

5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria · Spain

1<sup>ST</sup>



# ENCOUNTER BETWEEN AFRICA AND SPAIN



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain,  
a hub for relations with Africa

# Welcome

## DEAR FRIEND,

As General Director of Casa África, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the *1st Think Tank Encounter between Africa and Spain*. We believe it to be a meeting of great importance and we hope that it will be useful to all concerned.

This initiative has come about as we are aware of the undeniable and growing capacity of *think tanks* to analyse and influence the discussion and formulation of policy and public opinion. An influence that extends also to African contexts and that could play an important role in the empowerment of the African agenda globally.

In Spain, the growing interest in Africa is reflected not only in the growing presence of Spanish companies there, but also in the ever greater amount of information, research and publications on the continent. Something that necessarily affects all areas of our society, from the Spanish public and institutional agenda to the Spanish people, encompassing the media and Internet. We are drawing ever closer together and becoming ever more aware of our interconnectedness.

The work of Casa África has, since its inception, focused on building networks of all kinds between African and Spanish institutions and citizens. This meeting is part of this tradition – of facilitator and meeting point – bringing together representatives from some of the leading African think tanks with Sub-Saharan Africa specialists from leading European and Spanish think tanks.



“OUR GOAL WITH THIS ENCOUNTER IS TO FACILITATE INTERACTION AND FOSTER NETWORKS BETWEEN THINK TANKS”

The event will culminate in the signing of the *Declaration of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria* aimed at strengthening long-term relations between Spanish, European and African think tanks, and at prolonging the life of this meeting, which we hope will become a regular fixture. I hope you find it productive and profitable and that you return home with new contacts, potential projects and ideas.

Warm greetings,

**Luis Padrón López**  
General Director of Casa África



“ THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> THINK-TANK ENCOUNTER BETWEEN AFRICA AND SPAIN BRINGS TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM SOME OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING AFRICAN THINK TANKS WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM SPAIN AND THE REST OF EUROPE IN ORDER TO PRODUCE AND CONSOLIDATE SYNERGIES ”

This meeting will be divided over two days. The first will be an internal roundtable, in which each think tank will present their areas of work and interests with a view to future synergies. The second, a half-day event, is open to the public and will feature discussions on two central themes proposed by our African colleagues: the evolution of armed conflict and responding to it, and prospects for youth and development.

FOR UPDATED INFORMATION:

[www.casafrica.es/thinktanks](http://www.casafrica.es/thinktanks)

## DECLARATION OF LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

The Encounter will end with the signing of a joint declaration of intent focusing on:

- Consolidating relations between the Spanish and African think tanks
- Promoting the work of the African think tanks through Casa África by translating key documents into Spanish and disseminating them
- Holding the think tank encounter at least every two years

THURSDAY  
5<sup>th</sup>  
NOVEMBER

# Programme

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>

9:00 **Opening session**

**Luis Padrón**, General Director of Casa África. Welcome and presentation of Casa África

9:15 **Presentation of the think tank representatives**

**Íñigo Macías**, consultant to Casa África

General presentation (think tank participants, overall figures and main points as collected in the survey) and the methodology to be followed in the workshops. Short presentation by each of the participants (name, institution and expectations with respect to workshop)

10:15 **Opening conference: Present-day European and African think tanks: challenges and perspectives**, by **Enrique Mendizabal**, Director of On Think Tanks, followed by round of questions

Subjects to be considered:

- Analysis of the present situation of think tanks: structure, research, political impact and financing.
- Identification of possible common ground for work between European and African think tanks

**Chair: Íñigo Macías**, consultant to Casa África

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Debate: common ground of the Africa and Europe international agenda**

**Chair: Patricia Garrido**, Coordination Committee of GEA-UAM

12:45 **Debate: common challenges in research and advocacy**

**Chair: María Solanas**, Project Manager at the Elcano Royal Institute

14:00 Lunch in Casa África

15:30 **Debate: common challenges in the mobilisation of resources for financing**

**Chair: Enrique Mendizabal**, Director of On Think Tanks

16:45 **Summary of proceedings**

**Íñigo Macías**, consultant to Casa África

Representative of Casa África

17:30 **End of the workday**

FRIDAY  
6<sup>th</sup>  
NOVEMBER

# Programme

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

9:00 **Opening session**

**Luis Padrón**, General Director of Casa África

**Tomás Poveda**, Director of Media and Public Diplomacy at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

**Pablo Martín-Carbajal**, General Director of Economic Affairs with Africa of the Government of the Canary Islands

9:30 **Inaugural conference: The role of think tanks in developing countries**, by **Victor Borges**, Program Director of the Cape Verde Foundation for Development and International Exchanges (FDI-CV)

10:15 **Panel 1: The present (in)security in Africa**

**Chair: Alex Vines**, Research Director of Chatham House

**Panellists: Natacha Kunama**, Coordinator Peacemaking Unit of ACCORD

Diagnosis of the situation of armed violence in the continent: causes, dynamics and main players

**Gustavo Barros de Carvalho**, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Security Studies

Responses from within and without the continent for peacebuilding and consolidation

11:30 Coffee Break

12:00 **Panel 2: The present-day development challenges for African youth**

**Chair: Grace Obado**, President of Africa 2.0 Spain Chapter

**Panellists: Olaf Bachmann**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College

State-building and African youth (city development, social networks, Sub-Saharan Spring)

**Vera Magan Jawol**, Vice Chair at the Africa Youth Panel

**Debate open to floor**

13:15 **Closing conference: The relations between Spain and African research centres**, by **Ricardo López-Aranda**, Policy Planning Director, at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

14:00 **Conclusions and signing of the DECLARATION OF LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA**

14:30 Cocktail

# Participants



**Natacha Kunama**  
Coordinator Peacemaking Unit

**ACCORD**  
Durban, South Africa

Natacha Kunama is the Coordinator of the Peacemaking Unit at ACCORD. In this capacity, she leads the operational and strategic implementation of peacemaking initiatives. The goal is to prevent the occurrence of violent conflict and to promote mediation as a tool for peaceful resolution of conflicts in Africa. She also contributed to enhancing police capacity to participate in peacekeeping with the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre based in Canada. She also worked with the UN Office in Burundi as the national lead on the disarmament of civilians and the fight against the proliferation of small arms.



ACCORD is a non-governmental organisation, based in Durban, South Africa, specialising in the field of conflict prevention and resolution on the African continent. Over the last 23 years ACCORD has prioritized mediation and dialogue as the most viable, non-military response to what is often violent and intractable social conflict on the continent. Through this approach ACCORD's expertise is primarily composed of research, individual and institutional capacity development, policy advice and operational support.

[accord.org.za](http://accord.org.za)



**Grace Obado**  
President Spain Chapter

**Africa 2.0**  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Grace Obado serves on the board of Africa 2.0 International Foundation, and she is also the chapter head for Spain. She is an Associate Professor of International Relations at IE University and Schiller International University and previously worked as the International Coordinator for ENIASA, European Network for Information and Action for Southern Africa. She designed, implemented and evaluated various projects on peace, democracy and sustainable development. Together with ACTSA (U.K member of ENIASA), she also coordinated the campaign to support Nelson Mandela's court petition to reduce the prices of HIV-AIDS drugs.



Founded in 2010, Africa 2.0 gathers a community of 500 young African leaders from more than 41 nationalities sharing a collective vision for Africa. The members are committed to piloting and scaling up sustainable solutions capable of leapfrogging the development of the continent. Africa 2.0 is a D-ink Tank (a Think Tank that Does Things) committed to thought leadership through concrete and exemplary actions. It is based on cross-fertilization of knowledge, ideas, experiences, research and lessons learnt.

[africa2point0.org](http://africa2point0.org)



**Olaf Bachmann**

Visiting Senior Research Fellow

**African Leadership Centre (ALC)**  
London, United Kingdom  
Nairobi, Kenya

Born in Germany in autumn 1961, married, living in Palma de Mallorca, and London. He holds a PhD in War Studies, and a MA (Distinction) in War in the Modern World. As a visiting senior research fellow at King's and co-founder of a related consultancy his research and writing is on the APSA, and the history and contemporary state of African military and warfare. He spent many years of field research in Central Africa, mainly in Gabon, Cameroon, Rwanda, and the DRC. He is a member of the Royal African Society and King's Africa Research Group. He teaches on the Governance of Security and State Formation.



The African Leadership Centre (ALC) aims to generate cutting-edge knowledge to transform discourses on peace, security and development in Africa and the developing world. Sitting within the School of Global Affairs at King's College London, and including a semi-autonomous research centre in Nairobi, Kenya, the ALC seeks to achieve this through a combination of research, teaching, mentoring and specialised Fellowships. This unique partnership enables the ALC to develop new and innovative ways to advance a new generation of 'home-grown' talent in Africa.

[africanleadershipcentre.org](http://africanleadershipcentre.org)



**Vera Magan Jawol**

Vice Chair

**African Youth Panel**  
Tamale-Northern region, Ghana

Vera Magan Jawol has gained a wide range of experience and has contributed to youth development work at local, national and international levels. She is currently the Co-Chair of the Africa Youth Panel (AYP) and Technical Advisor for Advocacy, Gender and Youth for Youth Empowerment for Life (YEfL) in North Ghana. She also has experience as a board member of youth organisations as she worked as a volunteer for the Youth Forum Project as a Steering Committee member, and as a board member for Youth Employment Project from 2006 to 2010.



The African Youth Panel (AYP) was initiated by the Danish NGO Forum in spring 2008 to provide input to the Danish Africa Commission (DAC) on what youth can do in Africa's development as well as in what development partners should do to ensure that tangible results are achieved with their support. The Panel is a non-profit and non-governmental platform of young people (individual and organizational leaders) from different African Countries and consists of members with diverse skills and backgrounds.

[africanyouthpanel.org](http://africanyouthpanel.org)



**Victor Borges**

Founder and President

**Cape Verde Foundation for Development and International Exchanges (FDI-CV)**  
Praia, Cape Verde

Mr. Victor Borges is an independent consultant, lecturer and trainer. Previously, Mr. Borges was the minister of foreign affairs, co-operation and communities of Cape Verde (2004-2008). He also served as minister of education, culture and sports (2001-2002) and human resources development (2002-2004). Mr. Borges was a visiting-fellow at the Bureau of European Policy Advisers, diplomat in residence at Bridgewater State University, visiting fellow at South African Institute of International Affairs and visiting professor in two Cape Verde Universities.



The Cape Verde Foundation for Development and International Exchanges, FDI-CV (Portuguese acronym) aims to carry out research, debates and international exchanges on development, governance, security and migrations and contribute to national capacity development. It was created on the assumption that research centres and think tanks are essential to help developing countries build coherent visions, sound policies, sustainable strategies and implement viable approaches.



**Chiqui Castellano Suárez**  
Director and Chief Executive

**Centro Atlántico de Pensamiento  
Estratégico (CATPE)**  
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria,  
Spain

Chiqui Castellano Suárez is the Director and Chief Executive of the Centro Atlántico de Pensamiento Estratégico Viera, where she is in charge of planning the annual objectives of the association and executing the decisions of the General Assembly. From 1999 to 2013 she was manager of the sales and marketing department at Almacenes Caspe SA. She also worked as an economist at the Official Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Navigation of Las Palmas between 1995 and 1999.



The Centro Atlántico de Pensamiento Estratégico (CATPE) is an independent, plural, non-profit think tank, without dominant partisan or ideological agendas. Created in 2011 in the Canary Islands with the wish to discuss, study, analyze, catalyse and propose ideas and actions aimed at designing and promoting a better socioeconomic future for the civil society of the Canary Islands. The main objective of CATPE is to influence policy decisions. Its members belong to the business or professional sector and have no political or ideological affiliations. They aspire to participate in the construction of the best possible future for the Canary Islands through innovative, integrated and coherent proposals, compatible with the economic and social reality of the region.

[catpe.es](http://catpe.es)



**José Sánchez Ruano**  
Board Member

**Centro Atlántico de Pensamiento  
Estratégico (CATPE)**  
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria,  
Spain

Since 2004, José Sánchez Ruano has managed his own company, Servicios Avanzados de Canarias S.L., a consultancy firm that specialises in economic, financial and business strategies, with particular focus on areas related to the European Union and international trade. His past professional appointments include: member of the board of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Las Palmas (from 2006 to 2010), and president of the board of the Gran Canaria Free Trade Zone (from 2001 to 2003).



The Centro Atlántico de Pensamiento Estratégico (CATPE) is an independent, plural, non-profit think tank, without dominant partisan or ideological agendas. Created in 2011 in the Canary Islands with the wish to discuss, study, analyze, catalyse and propose ideas and actions aimed at designing and promoting a better socioeconomic future for the civil society of the Canary Islands. The main objective of CATPE is to influence policy decisions. Its members belong to the business or professional sector and have no political or ideological affiliations. They aspire to participate in the construction of the best possible future for the Canary Islands through innovative, integrated and coherent proposals, compatible with the economic and social reality of the region.

[catpe.es](http://catpe.es)



**Dr. Samuel Nii Noi Ashong**  
Associate

**Center for Policy Analysis (CEPA)**  
Accra, Ghana

Dr. Ashong is currently a CEPA Associate where he worked as Research Fellow until August 2010. He was Minister of State for Economic Planning (from April 2003 to May 2005), Dean of the GIMPA Public Service School (September 2010 to July 2011) and Deputy Rector of GIMPA (from August 2011 to August 2014). He studied economics at both Ghana University and Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. He took a PhD at Boston University.



The Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA) was established on the 4th of January 1993 as an independent, non-governmental think-tank, which provides rigorous analysis and perspectives on economic policy issues of Ghana and the developing world. CEPA has a mandate to promote a non-partisan, informed debate on key policy issues on the economy of Ghana with emphasis on macroeconomics growth and poverty alleviation issues.

[cepa.org.gh](http://cepa.org.gh)



**José Adrián García Rojas**  
Director

**Center for African Studies,  
University of La Laguna  
(CEA-ULL)**  
Tenerife, Spain

José Adrián García Rojas is Professor of Political Science and Administration, Chairman of the General Election Commission of the University of La Laguna, Director of the Master in Regional Development and Director of the Center for African Studies at the University of La Laguna. He was Director of the Canary Island Institute of Public Administration (ICAP), Member of the Advisory Council of the President of the Canary Islands to reform the Statute of Autonomy, Secretary of the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science at the University of La Laguna, Secretary of the Center of African Studies of the University of La Laguna, and much more.



**Universidad de La Laguna**

The Centre for African Studies at the University of La Laguna started its activity in the early 90s, although it has been in continuous operation since 2007. Most of its members are part of the academic committee of professors and the Masters in African Studies. CEA-ULL maintains contact with other centers of African studies, such as LAM-HEP, Bordeaux and Center for African Studies (CAS) of the University of Florida, Gainesville.

[ull.es](http://ull.es)



**Dr. Alex Vines Obe**  
Research Director

**Chatham House**  
London, United Kingdom

Alex Vines is head of the Africa Programme at Chatham House and Director for Area Studies and International Law. He chaired the UN Panel of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire from 2005 to 2007, and was a member of the UN Panel of Experts on Liberia from 2001 to 2003. He has also been a UN election officer in Mozambique and Angola, and served as a consultant for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He worked at Human Rights Watch as a senior researcher.



Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is an independent policy institute based in London. Chatham House engages governments, the private sector, and civil society in debate and confidential discussion on significant developments in international affairs. Chatham House carries out independent and rigorous analysis of critical global, regional and country-specific challenges and opportunities. The Africa Programme explores key political, economic and social developments in sub-Saharan Africa.

[chathamhouse.org](http://chathamhouse.org)



**Kathleen Van Hove**  
Senior Policy Officer. Institutional  
Relations & Regional Integration

**European Centre for Development  
Policy Management (ECDPM)**  
Brussels, Belgium

Kathleen Van Hove works on regional integration processes and trade relations between Europe and the ACP regions. As senior policy officer in the institutional relations team she focuses on partnership development for the Centre. She joined ECDPM in 1997. She has been an active member of the board of directors of International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (IILEAP) since 2004. She has a Masters in Science of Foreign Service (MSFS) from Georgetown University and a 'Licenciaat' in Economics from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL).



Established as an independent foundation in 1986, the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) has a strong reputation as a non-partisan, strategic "think and do tank". Their main goal is to link policy and practice in European development and international cooperation and to act as an independent broker between Europe, Africa and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP).

[ecdpm.org](http://ecdpm.org)



**Josep María Royo Aspa**  
Researcher

**Escola de Cultura de Pau**  
Barcelona, Spain

Josep María Royo Aspa has been a research fellow at the School for a Culture of Peace, a peace research centre at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) since 2000. His areas of interest include non-state armed actors, the analysis of armed conflicts and peace processes from a global and comparative perspective. His work is focused on sub-Saharan Africa, where he has conducted field research. He is a member of different networks on African studies, peace and HR and is member of the Board of the Catalan Federation of NGOs. He is also occasional adviser to various NGOs on African affairs and has driven advocacy. He holds a BA on Political Science by the UAB, a Master in International Relations, a Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Public Law and International Relations and a Diploma on Peace Culture.



The School for a Culture of Peace was created in 1999 with the aim to work on culture of peace related issues, such as human rights, analysis of conflicts and peace processes, education for peace, disarmament and the prevention of armed conflicts. The objectives of the School for a Culture of Peace are: To promote understanding and the implementation of the culture of peace. To investigate and intervene in areas related to conflicts, peace processes, gender and peace and education for peace. To give training to people who wish to disseminate the message and practice of a culture of peace.

[escolapau.uab.cat](http://escolapau.uab.cat)



**Elisa Díaz Martínez**  
Senior Researcher

**Fundación Alternativas**  
Madrid, Spain

Elisa Díaz Martínez is an economist, master and doctor in social sciences from the University of Oxford and the Juan March Institute. She has been advisor to the Government of Ontario (Canada), where she was responsible for strategy projects and the design and implementation of health and social policies. She has been Director of the Kozmetsky Center of Excellence in Global Finance at St. Edward's University (Austin, Texas). She has also been advisor on health, education and social policies at the Economic Office of the President of Spain. Her areas of research and interest are social inequalities and the design and evaluation of public policies.



**FUNDACIÓN  
alternativas**

Fundación Alternativas is a Spanish progressive think tank created in 1997 in Madrid which aims to discuss issues of interest to citizens and act as a channel of political, social, economic and cultural thought. Although many members of this think tank belong to the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (social-democrats), the Foundation has no legal or organizational relationship with this party.

[fundacionalternativas.org](http://fundacionalternativas.org)



**Patricia Garrido**  
Researcher

**Grupo de Estudios Africanos  
GEA-UAM**  
Madrid, Spain

Patricia Garrido graduated from the Law and Economic Science Faculty of the Comillas Pontifical University (ICADE). She also has a Master in Management of Non-Profit Organisations (UNED-Fundación Luis Vives) and Master in International Relations and African Studies (UAM). She is currently a researcher and a member of the Coordination Group of GEA (Grupo de Estudios Africanos, UAM). Patricia Garrido is specialized in issues concerning food sovereignty, natural resource management, development cooperation, regional integration processes, new African development proposals and sustainability.



Created in 1995, the African Studies Group (GEA) is an interdisciplinary research group of the Autonomous University of Madrid, which aims to promote multidisciplinary and critical knowledge about the realities of the African continent in Spain, as well as inter-university cooperation. GEA's work is based on three pillars: academic research policies, teaching and knowledge transfer.

[grupodeestudiosafricanos.org](http://grupodeestudiosafricanos.org)



**Jesús A. Núñez Villaverde**  
Co-Director of the IECAH

**IECAH**  
Madrid, Spain

Co-Director of the Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action (IECAH). He is a senior expert in conflict research, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and analysis of Middle Eastern, North African and Sub-Saharan Africa countries. Mr. Núñez has more than twenty five years of experience as a researcher, analyst, consultant and professor. He is a regular contributor to a number of newspapers, magazines and TV programs. He has a B.A. in Economics (UAM, Spain) and he is Graduate of the Spanish Military Academy of Zaragoza, Spain.

**.iecah.**

Instituto de Estudios sobre Conflictos y Acción Humanitaria  
Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action

The Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action (IECAH) was founded in the year 2000 and has its central office in Madrid. It is a private initiative which unites experts from various fields and geographic areas related to international conflict and cooperation with special emphasis on humanitarian action. It brings to bear expertise and activities on both an educational and research level, and from national and international perspectives and centers. IECAH unites considerable practical experience and knowledge from work for NGOs and other types of organizations active in the field of international cooperation.

[iecah.org](http://iecah.org)



**Victor Magnani**  
Project Officer at the Sub-Saharan Africa Program

**French Institute for International Relations (IFRI)**  
Paris, France

Graduated in Political Science & African Studies from the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Victor Magnani has had various work experiences in South Africa (French Consulate in Cape Town, South African Parliament, French Institute of South Africa) before joining the Sub-Saharan Africa Program in May 2015 as a Project Officer. His research focuses on Elections and political parties in Southern Africa.



Founded in 1979 on the model of Anglo-Saxon think tanks, Ifri is the principal institution for independent research and debate in France that is dedicated to the analysis of international affairs and global governance. Ifri's policy-oriented research strives to illuminate international events and put them in perspective. It is primarily useful for political and economic decision-makers as well as academics, opinion leaders, and civil society representatives. Created in 2007, the Sub-Saharan Africa Program of IFRI aims to produce a comprehensive analysis of the social, economic and political transformations of the African continent. The expertise of the program is policy-oriented. The various events and in-depth studies try to bridge a gap between academics, decision makers and the civil societies.

[ifri.org](http://ifri.org)



**Gustavo Barros de Carvalho**  
Senior Researcher

**Institute for Security Studies (ISS)**  
Pretoria, South Africa

Gustavo de Carvalho is a Senior Researcher on Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). Gustavo has extensive experience in capacity development, policy support and research initiatives in the peacebuilding field in Africa. From 2009 – 2014 he worked at ACCORD as a Peacekeeping Analyst, and later as Coordinator of its Peacebuilding Unit. Previously, he worked as a Researcher at Global Witness, in London, focusing on DRC and Somalia. Gustavo holds a bachelor degree in international relations from the University of Brasilia, and a MSc in African studies from the University of Oxford.



The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) is a leading African organisation that enhances human security to enable sustainable development and economic prosperity in Africa. Established in 1991, the ISS is now the continent's preeminent organisation on human security. It employs around 100 staff in its four offices in East Africa, Francophone West Africa, southern Africa, and Addis Ababa where the African Union (AU) is based. The ISS works across the continent, doing authoritative research, providing expert policy advice, and delivering training and technical assistance.

[issafrica.org](http://issafrica.org)



**Íñigo Macías Aymar**  
Independent Consultant

**IBEI / UAB**  
Spain

With a strong background in economics and specialised in international development and cooperation issues, Íñigo Macías has over 10 years of professional experience as researcher, advisor, consultant, and project/ programme manager both in the private and the public sector. He currently works as an independent consultant and holds associate positions at IBEI and UAB universities. Previously, he worked as Research Fellow on development and cooperation issues at CIDOB, as Policy Officer on aid and development alternatives at ACTIONAID UK and more recently as policy officer on policy coherence for development at the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation. He has fieldwork experience in different regions: Andean region (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru), Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua) and Sub-Saharan Africa (Dem. Rep. Congo).



IBEI is an inter-university institute created in 2004 as a joint initiative between five public universities in the Barcelona metropolitan area to promote postgraduate training and research in politics and international relations. Five institutions joined subsequently and IBEI is now consolidated and obtains a high level of recognition in academic research at a European and international level.

[ibei.org](http://ibei.org)



**Amadou Sall**  
Secretary in charge  
of the foreign relations  
and member of the Board

**Mauritanie Perspectives**  
Nouakchott, Mauritania

Amadou Sall is a mauritanian citizen, lecturer at the University of Nouakchott, and socio-anthropologist by training. He has more than twenty years of research experience and commitment to health and welfare, inequality and domination relations, social prejudice and discrimination etc. He is engaged in civil society, works and fights for the promotion of a new citizenship in his country. Specialized in gender equality, promotion of accountability and active nonviolence. He is also a Human Rights observer to the African Union.



Mauritanie-Perspectives is an independent and non-profit association. It is made up of personalities from various backgrounds, experts, academics, senior officials and officials, businessmen, etc. Its objectives are: encourage the development of public institutions; contribute to the consolidation of the rule of law in Mauritania, the exchange of action-oriented ideas, reflections, analyses and proposals; develop partnerships with networks of associations pursuing, regionally or internationally, similar, complementary or related goals.

[mp.mr](http://mp.mr)



**Ricardo López-Aranda Jagu**  
Policy Planning Director

**Policy Planning Unit,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and Cooperation**  
Madrid, Spain

Ricardo López-Aranda is a member of the Spanish Diplomatic Service. He has been posted to the Office of the Spanish President of the Government, where he was in charge of African affairs. He has also been Deputy Head of Mission of Spain in Nicaragua and more recently in South Africa, and deputy representative to the Political and Security Council of the European Union. Following that, he headed the Department of European Common Foreign and Security Policy at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was also part of the team working for the Spanish candidature to the UN Security Council before being appointed Policy Planning Director at the Spanish MFA.



The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation plans, directs, implements and assesses Spain's foreign policy and development cooperation policy. The Policy Planning Unit at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation is responsible for political strategic planning and long term analysis of regional and global trends, and plays a special role in the relations between the Ministry and both Spanish and international think tanks.

[exteriores.gob.es](http://exteriores.gob.es)



**Hannah Wambui Kihui**  
Program Coordinator

**National Civic Forum- Somalia**  
Mogadishu, Somalia

Wambui has over 10 years experience as a programme manager and trainer. She is an accomplished human rights, conflict and gender analyst and a trainer in different aspects of gender equality, equity, gender based violence, sexual and reproductive health rights, community mobilization/lobbying and advocacy, networking and coalition building and gender and governance. She is also an accomplished rapporteure and has significant experience in carrying out social research. Wambui has a Masters of Arts in Armed Conflict and Peace Studies and Bachelor of Education in Linguistics and Literature. She also holds a diploma in Journalism.

The National Civic Forum (NCF) is an independent, non-partisan organization founded by a cohort of Somali professionals and scholars that met on September 20th – 24th in Nairobi, Kenya. NCF's mission is to generate and disseminate creative ideas that will assist in the establishment of a democratic political order, durable peace, justice, rule of law, and sustainable development. Since its inception, the NCF has continued to work with other Somali and Non-Somali, State and non-State Actors to promote national reconciliation, social reintegration and confidence-building.

[somali.net](http://somali.net)



**Enrique Mendizabal**  
Director

**On Think Tanks**  
London, United Kingdom  
Lima, Peru

Enrique Mendizabal lives in Lima and is the founder of On Think Tanks ([onthinktanks.org](http://onthinktanks.org)) and other initiatives such as Politics and Ideas ([politicsandideas.org](http://politicsandideas.org)), the On Think Tanks Exchange ([exchange.onthinktanks.org](http://exchange.onthinktanks.org)), the On Think Tanks Data Visualisation Competition ([ttdatavis.onthinktanks.org](http://ttdatavis.onthinktanks.org)), and an annual prize to the best Peruvian think tanks with Revista PODER ([premiopoder.pe](http://premiopoder.pe)). Until 2010 he led the Research and Policy in Development programme at the Overseas Development Institute in London where he promoted the formation of the Evidence based in Development Network and the Outcome Mapping Learning Community.

## on think tanks

*Independent research, ideas and advice*

On Think Tanks is the leading global platform providing independent research, ideas and advice on the art and science of managing and supporting think tanks. It hosts topic guides, thematic and country series, interviews with think tank leaders, publications, manuals and practical guides, and online workshops and meetings.

[onthinktanks.org](http://onthinktanks.org)



**María Solanas**  
Project Manager

**Real Instituto Elcano**  
Madrid, Spain

María Solanas is Project Manager at the Elcano Royal Institute. She has a BA in Sociology & Political Science and a BA in Journalism from the Complutense University of Madrid. Previously she was Executive Adviser on International Affairs at the Spanish Prime Minister's Office (2004-11), and was responsible for Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa, in addition to immigration and human rights. Her research areas are Spanish foreign policy, gender issues, global governance, EU-Latin America relations and Sub-Saharan Africa.



The Elcano Royal Institute is a think-tank for international and strategic studies that analyses world events and trends from a Spanish, European and global perspective. The Institute focuses on both specific topics and geographical areas. Among the former are energy, cooperation for development, security and defence, international terrorism, Spain's image abroad, and demography and migrations; the latter include Europe, the Atlantic world, Latin America, Asia Pacific and North Africa and the Middle East

[rielcano.org](http://rielcano.org)



**Germán Santana Pérez**

Professor and Director of Historical  
Sciences Department

**University of Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria**

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria,  
Spain

Professor Germán Santana is a prominent historian of the early modern period of the Atlantic and Africa in particular. He currently teaches at the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, as Associate Professor, where he directs an interdisciplinary program in Hispano-African Relations through history. To his extensive list of publications on relations between Africa and Spain, Professor Santana adds the experience of his international projection.



The ULPGC was founded in 1989, and in a few years has managed to position itself as a leading Spanish university, highlighting the use of new technologies, research related to marine and maritime areas, international mobility programs and its close involvement with the local community, with sound finances and high science productivity. ULPGC has more than 1,500 teachers who carry out important research activity in 153 research groups.

[ulpgc.es](http://ulpgc.es)

www.casafrica.es  
blog.africavive.es  
kuwamba.es  
facebook.com/Casa.Africa  
twitter.com/casafrica  
instagram.com/casafrica  
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issuu.com/casafrica

# Casa Africa

“CASA ÁFRICA IS A PUBLIC CONSORTIUM THAT SERVES SPAIN’S FOREIGN POLICY, AS A TOOL FOR PUBLIC, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY”

Casa Africa organises activities primarily economic in nature, but also institutional, social and cultural, always with the intention of developing long lasting relations between Spain and Africa. Its work is defined by a dual purpose: firstly, to raise awareness in African countries of our priorities in key sectors; secondly, to make the people of Spain aware of the realities of Africa.

The key to public diplomacy is the ability to communicate and form alliances. We pursue transparent communication that projects our values and interests as well as open dialogue with the world at large in pursuit of synergies and common agendas.

Casa África facilitates face-to-face meetings between Spaniards and Africans, underscored by the conviction that the mutual knowledge, understanding and trust that this engenders is what, at the end of the day, makes a difference. Partnerships with research centres that specialise in Africa are another constant priority of the consortium.

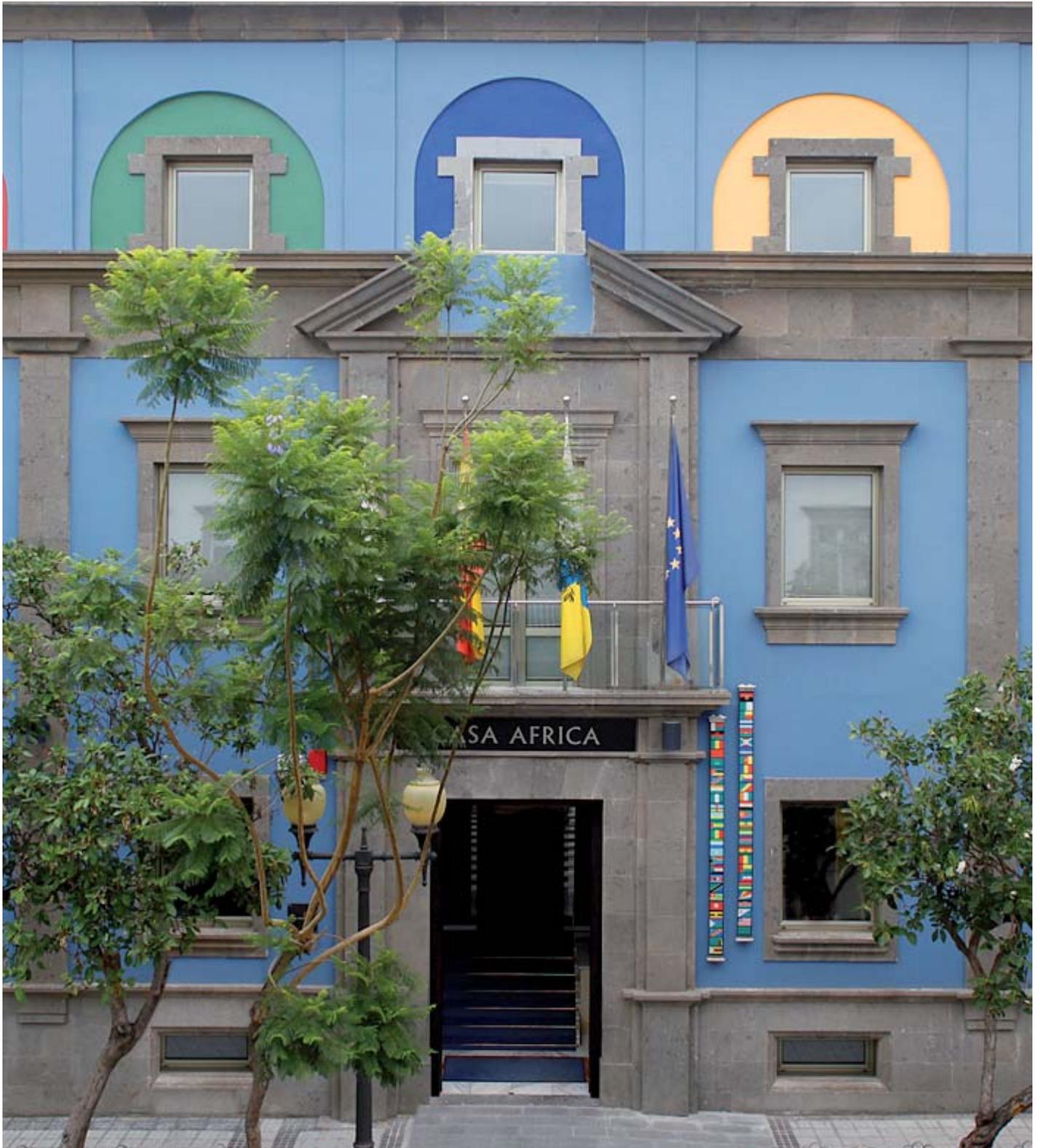
In recent times Casa África has significantly increased its support for strategic studies by the most prestigious and relevant think tanks in Spain, Africa and the rest of the world. The goals are the same: to build Spanish-African relations and common agendas and, within the framework of public diplomacy, to contribute to the dissemination of new knowledge, develop new insights and convey them to the general public.

Casa África was founded in June 2006 and is located in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. It is a public consortium integrated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Government of the Canary Islands and the Town Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It is part of the Spanish public diplomacy network of Casas, alongside Casa de América, Casa Árabe, Casa Asia, Casa Mediterráneo and Centro Sefarad-Israel.

CASA AFRICA CONSORTIUM



# AFRICA AND SPAIN, EVER CLOSER



# CANARY ISLANDS

## EUROPEAN BUSINESS HUB IN AFRICA



Integrated in the main international trade routes, the Canary Islands constitute an excellent commercial and logistics hub between Africa, America and Europe. It is also a platform for Humanitarian Aid to West Africa.

The investment in infrastructures and the natural conditions of the Archipelago allow its residents to enjoy an excellent quality of life, where business activity combines to perfection with the best leisure offers.

## FULLY INTEGRATED IN THE EU AND IN THE € AREA

## MAXIMUM LEGAL GUARANTEE

## GREAT TAX ADVANTAGES

## DOUBLE TAXATION CONVENTIONS

## HEADQUARTERS FOR EXPATRIATES IN AFRICA

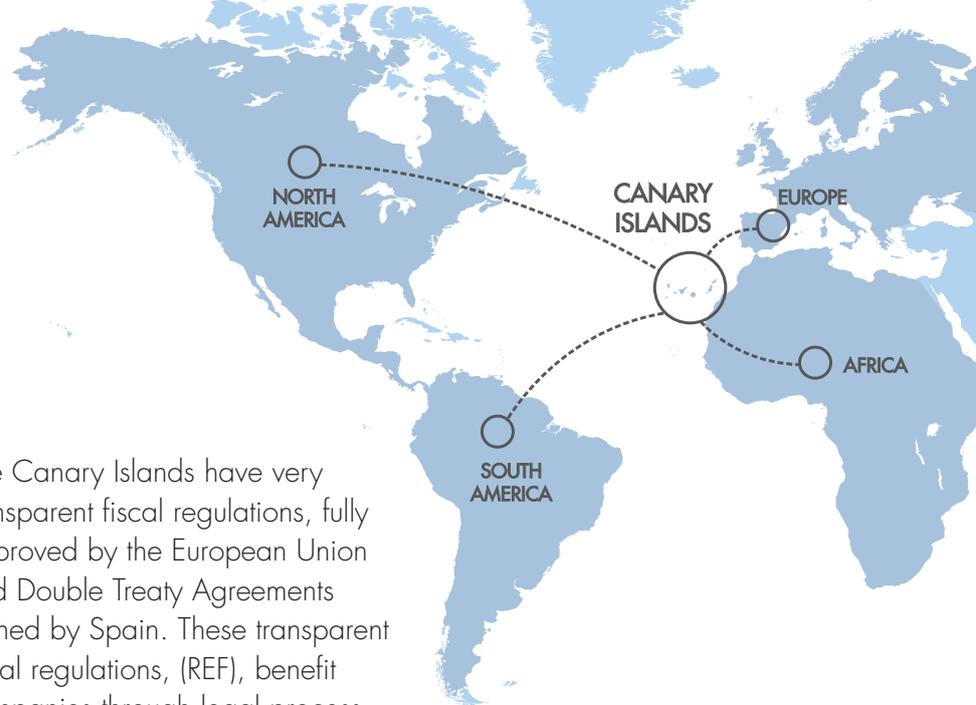
The Canary Islands are one of Spain's seventeen autonomous communities and, as such, form part of the European Union (EU) and of the Euro Zone. As a European region, the Canary Islands are subject to the European legal system, and one of the highest standards of international legal security.

The Canary Islands have very transparent fiscal regulations, fully approved by the European Union and Double Treaty Agreements signed by Spain. These transparent fiscal regulations, (REF), benefit companies through legal process cost reductions. They not only provide the possibility of benefiting from a reduced 4% Corporation Tax, among other tax incentives, but also apply the double taxation agreements signed by Spain.

Their eight airports, six of which are international airports, receive more than 34 million passengers per year. The excellent air connectivity allows more than 400 direct flights per week with the United Kingdom and around 300 with Germany, just to quote an example.

The Canary Islands have a wide network of commercial ports, fishing ports and marinas, some of which rank among the leading ports of Spain in passenger and freight traffic. The Archipelago is a crossroads in the routes between Europe, America, Africa and, in the last few decades, Asia. In addition, the Port of La Luz is a strategic supply, bunkering and ship repair station in the Atlantic.

There is an excellent telecommunication network in place thanks to the submarine fibre-optic cable connections and the 50 satellites that provide communications services in the Archipelago.



“THERE ARE 43  
FLIGHTS PER WEEK  
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INCLUDING THE  
MAIN AIRPORTS  
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SENEGAL,  
MAURITANIA,  
CAPE VERDE AND  
THE GAMBIA”



[www.canaryislandshub.com](http://www.canaryislandshub.com)



# LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is the most cosmopolitan city of the Canaries and one of the cities with the best weather in the world thanks to its exceptional location with an average temperature of 17°C in winter and 25°C in summer.

The capital has well differentiated areas: the historic old town and the port area, not forgetting the upper part of town. But Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is especially known for the Canteras Beach, one of the most recognised urban beaches in Europe. The Port of Las Palmas, La Luz Port, has also contributed to the city's character and its relevance due to its steady flow of people, goods and services. It is also the welcoming entrance to the city for tourism cruises with around 800,000 visitors every year.



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria shows the historic traces of the footsteps of kings, explorers and distinguished visitors through the historic neighbourhoods of Triana and Vegueta. Strolling around the colonial-style streets of Vegueta is like travelling to the past of a city with more than five centuries of history, a city that has witnessed the passage of historical characters like Christopher Columbus, a city that has suffered the greed of pirates from foreign lands due to its strategic location.

**More information about the history of the Canary Islands:**  
[www.lonelyplanet.com/canary-islands/gran-canaria/las-palmas-de-gran-canaria/history](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/canary-islands/gran-canaria/las-palmas-de-gran-canaria/history)

# MUSEUMS

## Museo Canario

[www.elmuseocanario.com](http://www.elmuseocanario.com)  
daily, from 10:00 to 20:00h,  
except Saturdays and Sundays  
from 10:00 to 14:00h.

## Centro Atlántico Arte Moderno (CAAM)

[www.caam.net](http://www.caam.net)  
Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00 to  
21:00, Sundays to 14:00h.

## Casa de Colón

[www.casadecolon.com](http://www.casadecolon.com)  
Monday to Saturday from 10:00  
to 18:00h, Sundays and public  
holidays, 10:00 to 15:00h.

## Museo Elder de la Ciencia y la Tecnología

[www.museoelder.org](http://www.museoelder.org)  
Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00 to  
20.00h

# GASTRONOMY



Goat meat, pork, veal and not forgetting chicken and rabbit are the meats used in Gran Canaria cuisine. For fish, the most typical is 'cherne', a delicious whitefish, but also grouper, sea bass, old red "vieja" and tuna are the ones to look out for, as fresh fish will not be lacking on any good table at many coastal restaurants.

Gran Canaria produces a wide variety of cheeses, with flavours and textures that vary depending on the area of the island. They are both industrially produced and farmhouse cheeses, made with milk of goats, cows, sheep or mixing various types, and the climatic characteristics of each area give them their particularities.

## List of restaurants in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria:

[www.lpavisit.com/en/dine](http://www.lpavisit.com/en/dine)



# CRAFTWORK

Canary craftwork products are exclusive items of great value, such as embroidered linens and our famous Canary knives. With the added value of them being handmade, and backed by our long tradition, they are unique works of art which are simply not available elsewhere, but which can be easily found at our FEDAC shops. [www.fedac.org](http://www.fedac.org)

## FOR MORE TOURIST INFORMATION:

[www.lpavisit.com](http://www.lpavisit.com)

[www.grancanaria.com/patronato\\_turismo](http://www.grancanaria.com/patronato_turismo)



# SHOPPING

## Triana

[www.zonatriana.com](http://www.zonatriana.com)

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 20:00h.

## Mesa y López and Port Area

[www.mesaylopez.net](http://www.mesaylopez.net)

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 20:00h.

## Art and Craft Market (Vegueta)

Sundays from 10:00 to 14:00h.

## El Muelle Shopping Centre

(next to Cruise Terminal Station)

[www.ccelmuelle.es](http://www.ccelmuelle.es)

Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 22:00h.

Open on Sundays from October to April.

## El Corte Inglés Department Store

(Mesa y López)

[www.elcorteingles.es](http://www.elcorteingles.es)

Monday to Saturday and public holidays from 09:30 to 21:30h.

Open on Sundays from October to April.

## Las Arenas Shopping Centre

(at the far end of Paseo de Las Canteras)

[www.cclasarenas.com](http://www.cclasarenas.com)

Monday to Saturday from 10:00 to 22.00h.

Open on Sundays from October to April.

Generally Las Palmas is a safe city with no crime or red zones. Caution might be advised around the Port Area during the night though, and please, keep an eye on your belongings at the beach.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## AC Hotel Iberia Las Palmas

Address: Avenida Alcalde J.

Ramirez Bethencourt 8, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Las Palmas 35003 Spain

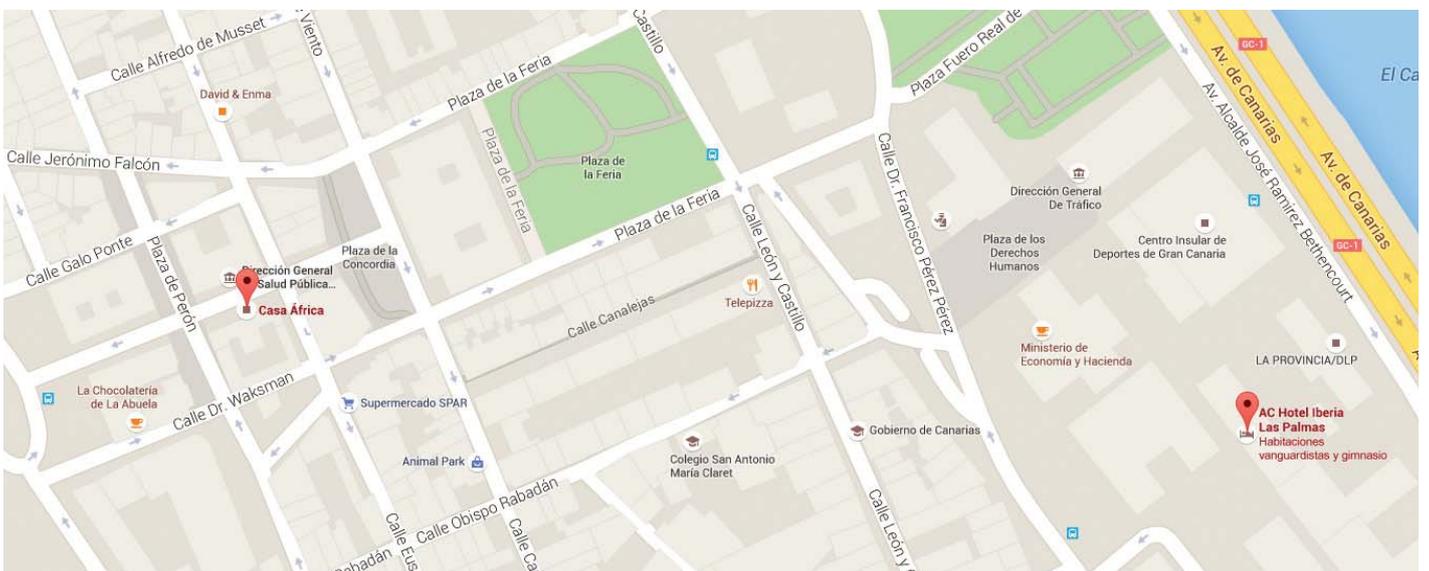
Phone: +34 928 361133

Hotel AC Iberia Las Palmas is located near Casa África (5 minutes on foot) and the shopping and cultural centre of the city, the

Vegueta Neighbourhood, in the Las Palmas promenade. This hotel has been completely refurbished in accordance with the AC Hotels standards. Each room features individual minibar, plasma TV with over 20 channels, individual air conditioning and fully equipped bathroom. The hotel offers free Wi-Fi Internet in common areas, characteristic AC Lounge, fitness

centre, AC breakfast buffet, and outdoor rooftop swimming pool with solarium.

The AC hotel provides a transportation service that is at your disposal to take you the airport at departure. We will give you a note to remember the date, time and location and the driver will pick you up to go to the airport from the hotel entrance.



# PHONE NUMBERS

## CASA ÁFRICA

Alfonso XIII, 5  
35003 Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
Spain  
Tel.: +34 928 432 800  
Fax: +34 928 380 683

**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday  
from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Ana Cárdenes, Head of Business  
and Economy Department:  
**+34 626 001 276**

## Taragranca (Radio Taxi)

Phone: (+34) 928 460 000

## Servitaxi Gran Canaria

Phone: (+34) 928 931 931

## Buses

[www.globalsu.net](http://www.globalsu.net)

## Airport

Phone: (+34) 928 579 088  
(+34) 928 579 089

## Emergencies

Phone: 092  
Phone: 112

## Tourist Police

Phone: (+34) 928 262 313  
(call Service in English)

## Hospital Universitario de Gran Canaria Doctor Negrín

Address: C/Barranco de la Ballena  
Phone: (+34) 928 450 000

## Hospital Insular de Gran Canaria

Address: Plaza Doctor Pasteur  
Phone: (+34) 928444000



CASA ÁFRICA

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