

Spain

H.E. Mr Agustin Santos Maraver

Permanent Representative



Mr Minister,

I want to thank the Estonian Presidency of the Security Council for organizing this meeting. And to High Representative Borrell, Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo and Professor Snyder for their contributions.

When on 5 May 1945, Allied troops arrived at the Mauthausen death camp, they found a banner in Spanish: "The anti-fascist Spaniards salute the liberating forces." They were the survivors of more than ten thousand Spaniards who had first been forced to build the camp in 1938 and then were exterminated. One of them, Francisco Boix, left

the photographic testimony that served to condemn the Nazi camp authorities in Nuremberg.

For Spanish Democrats, the fight against fascism began in our country in 1936. It continued in 1939 from exile and the Resistance throughout Europe and only ended when democracy was restored in our country with the Constitution of 1978. Their example of tenacity and solidarity are today the basis of our commitment to the values and spirit of the United Nations Charter. A delegation of Spanish Democrats attended the San Francisco Conference, but could not join the United Nations from the outset, victims of the repression at home, the distribution of zones of influence at the Potsdam Conference and the Cold War.

The democratic memory of the fight against Nazism and fascism in Europe is a living legacy in Spain. As is the understanding that the Great Recession of the 1930s, the growing social injustice, the competition of the great powers for scarce resources, authoritarianism and colonialism undermined the political will of a multilateralism capable of collectively responding to the common problems of humanity. For Spanish Democrats, this lack of will was confirmed in the Non-Intervention Committee.

Today we are facing a crisis of multilateralism with echoes of that period. Today it is possible to successfully face the challenges that Humanity faces, such as climate change, epidemics, poverty and inequality, violence and xenophobia. But unlike the San Francisco Conference, it is the political will to confront them collectively, through cooperation and multilateralism, defending human rights and democracy, which is questioned again in the name of exclusive nationalism.

That is why we want to express once again our support for Secretary-General Guterres's call to collectively face, with an invigorated multilateralism, the COVID-19 epidemic, an immediate ceasefire that prioritizes humanitarian aid, and we urge the Security Council to adopt a resolution in this regard. We extend our hand to the General Assembly in the same direction.

The best legacy of the sacrifice of those who fought in World War

II is kept today in the United Nations Charter. It is essential to put its principles and values back at the centre of our multilateral action, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, so that "No one is left behind" in the fight against climate change and epidemics, in the just transition for a green and blue reconstruction that offers a better future for Humanity. And discards violence once and for all as an instrument of international policy.

Spain, as a member of the European Union, is part of a regional multilateral effort, which was born with the declared objective of rebuilding our continent from the ruins, so that the genocidal catastrophe of fascism and World War II will never again be possible.

We also believe that the revitalization of the United Nations on its 75th anniversary requires a debate on its insufficiencies, on its budgetary limitations, on the blockades of the Security Council as a consequence of the right of the veto. We want to support the initiative to start limiting this veto in cases of crimes against humanity such as those that took place before and during World War II.

Our poet Antonio Machado, an example of antifascism, summed up his commitment in one verse: "Traveller, there is no path, the path is made by walking." With that tenacity we consider it our duty to make multilateralism the main instrument of the international community. That is our best tribute to those who fought for democracy, fraternity and freedom in Europe and in the world.

Thank you.