



**UNSC**  
Security Council

**Committee:** United Nations Security Council

**Presidents:** Nicolás Carrera, Martin Glauser

**Topic A:**

Russian-Ukrainian War

**Topic B:**

Armed Conflict Between Morocco and Western Sahara

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## **Letter From The Chairs:**

Honorable Delegates,

It is with great satisfaction and excitement that we welcome you to the XLI Model United Nations of Colegio Nueva Granada and thereby to the latest edition of the United Nations Security Council committee of this Model. It is a great privilege for us to have each one of you as a delegate of this committee, and we hope it will be an invigorating and challenging experience that motivates your curiosity, willingness, and preparation. As so, we exhort you to challenge yourselves and improve your argumentation, analysis, and public speaking skills, from the moment of your research, all through the course of the model and committee. Likewise, we expect the debates held during this committee to be challenging and fruitful, which will require an in-depth investigation of your role, the situation, and context.

In this committee, we will approach separate topics throughout the three days in which the model will be held. Topic A: Russian-Ukrainian War and Topic B: The Armed Conflict Between Morocco and Western Sahara. While both of these topics regard two separate parts of the globe and cover a different span in human history, they both require a good level of analysis and prior investigation and understanding to ensure a proper assessment and approach during the committee.

We are certain that your participation in this committee reflects a clear interest in not only understanding the world we live in but also in changing it. Such interest must be supported by at least a basic understanding of the current world we live in and different factors that hold an active and important position in determining or affecting different

situations or conflicts worldwide.

We hope that throughout this committee we will be able to enhance your curiosity and settle your doubts on the subject. That being said, we want to restate our unconditional support for everything you may need throughout this committee and its preparation process. We hope you have the opportunity to immerse yourself in the United Nations environment and all that surrounds it.

Before the start of the model and the committee themselves, each delegate must prepare and read an opening speech presenting their delegation and its particular interests as well as possible solutions to the topic or problem in question.

Then again, we wish every one of you the best of luck during the whole process and experience of the XLI Model United Nations of Colegio Nueva Granada.

Sincerely,

Nicolás Carrera ([nic-carrera@nogales.edu.co](mailto:nic-carrera@nogales.edu.co)) and Martín Glauser ([mar-glauser@nogales.edu.co](mailto:mar-glauser@nogales.edu.co)).

## **Introduction to the Committee:**

### ***History:***

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, along with the General Assembly, the Secretariat, the International Court of Justice, the Economic and Social Council, and the Trusteeship Council. The Security Council was created with the primary goal of maintaining international peace and security, and it has been a crucial part of the UN's work since its inception.

During the early years of the UN, the Security Council focused primarily on resolving disputes between states and preventing the outbreak of large-scale conflicts. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Security Council became more active in addressing a wide range of global security challenges, including acts of aggression, peace breaches, and terrorism.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the Security Council played a key role in addressing the Cold War and regional conflicts, such as the Korean War and the Falklands War. The council also established peacekeeping missions, such as the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, to help maintain peace and security in regions affected by conflict.

In the 1990s, the Security Council became increasingly active in addressing issues related to human rights, humanitarian law, and the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The council established several ad-hoc tribunals, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, to prosecute individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

In the 21st century, the Security Council has continued to address a wide range of global security challenges, including terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and conflicts in Africa and the Middle East. The council has also sought to strengthen the role of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding and has taken steps to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its peacekeeping operations.

In summary, the United Nations Security Council has been playing a vital role in maintaining international peace and security since its creation in 1945. It has evolved over the years to address a wide range of global security challenges, from preventing large-scale conflicts to enforcing human rights, and it continues to be an essential part of the UN's work today.

***Function and Powers:***

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is composed of 15 members, 5 of which are permanent members with veto power (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and 10 of which are elected for two-year periods.

The Security Council has many important functions and powers, including:

- Maintaining international peace and security: The Security Council can take a variety of actions to address threats to peace and security, including imposing sanctions, authorizing the use of military force, and establishing peacekeeping missions.
- Making recommendations for the peaceful ending of disputes: The Security Council can make recommendations to nations for a peaceful settlement and investigative parties to gather information about potential tensions and conflicts.
- Authorizing the use of force: The Security Council has the power to authorize member states to use force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

- Imposing sanctions: The Security Council can impose economic sanctions, arms embargoes, and other measures to pressure countries to comply with its decisions and to promote peace and security.
- Establishing peacekeeping missions: The Security Council can authorize the establishment of peacekeeping missions to help maintain peace and security in regions affected by conflict.

The Security Council works closely with other UN bodies, such as the General Assembly and the Secretariat, as well as regional organizations and member states, to address global security challenges. Its decisions are binding on all member states, and all UN member states are obligated to carry out the council's decisions.

## **Topic A: Russian-Ukrainian War**

### ***Introduction:***

Ukraine has played a significant yet often understated role in global security. It is currently on the forefront of a renewed competition between major powers, which many experts predict will shape international relations in the future. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 marked a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict between the countries and a significant turning point for European security. Analysts believe that this war could have negative consequences for Russia's leader, Vladimir Putin and many see little hope for a peaceful resolution. Instead, there is the possibility of a dangerous escalation that includes the use of nuclear weapons. This conflict has also led to Ukraine pushing to join Western alliances such as the European Union and NATO. Ukraine's significance comes from its past as a key component of the Soviet Union and its strategic location, resources, and military capabilities.

### ***Historical Context:***

The tensions between Russia and Ukraine have a long history dating back to the 13th century. After the collapse of the Mongol Empire, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania conquered lands from the Baltic to the Black Sea and named it Ruthenia. Poland and Lithuania later joined together to form the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which became one of the major powers in Eastern Europe alongside the Golden Horde and the Crimean Khanate. Because of Lithuania's connections to the West, Ukraine was heavily influenced by Western philosophy while Russia was isolated and inherited Mongol values, particularly their autocratic form of government.

In the 1500s, with the introduction of serfdom ("condition in medieval Europe in which a tenant farmer was bound to a hereditary plot of land and to the will of his landlord")

[Serfdom]), thousands of refugees, peasants, and slaves from different countries and beliefs fled to the enormous frontiers to form a new society, becoming the Cossacks, a powerful kingdom. The Cossacks' idea of self-determination and independence has had a lasting influence on Ukrainian society today.

The Second Northern War, a series of conflicts between Sweden, Russia, the Crimean Khanate, and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (for whom the Cossacks fought), emerged for control of territory, particularly the Baltic Sea. Tensions rose between the Commonwealth and the Cossacks when King John Cashmere II of Poland tried to take away their autonomy. During the wars between the three great powers, some Cossacks rebelled against the Commonwealth and allied themselves with Moscow. However, the right-bank side of Ukraine remained loyal to the Commonwealth, leading to brutal atrocities when the left-side Cossacks invaded Poland with the help of Russia. This event is known as "The Ruin" in right-bank Ukraine and "The Deluge" in Poland. Despite the creation of the Cossack Hetmanate, the Russian influence in Ukraine continued to grow. The Cossack army was eventually defeated in the Battle of Poltava in 1709.



After this point, the Russians gradually gained control over European land. By the 19th

century, Russia had taken over all of Ukraine and much of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth through partitions. Ukraine was particularly valuable to the Russians because of its easy access to the Black Sea, which allowed them to expand their power and control of the region's waters. This led to Russia's conquest of Crimea and a portion of Ottoman territory during the Russo-Turkish War.

In the beginning of the 20th century, the First World War took place. It had a ripple effect throughout Europe, leading to the Russian Civil War, a complex struggle between various alliances. During this time, the Ukrainian people sought independence and various factions formed alliances with different groups. The Anti-bolshevik White Army, which supported the tsar, joined forces with some Ukrainian nationalists and the Second Polish Republic. The Black Army also took control of some Ukrainian territory, establishing an anarcho-socialist society. Eventually, the Black Army allied with the Bolshevik Reds, and Ukraine was divided into two spheres of influence: the White Army controlled the Southeast, while the Bolsheviks controlled the West. However, when the Socialist Bolsheviks emerged victorious at the end of the Civil War, the White sphere of influence was lost. The Bolsheviks then conceded land to Germany in 1918 as part of a peace treaty and did the same with Poland in 1921 under the Treaty of Riga, further dividing Ukraine.



(Photo of the Russian Revolution)

During the period between the First and Second World Wars, Ukraine continued to be oppressed by the countries controlling it. During the Second World War, Hitler invaded and occupied Ukraine, using its resources and personnel for his own goals and purposes. He also established concentration camps where 2 million Soviet Jews, many of them Ukrainian, were killed. After the war, the Soviet Union annexed Ukraine by force, and it became a major center of industrialization and resource exploitation. The Soviet leader Joseph Stalin orchestrated the Great Soviet Famine, also known as the Holodomor, in which more than 3 million Ukrainian peasants died. Some estimates put the death toll as high as 12 million. This and other policies led to widespread discontent among the Ukrainian people toward the Soviet government.

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev was elected general secretary of the Communist Party. He promised a program based upon reform and substantial change, but in the long run, his ideals and reforms weren't very effective. And after some time, the Soviet republics started to

gradually declare their independence.

The movement towards independence in Ukraine began slowly in mid-1986, with the Ukrainian press and media starting to cover previously censored topics. Over time, public demonstrations increased and national organizations emerged, reaching a peak in 1988. In 1989, a law was passed giving Ukrainian official status as the state language after years of suppression under Russian influence. The introduction of parliamentary democracy in 1990 broke the Communist Party's monopoly on political power in Ukraine. A failed coup d'état attempt by extremist members of Gorbachev's government in 1991 further strengthened the independence movement. As a result, the Ukrainian parliament declared independence on August 24, 1991, which was then ratified by a public referendum on December 1, 1991, with 90% of voters supporting it. On the same day, Leonid Kravchuk was elected as president. A week later, the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus established the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Soviet Union was officially dissolved.



(Ukraine's independence day in 1991)

Relations with Russia did not improve in the following years of independence. In fact, according to recognized scholars, “the turbulent relations between Ukraine and Russia in the post-Soviet period were likely inevitable, given that the independence of Ukraine was such a sudden, fundamental change. Russia had tremendous difficulty in perceiving—let alone accepting—Ukraine as an independent country: it viewed Ukraine as an integral part of the Russian realm and even considered Ukrainians to be virtually the same people as Russians. Consequently, Russia reacted to Ukraine’s departure more strongly than it did to the separation of the other Soviet republics. On the other hand, Ukraine was intensely aware of the fragility of its recent independence and extremely sensitive to any perceived encroachment on its sovereignty by Russia. Relations between the two countries continued to be volatile into the early 21st century” (Ukraine, Britannica). On the other side, Ukraine started to gain other neighboring allies like Poland and Romania, and it also started to improve its relations with the U.S.A.

### ***Current Situation:***

#### **(2021 and beginning of 2022)**

Throughout the past few years Russia had made small military advancements against Ukraine, nothing too chaotic. But in 2021, Putin “decided to go all in”.

In April 2021, Russia began moving significant numbers of troops near Ukraine's borders. When questioned about this, Russia claimed it was a training exercise and some troops were later dispersed. In response, Ukraine began using Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones to monitor the situation in eastern Ukraine, which was met with disapproval by the Russian government.

In November, Russia continued to build up its military presence near Ukraine's borders, with satellite images showing that at least 100,000 Russian troops and military equipment were deployed. Russian President Vladimir Putin denied that he was planning to invade Ukraine. US President Joe Biden warned Russia in December that if it did invade Ukraine, it would face economic sanctions.

A few days later, on December 17, 2021, the Russian government presented a list of security demands to the United States and NATO. Its main demand was for NATO to stop its expansion by excluding new members that joined in recent years and returning its borders to what they were in 1997. Additionally, Russia sought a legally binding guarantee that NATO would stop all military activity in Eastern Europe, particularly in Ukraine. Western leaders, however, decided to reinforce their military presence in Eastern Europe in response.

In an effort to find a diplomatic solution, various meetings were held between government officials from Russia, the United States, and other European countries at the beginning of 2022. However, these meetings did not result in any major progress.

On January 14, a cyberattack targeted the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, and a threatening message was delivered in Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian. The message warned Ukrainians to "be afraid and expect the worst" and "this is for your past, present and future." Ukrainian intelligence believes the message was sent by digital technicians working for the Russian Federation.

Meanwhile, Russia continued to build up its military presence near Ukraine's borders.

Three days later, Russian forces began to arrive in Belarus for joint military drills. On the

same day, former Ukrainian President Poroshenko returned to Ukraine to face charges of treason.

On January 24, NATO increased its military presence in eastern Europe by sending additional ships and fighter jets. Some Western countries also began to evacuate non-essential embassy staff from Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.

In diverse opportunities, Putin reiterated that he didn't have the intention of invading Ukraine. But contrary to his word, on February 24th, Putin launched a direct, orchestrated invasion of Ukraine. The European Commission president, United Kingdom's Prime Minister, and the US President all spoke against the invasion, promising that the attack must end in failure.



### **(Final months of 2022 and 2023)**

A lot has happened since the day the invasion began. According to the official Security Council Report for the meeting of January 2023, "Hostilities remain concentrated in Ukraine's eastern region as Russian forces attempt to advance towards the city of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region. Russian troops who withdrew from the city of Kherson in southern Ukraine in early November 2022 have reportedly reinforced Russian positions along the front

lines in the Donetsk region. Heavy fighting has also been reported in the northeastern Kharkiv region, near areas that Ukraine recaptured in September and October 2022" (Security Council Report).

Russia has been increasing its military presence in Belarus since October 2022, creating fears of a possible repeat of its incursion in late February across the Belarus-Ukraine border. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba acknowledged during a press conference on December 13, 2022, that there are signs that Russia may be preparing for a large-scale offensive in January and February 2023, after its military capabilities had been restored. In an interview on December 15, the commander-in-chief of Ukraine's Armed Forces, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, stated that this offensive campaign may not start in the Donbas region, but rather in the direction of Kyiv from Belarus. However, some military analysts believe that an imminent Russian attack from Belarus is unlikely. On December 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko, during which the topic of Russian-Belarusian military integration was reportedly discussed.

Russia has been continuing to conduct air and missile strikes targeting civilian infrastructure in Ukraine. Since October 10, 2022, Russia has launched nine large-scale missile attacks on energy facilities and hydroelectric power stations, causing widespread power outages and reduced water supplies throughout the country. Russia claims these attacks are intended to weaken Ukraine's military capabilities, while Ukraine accuses Russia of using "terrorist tactics" that violate international humanitarian law. On December 6, the UN Security Council held an open briefing at the request of France and Mexico, and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, urged the international community to increase its support to address the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine caused by these attacks.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy traveled to the US on December 21st, his first known trip outside Ukraine since the start of the war. Zelenskyy met with US President Joe Biden, discussing strengthening cooperation, specifically Ukraine's defense capabilities. Zelenskyy also addressed a joint session of the US Congress, emphasizing that US support is an investment in global security and democracy, therefore, announcing an additional \$1.85 billion in military assistance to Ukraine, including the transfer of the Patriot air defense system, to provide Ukraine with enhanced protection from Russian missile attacks.

Russia continues to express disapproval of Ukraine's Western allies for the provision of armament. On December 9th, 2022, Russia requested a Security Council meeting under the agenda item "Threats to international peace and security" regarding the topic of "supplies of lethal weapons to Ukraine and their consequences." During the meeting, Russia accused the United States and other NATO allies of engaging in a proxy war in Ukraine and breaking the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), an international agreement that regulates the international trade in conventional arms. The ATT requires state parties to evaluate the risk of exported weapons being used to violate international humanitarian law. The United States and European Council members argue that it is within their rights to offer security assistance to Ukraine as it exercises its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter. As of today, the armed conflict has taken the lives of many innocent civilians and even more soldiers, the tense situation keeps developing, and the world is watching attentively to what will happen next.

***Guiding Questions:***

-What are your political, diplomatic, and economic relations with the United States?

- What are your political, diplomatic, and economic relations with Russia?
- Is your country part of NATO? If not, is your country in the Western sphere of influence or the Russian sphere of influence?
- What are your country's foreign policies on war, diplomatic tensions, and alliances?
- Which solutions would you propose for the committee to solve the conflict? How would you develop these solutions? What would your country do to complete those solutions?

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## **Topic B: Armed Conflict Between Morocco and Western Sahara**

### **Introduction:**

The armed conflict between Morocco and Western Sahara is very complicated and intertwined as it involves many actors with various interests throughout different periods and moments in history. This conflict has been almost forgotten and has been given little importance in comparison to others in the African region. Nonetheless, this conflict, although currently less violent and not as strong as it was some decades ago, still involves many interests as being responsible for thousands of deaths and the massive displacement of people in the Western Sahara territory.

### **Historical Context:**

This conflict first began on March 2nd of 1956 when Morocco gained its independence, and claimed that the territory of Western Sahara should be “liberated” from Spain and handed it out to them with the claim that Western Sahara was ethnically related to Morocco and that such territory was historically linked with the one of Morocco.

Years later, in 1963, due to the constant pressure of the UN, Spain hinted that it would leave the territory. The Charter of the United Nations announces that Western Sahara would enter the list of dependent non-self-governing territories (Article 73e of the Charter of the United Nations).

More than a decade later, Spain, due to the constant pressure from the UN, declared its decision to adopt the necessary measures so that the Sahrawi population (the indigenous inhabitants of the territory) could exercise their right to self-determination. This led to a referendum held on August 20, 1974, under the auspices and guarantee of the United Nations. Spain would adopt the necessary measures so that the Sahrawi population maintained their sovereignty.

On the 13 of December of that same year, the General Assembly summoned a counseling opinion on the following questions. The document emphasizes three main points of discussion:

- The Assembly establishes a main problem which consists of unequivocally solving and establishing if Western Sahara at the time of colonization by Spain was a territory belonging to anyone (Question 1).
- Should the answer to the previous question be negative, a second problem had to be solved: determining the legal ties between this territory and the Kingdom of Morocco and the Mauritanian entity (Question 2).
- The Assembly calls upon Spain, in its capacity as an administering Power in particular, as well as Morocco and Mauritania, in their capacity as interested parties.
- The Assembly urges Spain to postpone the referendum it contemplated holding in Western Sahara until the General Assembly decides on the policy to be followed to accelerate the decolonization process in the territory”

The request was sent on December 17th when the Secretary General of the UN called for the president of the International Court of Justice to advise on the situation.

The year after the counseling was held the Court of Justice gave its final answer and verdict about the previously set questions by the General Assembly:

“On October 16 In his Advisory Opinion, delivered on 16 October 1975, the Court replied:

1. Question I is negative.
2. In reply to Question II, it expressed the opinion that the materials and information presented to it showed the existence, at the time of Spanish colonization, of legal ties of allegiance between the Sultan of Morocco and some of the tribes living in the territory of Western Sahara. They equally showed the existence of rights, including some rights relating to the land, which constituted legal ties between the Mauritanian entity, as understood by the Court, and the territory of Western Sahara. On the other hand, the Court concluded that the materials and information presented to it did not establish any tie of territorial sovereignty between the territory of Western Sahara and the Kingdom of Morocco or the Mauritanian entity.”

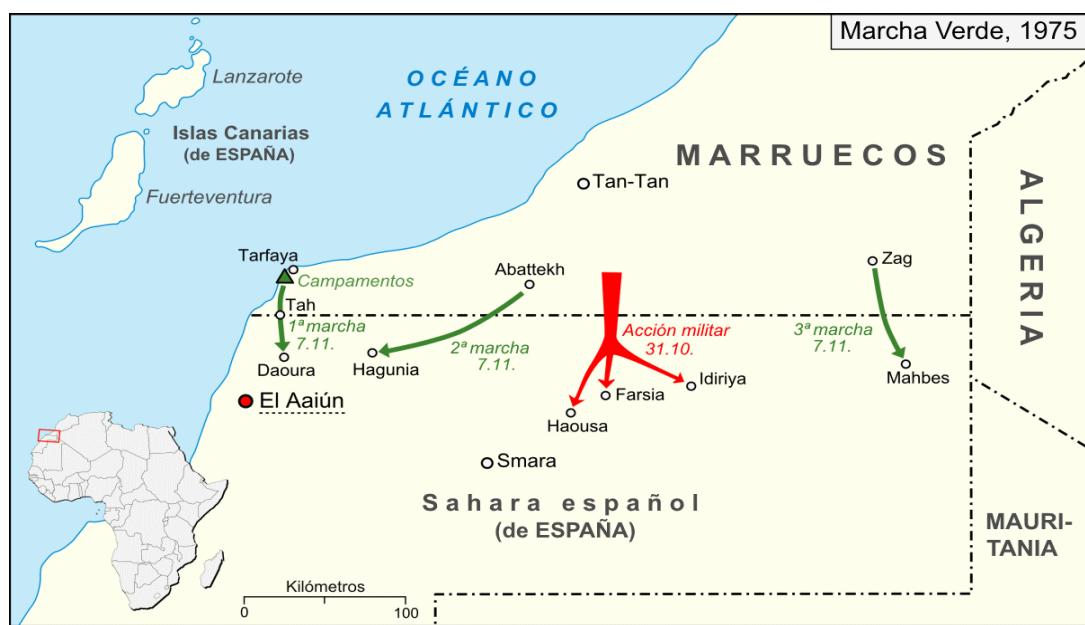
(<https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/61/061-19751016-ADV-01-00-EN.pdf>  
f)

Thus, the Court did not find any legal ties of such a nature as might affect the application of the General Assembly’s 1960 resolution 1514 (XV) — containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples — in the decolonization of Western Sahara and, in particular, of the principle of self-determination through the free and genuine expression of the will of the peoples of the territory.

After the court’s hearing, around November 6, Morocco’s king, Hassan II addressed his people on television and asked for 350,000 volunteers to hold the city of Tarfaya, which they

believed was the territory that belonged to them. This event became known as the Green March.

Morocco took advantage of the political crisis unleashed in Spain by Franco's agony to seize Western Sahara. In October 1975, the International Court in The Hague ruled in favor of the self-determination of the Sahara, whereupon Hassan II decided to abandon the diplomatic path due to growing tensions with Spain. He organized a large march of civilians to carry out a symbolic invasion of the territory. Spain showed clear weakness during the crisis, and after the penetration of the march, they signed the Madrid Agreements with Mauritania and Morocco, by which it conceded the territory of what had once been its colony. Still today, the Sahrawi population fights for its independence.



On 14 November 1975, the delegations lawfully representing the Governments of Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania, held a meeting in Madrid, and stated that they had agreed in order on the following principles:

- Spain confirms its resolve, repeatedly stated in the United Nations, to decolonize the Territory of Western Sahara by terminating the responsibilities and powers that it possesses over that Territory as administering Power.
- In conformity with the aforementioned determination and accordance with the negotiations advocated by the United Nations with the affected parties, Spain will proceed forthwith to institute a temporary administration in the Territory, in which Morocco and Mauritania will participate in collaboration with the Yema'a and which will be transferred all the responsibilities and powers referred to in the preceding paragraph. It is accordingly agreed that two Deputy Governors nominated by Morocco and Mauritania shall be appointed to assist the Governor-General of the Territory in the performance of his functions. The termination of the Spanish presence in the Territory will be completed by 28 February 1976 at the latest.
- The views of the Saharan population will be respected.
- The three countries will inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the terms set down in this instrument as a result of the negotiations entered per Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.
- The three countries involved declare that they arrived at the foregoing conclusions in the highest spirit of understanding and brotherhood, with due respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and as the best possible contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

In 1976, the Polisario Front (Movement for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Wadi el Dhahab), recognized by the United Nations as the only legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people, announced (from exile in Algeria) the establishment of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) as an independent state.

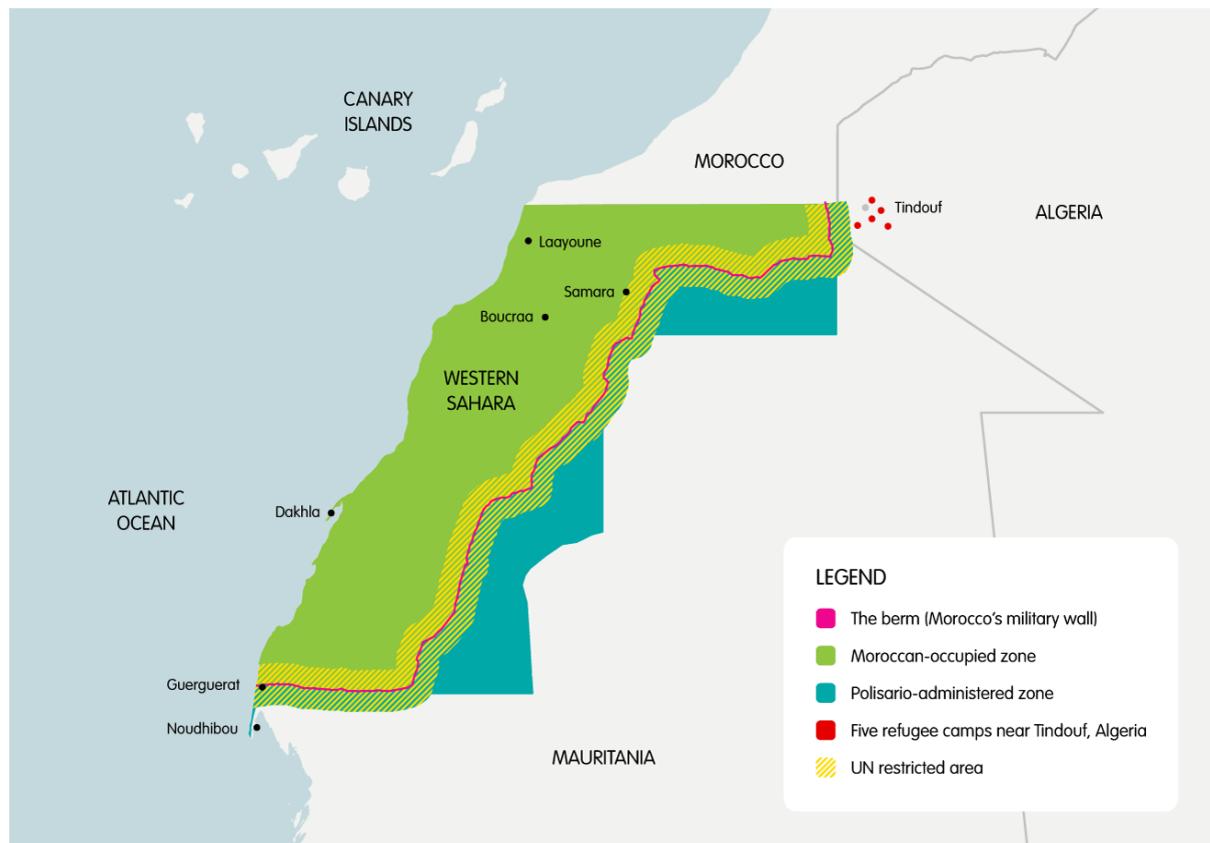
On the 26 of February of 1976, Spain informed the UN Secretary-General that beginning with that date it ended its presence in Western Sahara and considered itself to be released from any responsibility of the international character in connection with administering this territory by ceasing to participate in the temporary administration that had been introduced in the Agreement mentioned above.

On the 14th of April of 1976, Morocco drew a treaty with Mauritania in which they divided the area of Western Sahara and formally annexed the provinces assigned to it on the power of that treaty (Convention concerning the state frontier line). In the meantime, in this region, a military conflict broke out between Morocco, Mauritania, and the Polisario Front.

In the year 1979, The United Nations General Assembly, in its Resolution 34/37 of 21 Nov. 1979, concerning Western Sahara, reaffirmed the “inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence” and expressed their satisfaction with the Mauritania-Sahara agreement concluded in Algiers on 10 Aug. 1979. They also urged Morocco to “join in the peace process” and recommended that the Polisario Front as “the representative of the people of Western Sahara should participate fully in any search for a just, lasting, and definitive political solution to the question of Western Sahara.”

The armed conflict between the Polisario Front and Morocco lasted until 30 August 1988, when both parties accepted, as to the principle, the proposition of solving the conflict presented by the UN Secretary-General, which included – in particular – declaration of armistice and organization of a referendum under the auspices of the UN on the issue of the territory’s self-determination.

In 1991 the United Nations General Assembly brokered a cease-fire based on the referendum mentioned previously. This cease-fire could be considered the end of the armed conflict between Morocco and Western Sahara, however, many factors maintain this conflict as one that is unresolved.



### Current Situation:

As of today the referendum under the auspices of the UN on the issue of the territory's self-determination still has not been held and Western Sahara has remained incorporated into the territory of Morocco, without the opportunity for the people of Sahrawi to express their will in this respect in a free and independent way.

Many factors have changed since the cease-fire of 1991 until now, events such as:

- Dissatisfied with decades of political stalemate and gridlock, The Polisario Front decided to return to active resistance after the Guerguerat incident in 2020, this is due to the dissatisfaction of decades of political stalemate and gridlock.
- The Sahrawis growing deeply frustrated by the lack of movement on their quest for national self-determination.
- Morocco impeding the referendum and the exploitation of the territory's natural resources.
- Occupied Western Sahara holds in its territory great amounts of natural resources such as; having under its sand some of the largest phosphate reserves, providing access to rich fishing waters that run along its 690-mile shore and contain vast offshore oil and gas resources.
- In addition, Western Sahara is a target of western renewable energy companies such as Siemens and Enel, breaking the country to pieces without any benefit for the Sahrawi people.

Indeed, the systematic exploitation of these resources is seen by the Sahrawis as the underlying reason behind the Moroccan occupation of their homeland.

The Committee will focus on two main spheres of this armed conflict, the economic and the political.

#### *Economic:*

Phosphorus is an essential element on Earth, vital for food production since it is one of the most common ingredients used in commercial fertilizer. Ninety percent of the world's mined phosphate rock is used in agriculture and food production.

Morocco controls approximately 70% of the world's phosphate rock reserves. However, most of Morocco's mines are located in Western Sahara, which Morocco had occupied against international law.

According to Stuart White, the director of the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney, demand for phosphate in fertilizer will rise in coming decades, partly due to demand from an increasingly developed Saharan Africa, which he describes as "a sleeping giant in terms of demand for phosphorus". Moreover, countries like China are skyrocketing in their meat consumption, which uses high amounts of phosphates for production. This means the reliance on phosphate from Western Sahara will only increase.

*Political:*

The heated 46-year-old conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front over the disputed territory of Western Sahara has resurged after years of stalemate. In mid-November 2020, the Polisario Front, a movement seeking independence for the territory, declared an end to a 1991 UN-brokered cease-fire agreement and a return to armed struggle against Moroccan forces that had entered the Guerguerat coastal border point with Mauritania which is an UN-patrolled intermediary zone in violation of the 1991 deal. Rabat, Morocco's capital, tried to disperse unarmed Sahrawi protesters blocking the crossing point linking Morocco to Sub-Saharan Africa. In reaction, the Polisario Front declared that the clash was no longer about protests but about a complete Moroccan withdrawal from Western Sahara.

It is expected for the committee to address the situation and act accordingly. Taking into account the economic advantages that Morocco holds, the ratified owner of the territory that

is the Polisario Front, and the rights of the Sahrawis as the independent population of the territory.

### **Guiding Questions:**

- What are the main allies of your delegation?
- What are the principal interests of your delegation?
- In what sphere of the conflict (economic or political) does your delegation have power and interest
- How does the central conflict affect your delegation?
- Which possible solutions could you propose or help to be efficient taking into account your role in the conflict?

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