

GE Vernova

Att: Scott Strazik, Chief Executive Officer

5 Necco St, Boston, MA 02210, USA

Brussels, 15.05.2023

RE. GE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFTISSAT II WIND FARM IN OCCUPIED WESTERN SAHARA

Dear Mr Strazik,

Western Sahara Resource Watch is again privileged to present you with our compliments.

We are writing in relation to shipments of windmill parts from Almería, Spain, to occupied Western Sahara in June 2022. According to the logistic company handling the transport of the parts on the ground in Western Sahara, Lasarte, the windmills were destined for the Aftissat II wind farm. There are further reports that Aftissat II is under construction.

GE Renewable Energy was contracted by *Energie Eolienne du Maroc* (EEM) in September 2021 for the supply of 40 wind turbines for the 200 MW Aftissat extension, or Aftissat II. A 20-year full-service contract is reportedly included in the package.¹



We would be grateful if you could confirm that GE Renewable Energy has indeed supplied wind turbines to occupied Western Sahara. In addition, we wish to raise the questions included in our letter of 5 October 2021, to which we have not received a response.

1. What steps has GE Renewable Energy taken to ensure it has the consent of the people of Western Sahara through their UN-recognised representation, the Frente Polisario², for its participation in the construction of renewable energy infrastructure on the Saharawi people's land?
2. Taking into account that the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union, the European Court of Justice, the International Court of Justice and the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights do not qualify Western Sahara as part of Morocco, why does GE Renewable Energy choose to refer to the location of the planned wind farm as in "Morocco" in its press release of 30 September 2021 announcing the Aftissat II contract?
3. How does GE Renewable Energy qualify the legal status of Morocco in relation to Western Sahara?
4. GE's press release on the Aftissat II contract clarifies that the energy will be supplied to industrial end-users. Which are those?

WSRW finds it unfortunate that your company is engaged in the construction of infrastructure in a territory held under illegal military occupation. We submit that it is not in the interest of GE Renewable Energy to be

¹ General Electric, 30.09.2021, GE Renewable Energy and Nareva to build 200 MW Aftissat onshore wind farm extension in Morocco. <https://www.ge.com/news/press-releases/ge-renewable-energy-and-nareva-to-build-200-mw-aftissat-onshore-wind-farm-extension-morocco>

² UNGA Resolution 34/37, §7: "Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro", or POLISARIO, as "the representative of the people of Western Sahara".

associated with such business. Our reasons for that assumption – based on legal, ethical and political grounds – have been expressed and detailed in our previous letter to you of October 2021, and in a letter sent to General Electric Company in March 2020 in relation to the Harmattan project in Dakhla.³ Despite not having received any response, we trust that you have assessed them and that there is no need for repetition of arguments.

We'd be grateful for your response 30 May 2023. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information on the above-raised issue. We thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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³ WSRW, letter to General Electric Company, 31.03.2020, https://vest-sahara.s3.amazonaws.com/wsrw/feature-images/File/360/61406bd5c9353_20200331-WSRW-GeneralElectricCompany.pdf