

International Declaration
of the
European United Left/Nordic
Green Left
(GUE/NGL)
in solidarity with the
Sahrawi People
2019

- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations, in particular to Article 1, paragraph 2, and Article 55 that include the respect for the principle of self-determination of peoples; as well as to Article 73 thereof in Chapter XI regarding non-self-governing territories,

- having regard to Resolution 34/37 of the General Assembly of the United Nations which recognises the “Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y Río de Oro” (Polisario Front) as the representative of the people of Western Sahara,

whereas according to international law the peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories have the inalienable right to self-determination and independence and to the enjoyment of the natural resources of their Territories, as well as their right to dispose of those resources in their best interests;

whereas Western Sahara remains an issue of pending decolonization, discussed repeatedly by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the United Nations General Assembly;

whereas the people of Western Sahara have not given their consent to any EU-Morocco agreement de facto applied to Western Sahara; whereas this consent is an indispensable requirement for it to be applied in Western Sahara as established in the rulings of the CJEU, a consent that must be expressed through its legitimate representative, the Polisario Front, in application of Resolution 34/37 of the General Assembly of the United Nations:

whereas Spain remains de iure administering power, while most of the territory is currently under the foreign military occupation of Morocco, divided by a military wall of more than 2,700 kilometres; whereas access to the natural resources of Western Sahara is one of the keys of the conflict and its exploitation without consent of the Saharawi people supposes a violation of Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations;

whereas after 15 years of war between Morocco and Polisario Front, a ceasefire took place between both parties in 1991 leading to the creation of the United Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) which has failed so far to fulfil its main mission, -the organization of the referendum of self-determination-, whereas its mandate has been renewed every year by the UN Security Council, whereas MINURSO has no monitoring mandate on human rights in the territory;

whereas on 31 October 2018 the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2440 that extended the mandate of MINURSO only for further six months; whereas in December 2018 the UN Secretary General Personal Envoy for Western Sahara organized the first direct talks between the Polisario Front and Morocco since 2012;

whereas the perspective of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) towards Western Sahara is based on the values of peace, democracy, justice, the respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter, Human Rights and International Law, as well as the firm support to the legitimate right of self-determination for the Sahrawi people;

ANNEXURE A - Specific Projects for Cooperation between GUE/NGL and Polisario Front

The parties commit to:

1. Working for the development of their relations based on the above mentioned principles;
2. Holding regular political consultations and organizing meeting between the GUE/NGL and Polisario Front, with particular emphasis on the participation of members of the Sahrawi National Council and the National Union of Sahrawi Women;
3. Ensuring an exchange of experiences between the GUE/NGL and the Sahrawi National Council, especially in dealing with thematic files;
4. Jointly organizing seminars on subjects of common interest;
5. Issue a joint communication on Western Sahara at least once a year, and particularly related to UN Security Council discussions on the mandate of MINURSO, on the UN promoted peace talks between Polisario Front and Morocco and/or in relations with the sessions on Western Sahara of the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly.

The GUE/NGL commits to:

1. Reiterate its deepest solidarity with the Sahrawi people and their inalienable right to self-determination and freedom, as well as its support of a fair and durable solution to the conflict allowing the Sahrawi people to exercise its legitimate right for self-determination;
2. Reiterate the right of the Sahrawi people to the enjoyment of the natural resources of Western Sahara, as well as their right to dispose of those resources in their best interests;
3. Continue its active support to the Intergroup Peace for the Sahrawi People created in 1986;
4. The GUE/NGL will host a Sahrawi trainee jointly selected with the Polisario Front, provided that candidates get a working authorisation in Belgium.

The Polisario Front commits to:

1. Provide information sessions to representatives of the GUE/NGL as regards the situation of the Sahrawi people as well as on the main issues related to the negotiations at UN level on the solution of the conflict of Western Sahara;
2. Coordinate and facilitate GUE/NGL representatives' visit to the Sahrawi refugee camps, to the Sahrawi liberated territories, as well as the participation of GUE/NGL representatives in international meetings of solidarity with the Sahrawi people.

This Agreement will be revised by each side every two years and half in order to evaluate the achievements reached and to give recommendations for the continuation of the agreement.

The decision of the Bureau of the GUE/NGL is without prejudice to the development of relations between its national parties and delegations with Polisario Front and with Sahrawi civil society organisations.