

**Adala UK**

British Organisation for Justice, Human Rights and International Law
Cambridge, United Kingdom

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing on behalf of **Adala UK**, a human rights and international law organisation committed to the promotion of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the right of peoples to self-determination in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

We wish to seek clarification regarding the United Kingdom's vote in favour of the United States-sponsored draft resolution on Western Sahara, considered by the United Nations Security Council on 30 October 2026.

This vote raises legitimate questions about the consistency of British foreign policy. On several occasions, the Government has affirmed its commitment to a UN-led political process and a just and lasting settlement founded upon the principles of the UN Charter, including the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination. These principles were also reflected in the Government's written responses to correspondence from Adala UK.

It is therefore difficult to reconcile these assurances with support for a draft resolution which appeared to give Morocco's autonomy proposal a privileged position within the negotiating framework, potentially narrowing the scope of negotiations before the Sahrawi people have freely determined their political future.

Our concern is not that Morocco's autonomy proposal should be excluded from political discussions, but that no proposal should be elevated into a predetermined outcome at the expense of the Sahrawi people's genuine freedom of choice.

Western Sahara remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory on the United Nations list. The right to self-determination is recognised under Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Charter of the United Nations. The 1975 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice also remains a significant legal reference, particularly concerning the requirement for the free and genuine expression of the will of the people of the Territory.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, the United Kingdom has a particular responsibility to uphold the credibility of the UN system and the principles of international law. Whilst we recognise the importance of Britain's relationship with the United States, cooperation between allies should not come at the expense of independent legal and political



judgement. The United Kingdom should assess future proposals on their merits rather than automatically align itself with the position of Washington or any other power.

In this regard, Adala UK respectfully calls upon you to ensure that the United Kingdom's position in forthcoming Security Council deliberations:

- Upholds the Sahrawi people's inalienable right to genuine self-determination.
- Rejects any framework that effectively predetermines the final status of Western Sahara or privileges one political proposal as the inevitable outcome.
- Remains consistent with the UN Charter and international law.
- Preserves the integrity and credibility of the UN-led political process and the meaningful participation of all relevant parties.
- Supports human rights protection, independent monitoring and sustained humanitarian assistance to Sahrawi refugees.

We recognise the political and diplomatic complexities surrounding Western Sahara. Nevertheless, such complexities should not create ambiguity concerning fundamental legal principles. The legitimacy of any settlement depends upon the ability of the Sahrawi people to determine their political future freely, without external imposition.

We therefore respectfully request a clear explanation of how the United Kingdom's vote on 30 October 2026 is consistent with its previously stated commitments. We further urge you to use Britain's position within the Security Council to defend international legality and ensure that future votes reflect the principles the Government has repeatedly undertaken to uphold.

International law must guide diplomatic action, not merely feature in diplomatic statements.

We should be grateful for your considered response.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Adala UK

Sidi Ahmed Lydasi

Chair, Adala UK, representative to the United Nations human rights council
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