive agricultural production, abandonment of rural areas, transport and energy infrastructures or non-sustainable fishing, threaten this wealth. In 2015, only 10% of habitats and 20% of species were in a good state of conservation.

Water use and management is another challenge that Spain must address, since everything indicates that water stress will increase with the impact of climate change. Misuse of irrigation systems, hydroelectric dam management and habitat pollution and destruction have all decreased the quality of water resources: in 2016, 43% of rivers and wetlands and 44% of Spanish aquifers were in bad condition.

Finally, the agricultural model and its food production and distribution systems are unsustainable. Spain is the European country which employs the most chemicals in agroindustry; 59% of its agricultural land has a content of organic matter that is less than acceptable, and only 15% of agricultural habitats have a favourable...
conservation status.\textsuperscript{22} Regarding food consumption, Spain is the seventh EU country in throwing food away.\textsuperscript{23}

\textbf{Challenge 3: Lives free of violence in an inclusive democracy}

"I never thought that this would happen to me: I thought that gender violence happened to other types of women, more submissive, uneducated… But really, what is the profile of the ill-treated woman? There isn’t one”

Annette Merino, survivor of gender violence

One of the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is peace, understood as the result of peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence.

However, in Spain the debate on security, founded on the basis of fear and criminalization of some groups, is gaining ground. There is also institutional violence, produced when institutions do not pay appropriate attention to people and fail to guarantee their human rights, be it by their actions or by their omissions, in a physical or symbolic manner. In 2017, the Ombudsman recorded cases of institutional violence in Spain in such areas as health, housing, childhood or situations lived by elderly people.\textsuperscript{24}

In Futuro en Común we promote a security policy linked to human development and defined as the absence of all types of violence, bearing in mind the people in a situation of greater vulnerability.

This involves speaking of lives free of gender violence, one of the most specific and outstanding targets of the 2030 Agenda (target 5.2). During the last fifteen years in Spain, between 2003 and 2018, 937 women have been murdered by their partners and former partners; the number of victims increases if we add all murders of women,\textsuperscript{25} to which we have to add the murder of 25 children due to the same type of violence.\textsuperscript{26}

Feminist organizations report the existence of big deficiencies: the barriers in the judicial system, the lack of protection to victims of sexual violence, the risk of expulsion of migrant women in an irregular situation when denouncing violence, and the lack of recognition that gender violence victims suffer from, despite the developments achieved in this area over recent years.

\textsuperscript{22} MAPAMA (2015), Spain: national rural development program, available in: https://goo.gl/ve6FLW
\textsuperscript{25} Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality (MSSSI) http://estadisticasviolenciagenero.msssi.gob.es/
\textsuperscript{26} Data on femicide including crimes committed by persons who are not partners or ex-partners: https://goo.gl/HguV5F
\textsuperscript{25} MSSSI, Information on young murder victims www.violenciagenero.msssi.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/victimasMortales/fichaMenores/home.htm
Another challenge is **human trafficking**. In all different ways, from sexual to labour exploitation, forced marriages or begging, the 2030 Agenda proposes to end all forms of slavery and human trafficking (targets 8.7 and 5.2). In Spain it is urgent to ensure good detection and identification of possible victims, above all in places of high vulnerability such as borders or Reception Centres for Migrants, as well as guaranteeing that in cases of administrative irregularity, the victims of trafficking are treated outside the context of migratory control.

Lives free of violence imply speaking also about **multiple and diverse lives**. About **childhood free of violence**, given that in Spain 37 children suffer from ill-treatment every day in their families. If it is a girl or a child with a disability, the risk is multiplied. The main difficulty to identify such abuse is the lack of denunciation, either due to fear (the aggressor is normally part of the victim’s circle) or to ignorance.

About **diverse ethnicities and races**, free of violence, confronting the hostile discourse that is contrary to the tolerance and conviviality that today seems to be clearly permitted. The attention dedicated to this type of violence in Spain is insufficient, both because it is a type of violence in which different factors are involved (religion, class, gender) and because of the lack of legislation and proper awareness raising measures.

About **safe migrant lives**, whose rights are violated during their migratory journeys and on their arrival in Spain. Some of the most serious gaps, provoked by the negligence of institutions or current legislation are: difficulties in the access and delays in the asylum and international protection processes; the so-called “immediate returns” or collective expulsions in Ceuta and Melilla, which prevent the identification of people seeking international protection; the very difficult situation of unaccompanied foreign minors, who do not see their higher interest prioritized and protected, as it should be according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the disproportionate use of internment of individuals in the Reception Centres for Migrants; and the delays in the treatment of nationality requests: more than 400,000 people and their families, waiting.

Finally, there is no possible democracy in lives with fear and threats. The 2030 Agenda prompts countries to guarantee fundamental liberties according to their national laws and international agreements (target 16.10). However, in the world and in Spain we see a reduction in the number of safe civic spaces where citizens can express themselves and act freely. A proof of this is the validity and application of Organic Law 4/2015 on the Protection of Citizens’ Security or “Gag Law” in Spain, which is a threat to the exercise of the freedom of peaceful assembly, expression and information. Only in the first year and a half more than 25,000 penalties relative to the exercise of civil rights. For Axier López, the first journalist fined under the Law, the rule aims to control new forms of protest born in the heat of the crisis, “and the new ways to communicate, more horizontal and pluralistic”. It also has effects in criminalizing poverty in the public space, affecting people and groups that carry out prostitution, live on street trading or homeless people.

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28. Orly 3% of the world population live in countries with a civic space open to participation: http://www.civicus.org/images/People_Power_Under_Attack_Findings_from_the_CIVICUS_Monitor.pdf
Challenge 4: Global interdependence: our role in the world

“We bet for a system that defends its own development model, that puts sustainability, life, nature and peoples’ determination at the centre”

Aura Lolita Chávez, K’iche people rights defender, Guatemala

The 2030 Agenda proposes to solve current challenges through agreed solutions in the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (target 17.2).

The vicious circle of poverty and inequality (2.2 billion poor people living in developing countries in 2013 while 62 people in the world are hoarding the same amount of wealth as half the world’s poorest population), the overexploitation of resources, the impacts of climate change and the reduction of civic spaces all create an emergency context that forces us to reconsider the societal model. The 2030 Agenda is a political scenario that offers opportunities, where Spain can revise its role in the world.

In this global dimension, Spanish public cooperation policy is fundamental and its degradation in quantity and quality must be reversed. On the one hand, the expenditure of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) implemented since 2012 has been below 0.2%, against an average of 0.49% in the 20 EU countries that are members of the OECD. The Global Implementation Plan for 2018 foresee 0.22%, far away from the intention of reaching 0.4% to which all political groups committed to reach in 2020. In addition, the quality of the aid has declined. Its instrumental use, be it national or international, for security and migratory control purposes, or the use of aid as loans, mixed financing or public-private partnerships, distort its essential purpose: to fight against inequality and poverty.

Beyond cooperation policy, Spain must assume a positive leadership on systemic global issues towards the coherence of policies for sustainable development. For this purpose, it is fundamental to consider the multiple dimensions of both domestic and international policies, as well as to integrate in their decisions the impact on human welfare, be it present and future.

From there, Spain should respond to several challenges which multilateral political processes and which the 2030 Agenda recognise. For example, issues such as the arms trade, with the real and effective respect of national and international legislation, not transferring arms to countries in conflict or at risk of damaging the rights of individuals; the agreements reached at a regional level related to migration and asylum, where non-compliance, so far, has been constant and favours an instrumental use of cooperation; human rights and transnational companies, facilitating and not opposing the development at the UN of a Treaty on transnational companies and human rights; and international taxation, taking the necessary leadership and ambition in the European discussions on proposals like the tax on international financial transactions.

62 richest people on the planet - Oxfam Intermón (2016), An economy at the service of the 1%, available in: https://goo.gl/p2g6xy
31. With the sole exception of 2016, where the ODA represented 0.35% of GNI largely due to condoning a large amount of debt to Cuba.
Recommendations

To face the challenges presented and with the aim of implementing a transformative Agenda, we, the organizations that compose Futuro en Común, recommend to the Spanish Government:

1. To make the roadmap to create the definition of a 2020-2030 National Strategy for Sustainable Development that should be participatory, built on consensus, specific and measurable, based on equity, sustainability and solidarity, putting the focus on people and the planet and responding to a country project made with a long-term vision.

2. Commitment and action: policies and public investment that should address the deep causes of problems, in four priority intervention fields:

   2.1. Policies to fight inequality, poverty and exclusion. Among others, it is recommended to:
   - Strengthen social protection through a minimum income guarantee system configured as a subjective right, and through a universal provision per dependent child, as well as more resources for the Dependency Law.
   - Increase public investment and momentum of legal reforms to ensure universal access to health, decent housing and quality education for all.
   - Tackle structural reforms in the labour and tax fields so that they enable both an improvement in job quality and an increase in the public resources available for social expenditure in a gradual way.

   2.2. Environmental policies. Among others, it is recommended to:
   - Adopt an Emergency Plan to stop biodiversity loss in 2020 and apply a Reformed Water Law;
   - Promote sustainable food systems, including environment-friendly food production and consumption;
   - Formulate a Climate Change and Energy Transition Law.

   2.3. Develop policies against any violence that threatens human security and deepens democratic civic spaces. Among others, it is recommended to:
   - Reform the Comprehensive Law against Gender-Based Violence adapting it to the Istanbul Convention.
   - Adopt a Comprehensive Law on Violence against Childhood;
   - Modify the Law on Foreigners to prevent the type of irregular immigration that has occurred, guarantee health care and children’s rights for all;
   - Repeal the Gag Law to guarantee a safe civil public space for citizen participation;
   - Adopt a Comprehensive Law against Human Trafficking.

   2.4. Initiatives on the role of Spain in the international arena and the 2030 Agenda. Among others, it is recommended to:
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- Reinforce public policy on development cooperation, increasing Spanish ODA up to the average EU expenditure level, while ensuring its quality and focus on poverty and inequality;

- Exercise positive leadership coherent with the international Human Rights framework on such global issues as migration, the arms trade, climate change, foreign trade or international taxation.

3. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: an interconnected, multidimensional and indivisible Agenda. This means having a political, institutional and legal commitment that allows for the alignment of all stakeholders’ behaviour under sustainability criteria and with the exemplifying leadership of the government. It is necessary to specify a mechanism that should be operational and at the service of Government management at the highest level.

4. Tools for assessment and follow-up: increasing and deepening the knowledge of reality through better disaggregated data and incorporating other ways to measure progress beyond GDP. It is recommended to:

- Incorporate a national framework of SDG indicators to the Spanish statistical system with ambitious targets, counting on the participation of Autonomous Communities, Ministries, the Spanish Statistical Office (INE) and supranational institutions such as Eurostat.

- Compile and analyse information according to the human rights and gender equality approach, recognising and identifying the reality and problems of people and groups in a situation of greater vulnerability and at risk of exclusion.

- Incorporate synthesis indicators to the follow-up system that will enable to complete and track progress beyond GDP.

5. Implementation of the Council on Sustainable Development proposed in the Non-Legislative Motion (PNL) 161/002620 of December 5, 2017 of the Spanish Parliament, as an opportunity to strengthen dialogue, articulation and accountability among organised civil society, the different government levels and other stakeholders of the SDG ecosystem.
Executive group:
Coordinadora, Spanish Development NGO Platform, Ecodes, Educo, Intermon Oxfam, UNICEF Spanish Committee, WWF, Cáritas Española

«Cáritas Española disassociates itself from the opinions expressed in this report in the area of sexual and reproductive rights and the concept of gender, supporting the position expressed by the Catholic Church in September 2015 at the time when the United Nations Declaration «Transforming our World: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development» was adopted. https://holyseemission.org/contents/statements/55e60e559a5749.94098476.php

Wording:
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Futuro en Común
Futuro en Común is an innovative cross-sectional dialogue and work platform to support sustainable development, human rights and the deepening of the Civic Democratic space. More than 50 organisations from eight different social sectors: environment, human rights, social action, feminism, childhood, cooperation for development and global justice, disability, alternative economy, human mobility, trade union, etc. – which, among other things, work from a transversal and systemic logic to generate proposals that enable building a 2030 Agenda that is a «lever for change» in our country and in the world. Futuro en Común is integrated into SDG Watch Europe.

For more information: http://futuroencomun.net/que-es-futuro-en-comun