



To the Distinguished Members of the United Nations Security Council,

Subject: Western Sahara — Preserving the Right to Self-Determination and the Integrity of the UN Process

Excellencies,

I am writing to respectfully urge the members of the United Nations Security Council to ensure that the Council's consideration of the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) remains firmly grounded in international law and the Sahrawi people's inalienable right to self-determination.

The future of Western Sahara must not be predetermined through diplomatic negotiations or shaped exclusively by the strategic interests of influential states. The Sahrawi people must be afforded a genuine opportunity to freely determine their political future in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the applicable international legal framework.

The draft resolution circulated by the United States raises important concerns regarding the direction of the UN-led process. The Security Council should ensure that no proposed political arrangement is elevated above the fundamental rights of the people concerned or presented as an inevitable outcome before their right to self-determination has been meaningfully exercised.

Western Sahara remains on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, and its decolonization remains unresolved. Security Council Resolution 690 (1991), which established MINURSO, is an important part of the international framework developed to facilitate a referendum on self-determination. The passage of time and evolving political circumstances must not be used to diminish the significance of this objective.

I therefore respectfully call upon all members of the Security Council to consider the current draft in the context of the relevant resolutions of both the Security Council and the General Assembly, together with the principles of international law. The renewal of MINURSO's mandate should preserve the mission's credibility and avoid any language that prejudices the final status of the territory or restricts the Sahrawi people's right to choose their future freely.

This matter has implications beyond Western Sahara. Allowing geopolitical considerations to override the right to self-determination would risk establishing a dangerous precedent for the international system, weakening confidence in the consistent application of international law and the principles underpinning the United Nations. The legitimacy of the UN-led process depends on its ability to protect fundamental rights, particularly when those rights conflict with the political preferences of powerful states.

A lasting and peaceful settlement cannot be achieved simply by securing agreement among influential international actors. It must also respect the rights and freely expressed wishes of the people whose future is being decided. Any approach that sidelines these considerations risks prolonging the conflict and undermining the credibility of international mediation.



In light of these concerns, I respectfully urge the members of the Security Council to:

- Safeguard the Sahrawi people's inalienable right to self-determination.
- Preserve the legal foundations and original purpose of MINURSO.
- Ensure that the renewal of the mission's mandate does not prejudice the final status of Western Sahara.
- Reject any approach that makes the exercise of self-determination conditional upon acceptance of a predetermined political outcome.
- Support a credible, impartial and transparent UN-led process consistent with international law and the relevant UN resolutions.

The credibility of the United Nations depends on ensuring that international law is upheld consistently and that the rights of peoples are not subordinated to geopolitical interests. The Sahrawi people must not be deprived of their right to determine their own future through political arrangements formulated without their freely expressed consent.

I respectfully call upon the Security Council to act with responsibility, impartiality and fidelity to the principles of the United Nations Charter, ensuring that the pursuit of a political settlement does not come at the expense of the Sahrawi people's fundamental rights.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Adala UK

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