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Письмо Временного поверенного в делах Постоянного представительства Южной Африки при Организации Объединенных Наций от 21 октября 2025 года на имя Председателя Совета Безопасности

Имею честь препроводить письмо президента Сахарской Арабской Демократической Республики и Генерального секретаря Народного фронта освобождения Сегиет-эль-Хамры и Рио-де-Оро (Фронт ПОЛИСАРИО) Брахима Гали на имя Генерального секретаря Организации Объединенных Наций, в котором содержится расширенное предложение Фронта ПОЛИСАРИО под названием «Предложение Фронта ПОЛИСАРИО относительно взаимоприемлемого политического решения, предусматривающего самоопределение народа Западной Сахары и позволяющего восстановить мир и стабильность в регионе» (см. приложение)*.

Буду признателен Вам за распространение настоящего письма и приложения к нему в качестве документа Совета Безопасности.

(*Подпись*) Мартинус **ван Скалквейк**
Временный поверенный в делах Южно-Африканской Республики
при Организации Объединенных Наций

* Приложение распространяется только на том языке, на котором оно было представлено.

Приложение к письму Временного поверенного в делах Постоянного представительства Южной Африки при Организации Объединенных Наций от 21 октября 2025 года на имя Председателя Совета Безопасности

Эль-Бир-Лахлу, 20 октября 2025 года

10 апреля 2007 года Народный фронт освобождения Сегиет-эль-Хамры и Рио-де-Оро (Фронт ПОЛИСАРИО) представил Генеральному секретарю Организации Объединенных Наций свое предложение (см. S/2007/210), которое было принято к сведению Советом Безопасности в его резолюции 1754 (2007) и последующих резолюциях. Это предложение направлено на то, чтобы дать народу Западной Сахары возможность реализовать свое неотъемлемое право на самоопределение путем проведения референдума под наблюдением Организации Объединенных Наций/Африканского союза, а также на то, чтобы заявить о готовности сахарского государства, в случае если такой референдум приведет к независимости, вступить с Королевством Марокко в переговоры об установлении стратегических и взаимовыгодных отношений между двумя странами.

В качестве жеста доброй воли и в ответ на резолюции Совета Безопасности, в том числе на резолюцию 2756 (2024), в которой вновь была подчеркнута важность того, чтобы обе стороны «подробно излагали свои позиции» в целях содействия достижению решения, Фронт ПОЛИСАРИО настоящим представляет свое расширенное предложение под названием «Предложение Фронта ПОЛИСАРИО относительно взаимоприемлемого политического решения, предусматривающего самоопределение народа Западной Сахары и позволяющего восстановить мир и стабильность в регионе» (см. добавление).

Представляя свое расширенное предложение, Фронт ПОЛИСАРИО вновь заявляет о том, что он по-прежнему готов разделить «издержки на установление мира» с другой стороной, если у нее есть политическая воля поступить так же, в целях достижения справедливого, мирного и прочного решения, которое будет предусматривать самоопределение народа Западной Сахары и позволит восстановить мир и стабильность в регионе в соответствии с целями и принципами Устава Организации Объединенных Наций и целями и принципами Учредительного акта Африканского союза.

Помимо этого, Фронт ПОЛИСАРИО убежден в том, что мирное, справедливое и прочное решение конфликта в Западной Сахаре при соблюдении соответствующих принципов международного права не только насущно необходимо, но и возможно при наличии подлинной политической воли к отказу от основанных на статус-кво и навязанных в одностороннем порядке решений и к проявлению необходимого политического мужества и дальновидности для совместной работы ради достижения всеобъемлющего и устойчивого мира и построения общего будущего на основе взаимного уважения, добрососедских отношений и сотрудничества.

В свете вышеизложенного Фронт ПОЛИСАРИО вновь заявляет о своей готовности вступить в прямые и серьезные переговоры с Королевством Марокко, руководствуясь доброй волей и без предварительных условий, под эгидой Организации Объединенных Наций, на основе духа и содержания данного расширенного предложения, с целью достижения справедливого, мирного и прочного решения, которое будет предусматривать самоопределение народа Западной Сахары согласно соответствующим резолюциям Организации Объединенных Наций и позволит восстановить мир и стабильность в регионе.

Буду признателен Вам за доведение настоящего письма и добавления к нему до сведения членов Совета Безопасности.

(*Подпись*) Брахим **Гали**
Президент Сахарской Арабской Демократической Республики
Генеральный секретарь Фронта ПОЛИСАРИО

Добавление

Proposal of the Frente POLISARIO for a mutually acceptable political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and restores regional peace and stability

The Frente POLISARIO presented its Proposal (S/2007/210) to the UN Secretary-General on 10 April 2007, which was taken note of by the Security Council in its resolution 1754 (2007) and subsequent resolutions. Inspired by genuine commitment to the fundamental principles of international law, peace and justice, and with a view to restoring peace and stability in Northwest Africa, the Proposal is based on two main pillars:

(a) the inescapable need for a free and fair referendum, which includes the options agreed by the two parties and approved by the Security Council in numerous resolutions and is properly conducted and monitored by the United Nations and the African Union whereby the Sahrawi people can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

(b) if the referendum leads to independence, the Sahrawi State is ready to negotiate with the Kingdom of Morocco the establishment of strategic and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries and guarantees in the political, economic and security domains.

While reaffirming at the time its full commitment to the complete implementation of MINURSO mandate, as established by the Security Council in 1991, the Frente POLISARIO also expressed its readiness to share “the costs of peace” with the other party, if it had the political will to do the same, with a view to achieving a just, peaceful, and lasting solution, which would provide for the self-determination of the Sahrawi people and restore regional peace and stability in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the objectives and principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. The Frente POLISARIO remains committed to exerting all possible efforts in the same constructive and positive spirit to achieve this common goal.

As a gesture of goodwill and in response to the Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2756 (2024), which stressed again the importance of the two parties “expanding on their positions” in order to advance a solution, the Frente POLISARIO presents the following elements as the basis of its expanded Proposal.

I. Western Sahara is a decolonisation question under Chapter XI of the UN Charter

1. Since including Western Sahara on its list of Non-Self-Governing Territories in 1963, the UN General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies have consistently addressed Western Sahara as a decolonisation question within the scope of Chapter XI of the UN Charter, recognising the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions.

2. Of significant importance is that the General Assembly, the primary organ with competence for decolonisation, has not only recognised Western Sahara as a decolonisation question, but it has also determined from the start the means by which the Sahrawi people should exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, namely a referendum conducted on an entirely free, democratic, impartial, and transparent basis under the UN auspices.

3. At the request of the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN principal judicial organ, issued its landmark Advisory Opinion on Western Sahara on 16 October 1975 in which it established that there had never been any tie of territorial sovereignty between Western Sahara and the Kingdom of Morocco. The ICJ also endorsed the application of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in the decolonisation of Western Sahara through the free and genuine expression of the will of the people of the Territory.

4. The Legal Opinion issued by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, on 29 January 2002, at the request of the Security Council, established clearly that Morocco was not the administering power of Western Sahara and that the "Madrid Agreement" of 1975, which divided the Territory between Morocco and Mauritania, did not transfer sovereignty to any of the signatories nor did it affect the international status of Western Sahara as a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

5. Moreover, in its judgement of 21 December 2016, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) reaffirmed, in line with General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), "the separate and distinct" status of Western Sahara by virtue of the principle of self-determination in relation to all other states, including Morocco. The CJEU reaffirmed the same principle in its latest judgements issued on 4 October 2024.

6. The General Assembly and the Security Council have identified the conflict in Western Sahara as an international conflict between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people. Both UN organs have also established that the peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the conflict should be achieved through the exercise by the Sahrawi people of their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

7. The raison d'être of the Frente POLISARIO, since its creation in 1973 as a national liberation movement, has been to represent the Sahrawi people, defend their national aspirations, and lead their struggle for existence as a free, independent and sovereign people on their homeland. The proclamation of the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) in 1976 was the practical embodiment of Sahrawi nationalism throughout history and the legitimate aspirations of the Sahrawi people for independence and the establishment of their independent and sovereign state in Western Sahara.

8. Fifty years of national liberation struggle, resistance, sacrifices, building of state institutions and diplomatic gains regionally and internationally, including the SADR being a founding Member State of the African Union and having diplomatic relations with a number of countries around the world, have made the Sahrawi State an irreversible reality that cannot be ignored in any future solution to the question of Western Sahara, which must provide for the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination in conformity with relevant UN resolutions and decolonisation practice.

9. Moreover, before any serious and credible negotiation process can move forward under the UN auspices, the other party should recognise the undeniable fact that the Frente POLISARIO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people and is the other party to the conflict as well as the exclusive negotiating partner with whom the peaceful, just and lasting solution must inescapably be negotiated, agreed, implemented, and guaranteed.

II. There is no alternative to the free and democratic exercise by the Sahrawi people of their inalienable, non-negotiable, and imprescriptible right to self-determination

10. In its Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024, the ICJ classified the right to self-determination as a peremptory norm of international law (*jus cogens*), stressing that

it is a fundamental and non-derogable right. The General Assembly and the Security Council have recognised the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination in numerous resolutions. In addition to recognising the Sahrawi people as the sole holder of the right to self-determination with regard to Western Sahara, all relevant resolutions of both the General Assembly and the Security Council also call for a peaceful, just and lasting solution that "provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara".

11. Therefore, to provide for the right to self-determination of the Sahrawi people as called for by relevant UN organs, the solution must be the result of the genuine expression of the will of the Sahrawi people regarding their political status and that of the Territory under optimal conditions of freedom, impartiality and transparency and without any form of outside interference in conformity with relevant UN resolutions and internationally recognised principles and norms.

12. The Frente POLISARIO firmly believes that any solution to the question of Western Sahara must be based on the freely expressed will of the Sahrawi people manifested through informed and democratic processes because the Sahrawi people, and only the Sahrawi people, are the sole owner of sovereignty over Western Sahara and hence the only ones who can determine freely their political status and that of their Territory. Therefore, for the act of exercising the right to self-determination to be genuine, credible, acceptable and legitimate in the eyes of the Sahrawi people and the international community, the "free choice" test in this case must be passed unequivocally.

13. The right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination can neither be renounceable nor negotiable and it cannot be affected by the lapse of time or overtaken by the fait accompli imposed in the Territory since 1975. It is therefore the firm position of the Frente POLISARIO that any serious and credible negotiation process must have, as its starting and finishing points, the ultimate goal of enabling the Sahrawi people to exercise freely and democratically their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UN Charter and resolutions.

III. There is no alternative to consulting the Sahrawi people in relation to the final political status of Western Sahara

14. The UN-OAU Settlement Plan accepted by the two parties to the conflict, the Frente POLISARIO and the Kingdom of Morocco, and unanimously approved by the Security Council in its resolutions 658 (1990) and 690 (1991), which is complemented by the Houston Agreements negotiated and signed by both parties in September 1997, provides for the holding of a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara.

15. Relevant UN resolutions and ICJ decisions unequivocally and authoritatively lay down that the "free and genuine expression" of the will of the people concerned is the *sine qua non* for the exercise of the right to self-determination. They further establish clearly that the free will of the people concerned must be ascertained through "informed and democratic processes" of which the referendum stands out as a widely used process as borne out by the UN practice and resolutions, which demonstrate a strong commitment to the use of referendums as legitimate processes for ascertaining the wishes of the peoples concerned.

16. The Frente POLISARIO firmly believes that consulting the Sahrawi people, by means of a free and fair referendum under the supervision of the United Nations and the African Union, is the only democratic, legitimate and viable way to ensure the legitimacy, acceptability and sustainability of any solution. The referendum ballot options should include those already agreed mutually by both parties and supported

by the Security Council and the General Assembly (independence and integration), and any other options that may be agreed by both parties in UN-supervised negotiations. As the UN Secretary-General made it abundantly clear in his report (2S/2003/565), "it is difficult to envision a political solution that, as required by Security Council resolution 1429 (2002), provides for self-determination but that nevertheless precludes the possibility of independence as one of several ballot questions". In other words, any solution based on self-determination must include independence as one of the ballot questions.

17. The Frente POLISARIO believes that the argument, which is advanced by some quarters that the referendum—even though both parties had agreed to it—could not be held in Western Sahara because it would inevitably lead to "the winner takes all" solution, is untenable on factual, legal and practical grounds.

18. The referendum is a democratic process of free choice based on the direct vote by the people concerned regarding an issue of extreme importance where the electorate are offered multiple choices or a straight choice. The referendums held or monitored by the UN demonstrate the effectiveness and viability of the use of the referendum as both a conflict resolution tool and a legitimate mechanism to ascertain the wishes of peoples regarding their political status and that of their territories.

19. In conformity with relevant UN resolutions and practice, the essential feature of self-determination is the right of a people to exercise a free choice. The freedom of choice must involve both the range of choices offered and the conditions under which the choice is exercised. Thus, any attempt to circumscribe the range of choices available to the Sahrawi people or predetermine the outcome of their choice would be inconsistent with the right to self-determination under international law and incompatible with the UN decolonisation practice. Moreover, it is hard at all to speak of "self-determination" in this case if its exercise depends primarily on the agreement of the two parties, and not on the free and genuine expression of the will of the Sahrawi people and their active participation in the decision-making—which is the essence of self-determination.

20. It is noteworthy that, notwithstanding the fundamental legal issues involved, the other party proposed in its 2007 proposal a "free referendum" for the exercise of the "right to self-determination". This clearly indicates that the referendum as a mechanism for ascertaining the wishes of the Sahrawi people is "legally" justified and "practically" possible. This impels the question of how can a referendum mandated, organised and supervised by the United Nations, where the voter eligibility criteria and the ballot questions have been mutually accepted by both parties, be "unimplementable", as some claim, while a "referendum" without an identified electorate and ballot questions can be feasible?

21. The referendum, provided for in the UN-OAU Settlement Plan, was officially and mutually accepted by both parties as a "proposal" made by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity through their joint good offices. Based on the consent of the two parties and their acceptance of the UN-OAU Settlement Plan, both the Security Council and the General Assembly unanimously approved the referendum as the means whereby the Sahrawi people would exercise their right to self-determination. It was precisely for holding the referendum that the Security Council established the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in 1991.

22. In this sense, the referendum is not a "proposal", a "preferred solution", or a "position" of either party, but rather a reasonable, practical, and compromise-based solution, as proposed and emphasised by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity. Thus, it is simply a means to an end, which is to determine the wishes

of the Sahrawi people in their exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and relevant General Assembly resolutions. Therefore, there is no alternative to consulting the Sahrawi people in relation to the final political status of Western Sahara under full conditions of freedom, impartiality and transparency under the UN auspices and with robust international monitoring and guarantees.

23. It is very important, for this reason, to stress that obtaining the consent of the Sahrawi people regarding any solution through a referendum is not a matter of formality. It is the decisive factor that would give democratic legitimacy to that solution and ensure its acceptability and sustainability. This is a critical element, and its importance is confirmed by the UN experience in similar situations.

24. The past thirty-four years have made it abundantly clear that the referendum on self-determination, provided for in the UN-OAU Settlement Plan, has not been held yet not because of any "differences on voter eligibility criteria", which were officially agreed by both parties and approved by the United Nations, but primarily because of the absence of political will and the other party's failure to abide by the commitments made before the UN and the international community. As a result of over six years of meticulous work, MINURSO Identification Commission found a total of 86,386 persons as eligible to vote in the referendum from an overall total of 198,469 applicants interviewed since the process began in 1994 (S/2000/131; para. 6). As confirmed by the Secretary-General (S/2000/131; para. 5), it was the Moroccan authorities that "questioned again the impartiality and objectivity" of the Identification Commission and rejected the outcome of their work. It was this rejectionist attitude, among other things, that brought the referendum process to a standstill. The UN experience in similar situations strongly confirms that political will is the most crucial element for ensuring the implementation of peace agreements and their sustainability.

25. The Frente POLISARIO firmly believes that, besides genuine political will, the only way in which there will be "neither winner nor loser" in the referendum is to engage in pre-referendum serious negotiations in good faith and with a future-oriented vision to negotiate and mutually agree on all issues relating to the holding of the referendum and managing its outcome, with special emphasis on the post-referendum guarantees and long-term, strategic relations between the two parties. This is the only way to ensure that the referendum will not result in "all-or-nothing" outcome for either party, but a win-win solution for both. In other words, both parties should go to the referendum hand in hand and in full agreement on the key elements relating to the referendum process and its outcome as well as their post-referendum long-term, strategic relations.

26. The Frente POLISARIO reiterates its full and declared commitment to respecting the will of the Sahrawi people, freely and democratically expressed in a free and fair referendum properly conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, and to taking all necessary measures to implement and ensure compliance with that choice.

IV. Readiness of the Frente POLISARIO to negotiate with the Kingdom of Morocco regarding post-referendum strategic relations and guarantees if the referendum leads to independence

27. As indicated earlier, the Frente POLISARIO remains ready to share the "costs of peace" with the other party, if it has the political will to do the same, with a view to achieving a just, peaceful, and lasting solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the Sahrawi people and restore regional peace and stability in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and

the objectives and principles of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. To this end, it remains committed to exerting all possible efforts in the same constructive and positive spirit to achieve this common goal.

28. In this spirit, if the referendum leads to independence, the Sahrawi State, in the exercise of its full and complete sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders and over all spheres relating to its domestic and international affairs, undertakes to devote all possible energies to establishing normal, positive and future-oriented relations between the Sahrawi State and the Kingdom of Morocco and building amicable relations between the Sahrawi and Moroccan peoples, free from animosity and grievances of the past, and based on mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of both countries.

29. In this regard, the Sahrawi State proposes that both countries renounce, on a reciprocal basis, any claims with regard to compensations or reparations for the material damage that has taken place since the start of the conflict until the date of the self-determination vote. The Sahrawi State is willing to propose an expanded package of long-term confidence-building measures (CBMs), including the offer to set up a "joint mechanism", with a view to facilitating dialogue and reconciliation and addressing the consequences of the conflict in an amicable and harmonious way.

30. To ensure the continued functioning of the public administration following the announcement of the referendum results in the case of independence, the Sahrawi State will be willing to negotiate with the Kingdom of Morocco the terms of the transitional period to ensure a smooth and orderly transfer of power relating to Western Sahara to the relevant institutions of the Sahrawi State.

31. The Sahrawi State will also be fully open to discussing with the Kingdom of Morocco any issues, including matters of special concern in the economic, security and social areas, which do not affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sahrawi State.

V. The Sahrawi State political system and international relations

32. Capitalising on its five-decade experience of democratic governance, building of state institutions and substantial investment in its human capital as a strategic asset, the Sahrawi State will freely establish its own political system and institutions based on the principles of popular sovereignty and democratic participation in decision-making at local, regional and national levels. In accordance with the Constitution in force, it will embrace a separation of powers and adopt a multiparty system and a market-based economy. The Sahrawi State is also committed to governing based on the rule of law and to building a state for all Sahrawis without exception where individual freedoms are fully guaranteed.

33. Regarding its international relations, the Sahrawi State is committed to good-neighbourly relations, regional stability, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and balance in its relations with all its neighbours. Acting as a factor of regional equilibrium, the Sahrawi State is also committed to working with the Kingdom of Morocco and other neighbouring states and countries of the region with a view to accelerating the implementation of the Arab Maghreb Union integration process considering the specificity of the region.

34. As a founding Member State of the African Union, the Sahrawi State intends to strengthen and diversify its relations with all African countries and other members of the international community based on the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Charter of the United Nations. The Sahrawi State will continue its efforts to implement the AU Agenda 2063 to contribute effectively to achieving the Pan-African vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. It

will adopt the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and put in place policies and measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and engage as an active partner in climate governance initiatives.

35. Banking on its abundant natural resources and strong economic prospects, the Sahrawi State intends to invite individual States, including the Kingdom of Morocco, as well as international and regional financial institutions to actively contribute to the reconstruction of the country through infrastructure projects, public and private investments and strategic partnerships, among others.

36. The Sahrawi State will also work to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which will be geared towards boosting the economic growth of the country and enhancing its competitiveness and integration into the global market. To ensure that the development of the country is done in a sustainable way, the Sahrawi State will enact laws and put in place measures to ensure that both domestic and foreign companies abide by the internationally recognised environmental standards. In this context, exploitation activities, investments, profits as well as the rights and interests of foreign enterprises will be regulated by a national law.

VI. Economic cooperation, natural resources, and development

37. Western Sahara is endowed with abundant natural resources such as high-quality phosphate rock reserves, rich fishing grounds, the potential for significant oil and gas reserves both onshore and offshore, deposits of valuable minerals, significant potential for renewable energy development as well as arable land and groundwater resources. The Sahrawi State is committed to adopting policies that would ensure the effective and sustainable management of the existing and potential natural resources through good governance, economic diversification, and transparent policies.

38. The Sahrawi State is ready to establish the fullest possible economic cooperation with the Kingdom of Morocco, both bilaterally and in the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union, based on the reciprocity of benefits and the interests of both countries. In this context, the Sahrawi State will be willing to enter into equitable and mutually advantageous arrangements with the Kingdom of Morocco, including joint ventures with Moroccan enterprises, which would permit the development and the joint exploitation, during a determined period, of the existing natural resources or those that could be discovered.

39. In practical terms, the Sahrawi State is willing to discuss with the Kingdom of Morocco revenue-sharing formulas for natural resources with a determined percentage over a set timeframe. To this end, an advisory body of experts shall be established comprising an equal number from both sides to identify and assess the existing natural resources in the Sahrawi State, including the current exploration, extraction and exploitation contracts and related revenues, and submit its findings to the relevant authorities of both countries for their consideration and action.

40. The Sahrawi State will be open to negotiating with the Kingdom of Morocco regarding the continued utilisation of the infrastructure for the extraction and exploitation of the natural resources (phosphates, fisheries, mining and other renewable and non-renewable resources) for a period of 5 (five) years, subject to renewal by mutual agreement. Upon agreement of both States, the Moroccan currency (banknotes and coins) shall continue to be used, as a second currency, for all payments made in cash in the Sahrawi State along the Sahrawi official currency during a period of 5 (five) years, subject to renewal by mutual agreement.

41. The decisions taken by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), including the judgements of 4 October 2024 whereby the CJEU annulled the EU-Morocco trade agreements regarding fisheries and agriculture involving Western

Sahara, have made it unequivocally clear that any economic agreements or activities involving the Territory, which lack the genuine and freely given consent of the Sahrawi people, will be unlawful under international and European laws. The CJEU decisions clearly put the EU, including its member states and institutions, under the obligation to comply with and enforce the decisions of the Court in this case.

42. The annulment of the EU-Morocco trade agreements has so far had significant economic and financial implications for both the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco, resulting primarily in the loss of access to Sahrawi fishing grounds by EU vessels and the consequent direct loss of fish resources and significant annual EU direct funds for Morocco in addition to revenues generated potentially from fishing licenses and related services.

43. Without prejudice to the international status of Western Sahara and the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over their natural resources, the Frente POLISARIO is open to engaging in negotiations with the Kingdom of Morocco and the European Union to reach mutually acceptable provisional arrangements that would preserve the current economic interests of the Kingdom of Morocco and any other third parties relating to the natural resources of Western Sahara. As a gesture of good faith and a confidence-building initiative, the offer is made in anticipation of the start of credible, serious, result-oriented and time-bound negotiations between the two parties under the UN auspices in conformity with the principles expanded on in the present Proposal. For this reason, the offer and any related potential arrangements will be conditional upon the progress made in those negotiations.

VII. Border and security issues

44. As highlighted in its 2007 Proposal, the Frente POLISARIO is still open to discussing the guarantees to be negotiated by the two parties in the security domain, including the mutual recognition of and respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the two countries in conformity with the principles enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, as part of the comprehensive discussions on the transitional period, the Sahrawi State will coordinate with the Kingdom of Morocco the orderly withdrawal of the Moroccan troops and the Moroccan administration from the Sahrawi State, within a specified transitional period.

45. In line with the relevant principles of international law and its obligations as a Member State of the African Union, the Sahrawi State solemnly commits to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other States, fostering a stable and peaceful regional and global environment, and ensuring that its territory is not used, in any way, for aggressive purposes against other States.

46. The Sahrawi State is committed to doing its share, along with the Kingdom of Morocco and the countries of the region, in maintaining regional peace, stability and security and confronting the common security-related threats and challenges facing the region, including transnational terrorism and organised crime, illicit trafficking, cyberattacks and climate change, among others.

47. In this regard, considering the long experience and combat capabilities of its military forces, the Sahrawi State will be open to participating in joint military and security arrangements and frameworks with the neighbouring countries and regional partners to confront these common challenges and others in the region. Likewise, the Sahrawi State will be willing to join existing or future regional security arrangements and will positively consider any request from the United Nations and the African Union to participate in peace-keeping operations.

VIII. Status and rights of Moroccan citizens and refugees in the Sahrawi State

48. The Sahrawi State is committed to guaranteeing Moroccan interests and the rights of Moroccan citizens and legal entities in the Sahrawi State. In this context, the Sahrawi State is prepared to consider constitutional arrangements that would regulate the status and protect the civil, economic and cultural rights of the Moroccans residing in its Territory and enable their participation in the political, economic and social life of the country. The Sahrawi State will ensure that no one is persecuted for opinions expressed before or during the self-determination referendum.

49. In this respect, the Sahrawi State would consider granting the Sahrawi nationality to any Moroccan citizen legally established in the Sahrawi State for a specified number of years who wishes to individually apply for it. The protection of Moroccan citizens who wish to reside in the Sahrawi State as "legal aliens" as well as their properties will be guaranteed. All property-related disputes will be handled in a transparent manner in accordance with the bylaws of the Sahrawi State and relevant international standards.

50. The Sahrawi State will facilitate the voluntary, peaceful, and dignified return to the Kingdom of Morocco of Moroccan citizens who wish to return to their country. Citizens and refugees from other countries will also have the right to return in safety and dignity to their countries of origin, and the Sahrawi State, if necessary, will invite the UNHCR to facilitate their repatriation.

IX. The way forward towards a peaceful, just and lasting solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and restores regional peace and stability

51. In October this year, fifty years will have elapsed since the start of the conflict in Western Sahara, which has caused immense human losses, much suffering, and massive material devastation on both sides as well as a serious and ongoing threat to peace, security and stability in the entire region.

52. The United Nations, particularly the General Assembly and the Security Council, and all members of the international community are urgently called upon to redouble their efforts to achieve a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara, which remains a litmus test of the credibility of the United Nations and the international community and their commitment to a rules-based international order.

53. The Frente POLISARIO firmly believes that a peaceful, just, and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara in conformity with the relevant principles of international law is not only urgent, but it is also possible if there is a genuine political will to move away from status quo-based and unilaterally imposed solutions and to have the necessary political courage and farsightedness to work together to achieve comprehensive and sustainable peace and build a common future based on mutual respect, good neighbourly relations, and cooperation.

54. In this spirit, the Frente POLISARIO reaffirms its commitment to cooperating with the efforts deployed by the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy for Western Sahara to reactivate and advance the UN-sponsored peace process in Western Sahara towards achieving the long-sought solution.

55. In conclusion, the Frente POLISARIO reiterates its readiness to enter into direct and serious negotiations with the Kingdom of Morocco, in good faith and without preconditions, under the auspices of the United Nations, based on the spirit and content of this expanded Proposal, with a view to achieving a just, peaceful, and lasting solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the Sahrawi people in conformity with the relevant UN resolutions and restore regional peace and stability.