

FORUM: General Assembly 4 (Special Political and Decolonization)

QUESTION OF: The question of Western Sahara

SUBMITTED BY: Sweden

CO-SUBMITTERS: Belarus, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Jordan, Libya, Bulgaria, Tanzania, African Union, Sudan, Dominica, Japan, Croatia, Honduras, Mozambique, Slovakia, Thailand

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Acknowledging that the territorial dispute of the Western Sahara region causes healthcare alongside humanitarian issues for Sahrawi people,

Recalling the Resolution 1514 (XV) of the 14.12.1960 containing the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and people,

Further recalling the Advisory Opinion of 16.10.1975 by the International Court of Justice dismissing all historical bonds of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Kingdom of Morocco,

Reminding that the European Union trade with Morocco does not include Western Sahara based agricultural products,

Stresses the lack of job opportunities for the Sahrawi population,

Taking into consideration that a referendum, which was originally proposed in the United Nations Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), would enable the Sahrawi People of Western Sahara to choose between independence and integration with Morocco,

Further concerned about the heavily mined sand wall on the border between the free and occupied territories,

Taking into account that many people living within the territories of Western Sahara are illiterate, which is a fact to be considered when establishing voter eligibility,

Reminding that there are over 90,000 refugees, according to UNHCR, from Western Sahara living in countries abroad and that they must also be provided with the opportunity to vote if a referendum is to take place,

1. Calls for a referendum to take place as soon as possible in Western Sahara, monitored by the UN electoral assistance;
 - a) with voting options being:
 - i. an independent state,
 - ii. full integration into the Kingdom of Morocco,
 - iii. being an autonomous region under Moroccan sovereignty;
 - b) which will only consist of the votes by:
 - i. Sahrawi locals,
 - ii. Sahrawi immigrants who will return to Western Sahara in order to vote as stated in the Settlement Proposals,
 - iii. second generation Moroccan settlers;
 - c) the electoral system will be decided by the Moroccan government and the POLISARIO front with a council body consisting of POLISARIO representatives, Moroccan representatives, and unbiased UN observers;
2. Calls for a population census to be taken within the territory of Western Sahara and within any country to whom it may concern to establish an exact population count of Sahrawis by means such as, but not limited to:

- a) door to door registration in Western Sahara,
 - b) establishment of registration centres in Western Sahara and abroad,
 - c) the use of any UN centres within Western Sahara or abroad to enable registration as a Sahrawi,
3. Recommends the establishment of an organisation branched from the UNDP named Western Sahara Natural Resources Commission (WSNRC) which will:
- a) advise the Sahrawi population through the help of UN experts to control and effectively use their natural resources through methods such as, but not limited to:
 - i. conducting annual reports on water, land and underground resources,
 - ii. giving educational classes every 3 months in 5 central locations, which will be decided by the commission according to population, in order to train the Sahrawi locals on how to use their resources in the most efficient and eco-friendly manner,
 - b) provide funding for agricultural improvement with the help of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Bank that will take into consideration the desert conditions of the region,
 - c) work towards creating sustainable solutions to the ongoing food shortage such as:
 - i. finding the most efficiently grown products for the area,
 - ii. organizing weekly bazaars where locals can exchange their goods;
 - d) consist of:
 - i. agriculture scientists who will analyze collected data and be in charge of agricultural aspects of the organization,
 - ii. economics experts who will track the import and export of food products and how accessible they are in the given price range,
 - iii. Sahrawi locals who are knowledgeable of the current state of agriculture in the region for the organization to succeed in practice as well as theory;
 - e) Work cooperatively with the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable development in order to justly allocate viable resources such as phosphate that are unjustly occupied by Morocco, which is in contrast to international law;
4. Calls for all Member States to take part in a funding event for humanitarian aid in the Western Sahara region that will be used by the United Nations Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) to:
- a) assist the present staff in the region sent after the MINURSO resolution,
 - b) establish new education centers with the help of voluntary teacher and local construction businesses which will:
 - i. create more job opportunities for the Sahrawi population that will be sustainable such as teachers and school staff,
 - ii. support locals to get a better education that will include medical studies,
 - iii. where the locals can work with UN healthcare experts to both help and learn basic medical practises which they can apply into their daily lives,
 - c) create a legal framework in cooperation with both sides and come up with mutually agreeable terms in which the population of the entire Western Sahara region will benefit;
5. Urges both parties, Algeria, Mauritania, and Mali to attend a conference that will be named “Western Sahara Security Conference”, held in the UN Headquarters in New York City as a neutral zone, in order to discuss:
- a) security breaches and threats in the region and create an analytic report on where the security must be improved and where the crime rates are higher,
 - b) possible solutions such as:
 - i. relocating UN military present after the MINURSO resolution,
 - ii. creating certain report points for locals to seek protection and report crimes for prompt assistance,
 - iii. creating a new legal framework specifically for crime that will be accepted by

both Morocco and the Sahrawi population;

6. Proposes the removal of mines which lie along the Berm that currently divides the territory of Western Sahara, and further requests that the Moroccan military cooperate with mine clearance troops;
7. Calls upon the Kingdom of Morocco to respect the rights of the Sahrawi people as citizens in their state if they choose to become part of the kingdom;
8. Requests that democratic elections be held right after the referendum, if the results of the referendum for independence, as stipulated by the Constitution of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic;
9. Asks the Moroccan government to stop sending settlers to the Western Sahara region until a referendum takes place since:
 - a) the new settlers will not have voting opportunities according to the accepted Settlement Proposals document,
 - b) the ICJ found the territorial sovereignty claims of Morocco invalid and more presence of Moroccan citizens may disrupt peace, thus settlers first should be discussed with the Sahrawi people in order to:
 - i. come to mutual terms regarding settlers,
 - ii. ensure that the ceasefire continues on both sides;
 - c) new settlers could escalate the ongoing issue and cause new issues to arise such as security and etc;
10. Decides to remain actively seized on the matter.
11. Proposes to hold peace talks, monitored and reported by UN officials, between representatives from the Moroccan government and the Polisario front, in order to cease further military conflict between the parties, in the hopes of reaching the following goals:
 - a) Removal of the mines within the region,
 - b) Ceasing of Moroccan military operations within the region,
 - c) Removal of foreign military bases from the region,
 - d) Demilitarization of armed SADR forces,
 - e) Continuation of Minurso's supervision of the state of the ceasefire in the region and reporting to the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG)