Thank you very much, Mr. President,

My delegation would like to express its gratitude and recognition to the Special Envoy of the Secretary General, Mr. Yukio Takasu, for his presence and valuable contribution to this important debate.

Spain fully aligns with the intervention delivered by the Delegation of the European Union and wishes to make the following contribution in its national capacity.

Peace and security building, development and the protection of human rights are intimately inter-related. The last Report of the Secretary-General issued in follow-up to the General Assembly resolution 66/290 shows, through numerous examples and experiences of Member States and the United Nations System, the fundamental nature of a human security approach as a universal framework to effectively respond to the extensive and cross-cutting challenges linked to the interrelation between peace and security, development and human rights. Likewise, the Report also displays the important added value to the human security approach in addressing these challenges through comprehensive, long-lasting, context-specific and people-centred responses.

We welcome the fact that, as the Secretary-General’s Report points out, an increasing number of Member States have already recognized the added value of a human security approach and have implemented it into their processes of development and institutional strengthening. We are pleased that human security has also been mainstreamed into the actions of the United Nations System as well of other international and regional organizations, such as the European Union and the African Union.

Integrating a human security approach into processes of development and institutional strengthening has led to actions adapted to the local context and to prevention-oriented solutions, to the root causes of insecurity and to long-term sustainability. Furthermore, this approach has allowed more inclusive responses based on the participation, ownership and empowerment of local actors, while keeping in mind the needs, challenges and priorities identified by the affected communities, including the most vulnerable groups.

In this regard, as the Secretary General Report highlights, we consider very valuable and positive that the human rights approach has become a reference framework in guiding a greater coordination and coherence of the efforts of the international community in facing the challenges linked to the interrelation among peace and security, development and human rights.

Mr. President,

During the past few years, Spain has given great importance to the human security approach. Pursuant General Assembly Resolution 66/290, this approach entails paying particular attention to the right of all people, especially the most vulnerable, to have equal opportunities in order to enjoy and fulfill their rights and to fully develop their human potential. In its development cooperation, Spain has mainstreamed a humanitarian approach based on rights, under which people are protagonists of their own development.

Spain’s experience in providing support and assistance under a human security approach has allowed us to draw conclusions and lessons learned very similar to those presented by the report of the Secretary-General.
Thus, we concur in the importance of adapting our efforts to the local context and in addressing the deep causes of insecurity. We also believe fundamental the creation and strengthening of inclusive political, economic and social structures, capable of responding to the needs of all citizens, appropriately managing diversity and effectively addressing issues such as reduction of inequalities, fostering a robust and inclusive economic growth, the creation of opportunities, generation of income and attention to vulnerable groups.

Our experience also highlights the importance of local ownership. In other words, priorities, needs and solutions must be determined and owned locally, with the active participation of all stakeholders, especially civil society and women. In this regard, it is fundamental to ensure that people are aware and fulfill their rights as well as that the rights of the most vulnerable groups are protected. It is also instrumental to foster trust and social cohesion among different groups and communities through the creation and strengthening of mechanisms and platforms for dialogue and cooperation that link local stakeholders in the search of collective responses.

Mr. President,

Phenomena such as urban growth and climate change pose new and complex challenges, highlighting the importance of a human security approach that is context-specific and multidimensional, addressing the various inter-related factors that lie at the root of insecurity. In this manner, with regard to climate change, it is pivotal to keep in mind not only its environmental, but also its economic and social consequences. It is also important to address the challenges posed by climate change in areas such as agriculture, nutrition, health, water or economic security. The end goal should be to achieve the resilience of the affected communities in the long term.

On the other hand, violence and armed conflict continue to pose serious challenges in terms of security, development and human rights. Violence hinders sustained progress for human security and gives way to setbacks. Hence, actions aimed at conflict prevention and peace consolidation are crucial. In this area, many of the previous considerations continue to be valid. A culture of conflict prevention and effective peace consolidation needs to be context-specific based on local empowerment and ownership as well as on solid mechanisms of democratic governance and a strong and inclusive rule of law, capable of meeting the needs of its citizens, balance inequalities, create opportunities and protect vulnerable groups.

Peace consolidation also requires instruments to foster trust, links and social cohesion among communities, particularly in post-conflict situations, with the aim of breaking the cycle of violence. In these situations, particularly important are mechanisms of support for internally displaced persons, transnational justice, participation of women in peace consolidation, as well as security sector reform and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, while granting special attention to the special needs of women and children.

Mr. President,

Important progress made in reducing absolute poverty at the global level in the past few years cannot make us forget that at the same time inequalities have increased both globally as well as domestically in certain countries, including in Middle Income Countries.
As the last report of the Secretary-General on Human Security points out, 1.2 billion people continue to live in situations of extreme poverty and must face serious deprivations due to inequalities based on gender, race, age and geographic location.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must include as a central goal the elimination of absolute poverty, but it is important that it also intend to balance extreme inequalities at the heart of society, in all of its forms, with regard to income, opportunities, voice or gender. Hence, the human security approach must occupy a central role in the Post-2015 Agenda, based on a deep reflection on the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals and the challenges still pending. In particular, as highlighted by the Secretary-General’s report, attention should be drawn to the challenges still pending in areas of health and maternal and infant mortality, in which it is instrumental to have a multidimensional human security approach that addresses the array of causes that hinder progress in these areas.

Spain is firmly committed to a human security approach as a universal framework to respond effectively to the challenges linked to the relationship between peace and security, development and human rights. We believe in the added value of the human security approach to address these challenges through comprehensive, long-term, context-specific and people-centred responses. We will continue to contribute actively towards the international community’s efforts under this approach.

Thank you.