



Oral Statement

Human Rights Council 60th Session

Agenda Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Adoption of the UPR outcome of Spain

26 September 2025

Delivered by Rev. Samuel Munyiri

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance, together with our members, the European Evangelical Alliance and the Alianza Evangélica Española, thank Spain for its constructive engagement in the UPR process. We welcome its acceptance of recommendations promoting non-discrimination, including measures to protect religious minorities through legislative and policy adjustments.

We affirm the value of the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism in advancing these commitments. However, it is essential that promises translate into effective measures.

In this regard, we wish to highlight the long-standing and unresolved situation of retired evangelical pastors in Spain who remain excluded from the national pension system. Although Spanish courts have issued successive final rulings in their favor, and although Spain has acknowledged before this Council since the previous cycle that these pensions should be granted, the situation of those affected remains unchanged. This is because no corresponding budgetary provisions have been adopted.

Correcting this injustice would require only a very modest economic effort, yet it would have a profound impact on those pastors who have served their communities faithfully throughout their lives.

We therefore respectfully urge the Government of Spain to give effect to its commitments by allocating the necessary budgetary resources to ensure access to pensions for retired Protestant pastors. Such action would not only deliver long-overdue justice to those affected, but also reaffirm the credibility of Spain's commitments before this Council.

Thank you.