



3rd ADESyD Congress

“Sharing (views on) Security”

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Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank Mr. Jesús Alonso Martín, Business Development Director of ISDEFE, and his excellent staff (Maria Jesús Olmedo, Natalia Garcillán and Lluís Vinagre) for providing once again the venue for ADESyD's 3rd Congress: *“Sharing (Views on) Security”*.

Likewise, I would like to extend my special thanks to our **Coordinator General** Dr. José Díaz Toribio for his work; to the Members of the **Organizing Committee** (Dr. Alfredo Crespo and Dr. Elvira Sánchez Mateos) and the **Members of our Board** for their efforts and dedication during these working months; to all ADESyD'S members who participate as **moderators and panelists** in this interesting seminar, and of course, to all of **you** for your attendance.

For us, today's Congress is particularly significant, since last 20 September 2016, **ADESyD** celebrated its **fifth anniversary**. Five years ago, the scenery was quite delicate, due to Spain's economic crisis with important ramifications in political, institutional and social areas. Then, a group of colleagues, who shared common concerns in these issues,

thought that the time had come to be innovative and consider **the crisis as an opportunity** to take action, committing ourselves even more with our society in the promotion of a **peace, security and defense culture**; the triad underpinning our well-fare. This is how we all came together under the motto: *"If you want peace, and security, defend them"*, *"Si vis pacem et securitatem, defende"*.

Today, the 89 honorary members and our 181 associates share a set of **values** with the sole purpose of being useful to our society, promoting dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding on issues related to peace, security and defense on the basis of respect, freedom, equality, cooperation and mutual assistance to achieve our goals.

Undoubtedly, each and every one of us, with our educational background and experience, share **objectives** which not only serve to make our Association more solid, but also those objectives are projected out of our respective professional environments to achieve much more together. We are academics, politicians, diplomats, militaries, policemen/women, civil guards, engineers, journalists, civil servants, lawyers, economists, scientists, aid workers and experts in the field of intelligence and private security, among others. All of us are fully identified with article 30 of The **Spanish Constitution** concerning the right and duty of Spaniards to defend Spain, with a comprehensive, inclusive and multidimensional view of security, as included in the **National Security Strategy** of May 2013.

But our Association is also opened to foreign partners- as we already have in Brazil and Colombia- who have carried out post-graduate courses in Spain and wish to offer their expertise to enhance a security culture based on knowledge, awareness and understanding on these issues. Particularly, I would like to include **gender mainstreaming** in all our activities. Thus, *Spanish Women in International Security (SWIIS)* was born, integrated into the WIIS-Global network with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Among the issues we are interested in as a plural and cross-generational, responsible and participatory civil society organization, we can emphasize the **regional**

challenges posed in different geographic domains (Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Americas, Africa and Asia-Pacific), as well as **other issues** we have been addressing in our activities over the last five years, such as:

- the normative framework regulating national defense (2005), national security (2014), the State's action and foreign service (2014), private security (2014), the protection of citizens' security and the national system of civil protection (2015);
- doctrine development of different sector strategies: maritime security, cybersecurity and national energy security;
- the organization, structure and missions both of the Armed Forces and State Security Forces and Bodies with particular attention to family support, particularly when their members are in operations abroad;
- the contribution of companies of this sector to our physical and shared security;
- the analysis of major challenges affecting us, such as terrorism and violent extremism, organized crime, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biologic and radiologic) and small and light weapons; regional conflicts and the need to eradicate sexual violence particularly against women and children, piracy, information security, food safety, sustainable development, environment, climate change, etc.

In the face of these **challenges**, we count with important **State** instruments, and other tools - provided by **International Organizations** of which Spain is member - working every day to prevent, manage and respond, if necessary, to the **threats** affecting our security.

There is, however, broad consensus at international level that no single actor can meet all these security challenges alone. Thus, from **ADESyD-SWIIS**, we feel the

responsibility to join efforts and combine our wills with those of other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working in those fields. Protecting the rights of all citizens is, after all, a **shared responsibility**; the cornerstone of our progress and development, and whose respect and protection are a guarantee for peace and stability, not only in our country, but also in other nations, particularly those living in conflict situations.

With this belief and fully aware that an **ongoing outreach effort** is required- which will be appreciated in the longer term- over the last five years we have worked closely with **public, private and civil society institutions**, as well as with several **international organizations** with whom we share common interests, as for example, with the EU, NATO, the Council of Europe and The Organization of American States (OAS), thanks to the generous and altruistic work of our members, and their readiness to share their expertise and concerns.

Moreover, following a maxim stated in many UN documents, there is a growing need for establishing strategic alliances conducive to tangible **results** on the basis of predefined objectives. Among our accomplishments, I would like to highlight five Summer Courses, three National Congresses, multiple Discussion Fora, publications, photography exhibitions, videos and 87 free Informative Newsletters on our website www.adesyd.es, on @ADESyD2011 @SWIIS2011 and on our YouTube channel.

All such practices lead to broadly disseminating a **peace, security and defense culture** with the aim to positively affect our society and the institutions representing us, thus favoring networking. Accordingly, we opt for a **transformational leadership**¹ based on the establishment of behavior standards inspired in the collaboration and cooperation among citizens, boosting morale and strengthening their aspirations through the acknowledgment of their **contributions and achievements** in the security field. From our point of view, it is a new leadership based on the ongoing interaction and knowledge sharing, true example of our commitment with the social base and the public space where we operate.

Ultimately, from ADESyD-SWIIS, we share a **tolerance and respect** culture among people, societies and nations, and we understand that **ongoing education and training** are the best means to assist in that transformation, seeking to **enlighten** people on these issues, to the best of our ability.

Today, **we can congratulate ourselves for having emerged, evolved and started to grow together**, thanks to the support of **institutions and companies**, who continue believing in our initiative: ISDEFE, the National Intelligence Center, the National Security Department, the Armed Forces and Civil Guard Foundation, Peldaño's Security Papers, the Higher Institute for Communication and Events, and also H4DM and General Dynamics and Santa Barbara Systems, which have collaborated in this occasion. Let us hope that we will continue to move forward and that **more members and entities** will join in this task, participating actively and generously to make our roots stronger and more solid in the national social fabric.

To conclude, I would like to quote **Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra**, now that we are commemorating the fourth anniversary of his death on 22 Abril, 1616. No one, better than him, as an infantry soldier and writer, represents these two great professions:

*"...letters say that without them arms cannot maintain themselves, for war, too, has its laws and is governed by them, and laws belong to the domain of letters and men of letters. To this arms make answer that without them laws cannot be maintained, for by arms states are defended, kingdoms preserved, cities protected, roads made safe, seas cleared of pirates; and, in short, if it were not for them, states, kingdoms, monarchies, cities, ways by sea and land would be exposed to the violence and confusion which war brings with it..."*²

¹ For a definition of this concept, look at the UN Economic and Social Council: *Developing transformative leadership and enhancing relevant competencies of public servants*, 25 January 2016 E/C.16/2016/7, page 2.

² CHAPTER XXXVIII: On the interesting speech made by Don Quixote on arms and letters. <http://cvc.cervantes.es/literatura/clasicos/quijote/edicion/parte1/cap38/default.htm>



Shifting our focus from these two great careers to voluntary work, and thus, to **associationism**, I would like to refer to some apocryphal statements, attributed to the renowned writer from Alcala de Henares:

“Today is one of the most beautiful days of our lives (as Association...) the most welcome sensations, good conscience, the effort to be better without being perfect, and above all, the will to do good...” serving our society better, and therefore, Spain.

My special appreciation to **ADESyD's team**, without which nothing would have been possible. I would like to mention Marina Cuní, Lourdes Albacete, Alfredo Crespo, José Díaz Toribio, Elvira Sánchez Mateos, Montserrat Ferrero, Ana Belén Perianes, Ángel Fonseca Requena, Arancha Morales, Enrique Aguilar, but there are many others...

I am aware that some of you have come to Madrid from Barcelona, Cordoba, Zaragoza, Segovia....to attend this Conference.

To all of you welcome and thank you very much. Together, we keep adding on!!
We are ADESyD!! #SomosADESyD