

Country/entity Morocco
Western Sahara

Region Middle East and North Africa

Agreement name UN Security Council Resolution 1541

Date 29 Apr 2004

Agreement status Unilateral document

Interim arrangement Yes

Agreement/conflict level Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

Western Sahara Conflict (1973 - 1991)

Conflict in Western Sahara began as an insurgency by the Polisario Front against Spanish colonization in 1973. Two years later, Spain withdrew from the territory. Following the annexation of the territory by Morocco and Mauritania in 1976, the insurgency continued. After proclaiming the establishment of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in 1976, the Polisario Front succeeded in gaining recognition by several states, but was not admitted into the United Nations. Instead, the territory was annexed by Morocco and Mauritania, sparking a 16-year resistance by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front. Following a withdrawal by Mauritania in 1979, the conflict reached a stalemate through the 1980s and then reignited in 1989 until a ceasefire in 1991. At the time 80 per cent of the territory was under the de facto control of Morocco, while 20 per cent continued to be held by the SADR including the refugee camps along the Algerian border. Unrest has continued to erupt at intervals in from 1999-2004, 2005, 2010 and 2011. Attempts to solve the conflict have manifested in the form of the Baker Plan (2000) and the Moroccan Initiative (2006-2008).

Close

Western Sahara Conflict (1973 - 1991)

Stage Renewal

Conflict nature Government/territory

Peace process Morocco-Western Sahara peace process

Parties United Nations Security Council

Third parties -

Description UN Security Council Resolution reaffirming support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara and calling for an extension and evaluation of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

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Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
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Disabled persons	No specific mention.
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Elderly/age	No specific mention.
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Migrant workers	No specific mention.
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Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
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Religious groups	No specific mention.
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Indigenous people	No specific mention.
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Other groups	No specific mention.
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Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
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Social class	No specific mention.
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Gender

Women, girls and gender	No specific mention.
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Men and boys	No specific mention.
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LGBTI	No specific mention.
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Family	No specific mention.
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State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination Page 1,
... Reaffirming its commitment to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect,

Page 1,
1. Reaffirms its support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties;

Referendum Page 1,
4. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 October 2004;

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	No specific mention.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory UN SC Resolution

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 1,
4. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 October 2004;

Page 1,
5. Requests that the Secretary-General provide a report on the situation before the end of the present mandate and requests the Secretary-General to include in this report an evaluation of the mission size necessary for MINURSO to carry out its mandated tasks, with a view towards its possible reduction;

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source UNSC website
