

## *Position paper for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*

<i>Delegation from</i> <b>Spain</b>	<i>Represented by</i> <b>EDHEC Business School</b>
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The topics brought before the UNHCR are: Transforming Refugee Camps into Sustainable Settlements in the case of Protracted Displacement; Strengthening the Capacity of Refugee Host Countries; Addressing Temporary Displacements due to Outbreaks and Epidemics. Spain fully supports the UNHCR's new Global Strategic Priority (GSP) and is committed to working in cooperation with UNHCR, as well as other specialized agencies and IGOs such as UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, FAO, IOM, and NGOS such as Doctors Without Borders, as well as with private companies and donors, in order to develop multilateral approaches to ensure protection and welcoming of refugees. According to the latest figures, in 2014, Spain received 5798 refugees, 11,020 displaced persons, and 440 stateless persons.

### **I-Transforming Refugee Camps into Sustainable Settlements in the Case of Protracted Displacement**

Spain adheres to the UNHCR's policy of seeking alternatives to camps, whenever possible, while ensuring, in case of protracted displacement, that refugees receive protection and assistance, as well as service delivery in such areas as education, public health, nutrition, water and sanitation. Spain endorses the means outlined in the UNHCR Global Appeal 2016-2017 to make camps into sustainable settlements and supports implementation of its new Global Strategic Priority (GSP) aimed at "reaching international standards concerning shelter, domestic energy, water and sanitation and hygiene, to improve the condition of refugees abroad." In light of current challenges, Spain strongly urges Member States to pursue more cost effective and sustainable solutions to meet the needs of people of concern. As of 2012, economic constraints have led the Spanish Government to half its contributions to UNHCR two times. In compensation, however, the country's private sector contributions to UNHCR, raised through ACNUR, have risen considerably, from just over 10 million US dollars in 2010, to almost 40 million US dollars in 2014, matching the Government contribution levels of 2010. Spain also counts among the sponsors of Resolution UNHCR 1/1.1, on the "Role of Sustainable Environmental Management on Refugees", which recommends that camps should be divided into sections with an animal per section as well as a small crop field, and supports refugees giving back to the community by planting trees or farming.

### **II-Strengthening the Capacity of Refugee Host Countries**

Spain attaches great importance to multi-lateral and inter-agency cooperation for improving preparedness and developing flexible financing patterns to enhance host country capacities, particularly in light of lacking resources to cover durable solutions resulting from the current refugee crisis. It calls for intensified mobilization of resources from private sources with a view to increasing UNHCR funding to strengthen the capacities of host countries and foster development of renewable energy resources. In the field of renewable energies, the Spanish

Agency for Cooperation has entered into an alliance with the Polytechnic University of Madrid and five leading national private corporations: IBERDROLA, Philips Ibérica and Fundación Acciona Microenergía, and lighting. Along with the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, this alliance has launched a pilot project in collaboration with UNHCR to lower maintenance costs and reduce environmental degradation and health hazards at the Shire refugee camps (Ethiopia), which hosts 110,000 refugees. Spain has also sought to establish close cooperation with neighboring transit and host countries, Mauritania, Senegal and particularly Morocco (in relation to the refugee crisis in Ceuta and Melilla) and to forge bilateral readmission agreements with refugees' countries of origin. Spain figures in a recent OXFAM report among the countries in which migrants attain self-reliance, contributing more in taxes and social contributions than they receive in individual benefits. It endorses the joint UNHCR-ILO intervention model for ILO approach for economic integration of refugees is to ensure an effective transition for refugees from dependence on humanitarian assistance to economic self-reliance and integration into the host community labor market. It is committed to encouraging self-reliance through soft loans and to promoting small and medium size companies run by refugees. Spain signed Resolution 2/2/1 "Return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons" calling for donations to help not only refugees but governments and locals. The Spanish NGO España con ACNUR, is among six national partners: Australia for UNHCR, Japan for UNHCR, Sweden for UNHCR, UNO –Flüchtlingshilfe (Germany), and USA for UNHCR, which are expected to raise funds that should significantly raise UNHCR's private-sector income in 2016. Spain calls on Member States to join the three-year global campaign on shelter, which is to be launched in 2016 to raise funds to ensure access to adequate shelter arrangements for forcibly displaced people worldwide.

### **III-Addressing Temporary Displacements Due to Outbreaks and Epidemics**

Spain is aware that, in addition to armed conflict, climate change and epidemics are root causes of forcible displacements. It calls the attention of Member States to the costs of such disasters which are rising throughout the world. This requires proactive, preventive multilateral and interagency action and cooperation. Along with China and the UK, Spain is participating in the Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC), an Earth observation site composed of low-cost small satellites taking daily pictures of refugee camps around the world and thus providing images and big data to foster disaster monitoring and refugee management. Spain calls upon the Member States to fully abide by the Sendai framework developed through the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Spain believes that resilience must be promoted at the local level because data is often better managed at a local level. As exemplified by the Spanish town of Lorca whose mayor won the EFDRR's 2014 Damir Čemerin award for promoting resilience at the local level. Spain also advocates that steps be taken for safe, speedy repatriation and reintegration of post-disaster or epidemic displaced persons, as in the case of the Ebola epidemic and for coordinated efforts to deal with the Zika epidemic.