



# ESPAÑA

**INTERVENCIÓN DEL MINISTRO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES Y DE COOPERACIÓN**

**EXCMO. SR. DON MIGUEL ÁNGEL MORATINOS**

**ANTE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
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(Cotejar con intervención definitiva)

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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION**

**H.E. MR. MIGUEL ÁNGEL MORATINOS**

**AT THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York, 21 September 2006**

(Unofficial translation check against delivery)

Madam President, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure to address this General Assembly on the International Day of Peace, in my capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of a Government that it strongly committed to a vigorous United Nations system that will guarantee international peace and security in a global, complex and uncertain world.

Before beginning, allow me to congratulate the President, who is the first Arab woman to lead the Assembly. It is a task in which I am sure you will have great success, and in which you can count on the full cooperation and commitment of the Delegation of Spain.

Likewise, I would like to express my gratitude and congratulations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and President of the last session, Jan Eliasson because his leadership and negotiating skills have greatly contributed to the adoption of agreements and decisions of great political impact for the implementation of the Final Document of the 2005 World Summit.

The understanding and cooperation among countries within multilateral organizations will help to clear up the many questions that our century will raise, a century marked by globalization which reaches all parts of the planet and pervades the many areas of everyday life, transforming, at the same time, the power of States and the system of international relations.

From this emerging reality, one can ascertain some reflections of a general character that are linked to the global political reality. Interdependence and multidimensional changes are omnipresent in the life of the international community where old conflicts lie side by side with new challenges.

In order to analyze this complex and uncertain reality, political theory turns to scientific knowledge, even though its formulations do not provide concrete measures to effectively face the political and institutional challenges of the XXI century. New times call for new politics, which in no case should be influenced by fear, misunderstanding or mistrust within the international community. The factors and events that make up today's international relations must not confuse or set back the innovative spirit of political action.

Today we know that technology alone does not drive progress in matters of security as well as social and economic growth. Globalization reports great individual and collective benefits; it is a mixture of contradictory tendencies, of hope and despair, of humanism and barbarianism, in which we find grave imbalances, which we must manage with courage and political confidence.

Madam President,

This new age has not solved old existing conflicts that erode peace and international security.

The situation in the Middle East brings to the present a historical conflict that demands answers from the international community. The adoption of Security Council Resolution 1701 and the ceasing of hostilities open the door to the hope of creating the necessary conditions for a long-lasting peace.

We have endured five decades of suffering and despair. For the past five decades, we have appealed to this forum for a definitive solution. We have witnessed five decades of the impotence of the international community.

From this rostrum, I call for a coalition of peace. It is not about rediscovering the Mediterranean, but about a commitment.

"Yes" to the creation of a Palestinian State that is democratic, viable and peaceful.

"Yes" to the decisive support to President Mahmoud Abbas.

"Yes" to the end of violence and terror against Israel.



"Yes" to the reactivation of the Madrid Process that began 20 years ago.

"Yes" to a global peace that includes Syria and Lebanon.

We must say "yes" to the end of this tragedy.

The only path open to a possible solution is not a military one, but one through political and diplomatic action, which demands from us to rebuild a dynamics of negotiation in order to definitely eradicate violence from that region which is bleeding to death from lack of understanding and pain.

My Government wishes and hopes for all the actors involved in the region to commit themselves to the implementation of Resolution 1701 and to the mission carried out by the United Nations Interim Force in the South of Lebanon, to which Spain contributes a sizable military contingent.

We are duty bound to give a new opportunity to peace and to the spoken word.

Madam President,

From the eastern Mediterranean, we reach the Western Mediterranean. Spain attaches special attention to the relations with her Magreb neighbors; it is a region with which we maintain active political and global ties which help consolidate our friendship and cooperation.

It is for this reason that we give great importance to the relaunching of the process of building a united Magreb.

In order to accelerate the momentum in this project it would be necessary to reach a solution to the conflict of Western Sahara through dialogue, a solution that is effective. This a conflict that has been prolonged for more than thirty years and urgently calls for an appropriate climate in order to overcome its present stagnation. The international community must create this climate in order to bring about a just and lasting agreement that will respect the principle of self-determination within the framework of the United Nations.

The will for dialogue and political compromise could unblock this old conflict, as it happened with Gibraltar. I am pleased to inform the General Assembly that the first few agreements have already been adopted at the Trilateral Forum for Dialogue, which met last Monday in Córdoba. These agreements embody the spirit of the resolutions of the United Nations. They do not however mean that my Government surrenders its sovereignty over Gibraltar.

Madam President,

Relations with Ibero-America are a constant priority in the Government of Spain's action abroad. We are committed to fostering the cohesion, growth and visibility of the Ibero-American community with which we maintain historic ties and share new strategies and objectives.

The Ibero-American General Secretariat, which enjoys the status of Observer to the United Nations, develops the strength of our community through dialogue and coordination. The forthcoming Summit in Uruguay will reevaluate actions in progress and will propose measures to relaunch the social, economic, cultural and political advancement demanded by the civil societies of the Iberoamerican community.

Cooperation and understanding also drive our transatlantic relations and in a very special way, with the United States. With a constructive spirit, we examine concerns and long-term projects that strengthen our international community.

Madam President,

We are multilateral actors and are very much aware that many of our difficulties and problems are not solved through wishful thinking nor through mere national action. Due to their complexity, they



need to be examined globally, especially the new challenges faced by the international community that hinder the development of a globalization that is more just and balanced.

Political responsibility demands a solution from us for pressing and global phenomena, such as security and terrorism, the fight against hunger and poverty, and the management of migration flows. The world, under the coordination of the United Nations, must promote sustainable development, security and human rights. We will not have security without development. There will be no development without security, and we will not reach these objectives if human rights are not respected.

We cannot accept terrorism, no matter its origin. Its acceptance would transform it into terror and would provoke a spiral of fear in which liberties would suffer. We must remain vigilant against terrorism. Likewise, we cannot allow liberties to deteriorate.

The Government of Spain is satisfied with the adoption of the Global Strategy against Terrorism, which does not forget victims and their families.

Madam President,

Extreme poverty and humanitarian catastrophes are inconceivable in the XXI century. We must deepen our sincere commitment with the Millennium Development Goals and with the fight against hunger and poverty to mitigate the uncertainty, hardship and despair that affect millions of citizens across the globe.

The areas to which traditionally Spain's development aid was directed have been widened and reinforced through an advanced cooperation policy. Spain has increased the quality and quantity of her official development aid, which will reach 0,5 per cent of our GDP in 2008. Spain's contribution to international organizations and to trusteeship funds has increased this year more than four hundred per cent.

Spain's development aid has been extended to the Mediterranean countries and to the African continent, where there has been a greater effort in planning. The Africa Plan established by my Government requires a greater effort of cooperation and commitment to deal with dramatic situations of poverty and sickness, which jeopardize the well-being of African societies.

Future programs as the one proposed by President Wade merit all our consideration and support.

Poverty takes us to a new global challenge, which is, the management of migration flows, since hunger and need do not know of borders. Inequalities in the distribution of wealth, unemployment, the lack of perspectives for the future, political instability, and little respect for human rights or intolerable life conditions push 200 million people in the whole world to migrate. The demographic impacts of these flows are perceived in countries of origin, of transit and of destination. We have an obligation to rationalize and properly manage these flows, so to avoid depopulation and to intensify the fight against mafias that traffic with people.

This is one of the greatest challenges of the XXI century and Spain is on the frontline. We must confront it on in all of its dimensions, both internal and external, with measures for cooperation development and border controls.

Migrations, exchanges and connectivity have given birth to a multicultural society that is not exempt of tensions. This emerging reality stimulates the appearance of challenges that demand a critical analysis in order to build solid bridges between the East and the West.

The initiative of the Alliance of Civilizations, sponsored by Spain and Turkey, today belongs to the international community and to the United Nations, and intends to give an answer to these challenges. The management of inter-culturalism could only be achieved from the perspective of security, education, promotion of culture and inter-religious dialogue. Respect amongst the different

cultures and creeds must encourage the reduction of frictions that could inspire violence and terror. The cartoon crisis and the effects and interpretations of the words of His Holiness the Pope urgently demand the implementation of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Madam President, Mr. Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The XXI century is called upon to resolve old conflicts and to effectively confront new global challenges, for which a reform is needed in the United Nations.

The Government of Spain is satisfied with the reform process in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights. The Peacebuilding Commission, the Council of Human Rights, the Democracy Fund, the Global Strategy Against Terrorism and the Emergency Fund are new instruments that have a bearing on the challenges that face the international community.

Madam President,

Allow me to conclude with a few verses of the universal Spanish poet Federico García Lorca:

*If hope goes out  
and the Babel of misunderstanding rules  
what torch will light  
the paths on Earth*

Let us not give up the dream of peace. Let us work together to achieve it.

Thank you.