

Mrs. Sara Eyckmans
Coordinator
Western Sahara Resource Watch
Brussels

Zamudio (Vizcaya-Spain), April 7th 2021

— Dear Ms. Eyckmans

Thank you for your letter dated February 18th, 2021 addressed to Siemens Energy AG (“the Letter”). As you have already been informed by Siemens Energy AG, we have aligned with them that we at Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, S.A. (“SGRE”) will respond to the Letter.

First of all, we hope you and your beloved ones as well as the WSRW Team stays safe in the current scenario of COVID19.

Please be aware, as a general statement that SGRE refrains, as a matter of policy, from taking positions or making judgements on questions of international law as well as political matters and such remains our position.

Under such premise, we are pleased to provide you with our Company’s position on the matters you address in the Letter:

1. We are aware that the region of Western Sahara is disputed, and that UN considers the zone as a “non-self-governing territory” since 1963. We at SGRE have neither the mandate nor the capacity to independently advocate on such questions or to issue recognitions under international law or to affirm a territorial status. These matters fall entirely, in our view, under the responsibility of governments and institutions, that possess the adequate political capacity, and of other international organizations. We support the position of the international community and the UN, which has consistently called on the parties involved to reach a mutually acceptable political solution.
2. Related to the Ruling by the European Court of Justice, we fully support the statement made back in November 2020 by the European union foreign policy chief Mr Borrell emphasizing its hope for a “fast-return” to UN-supervised talks, which had been suspended since March 2019, and the need for appointment of a new UN envoy for Western Sahara; the envoy position remains vacant since May 2019, after former envoy Mr Horst, appointed August 2017, had to step down due to health reasons.

SIEMENS GAMESA RENEWABLE ENERGY

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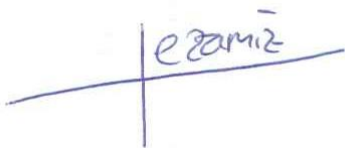
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3. We fully respect the decision adopted by Storebrand -Norway's largest private asset manager-, which is relying not only in international law, but also on the recommendations of the Norwegian authorities who suggest the private sector to refrain from any agreement - including investments - in Western Sahara.
4. SGRE´s involvement in projects is limited to delivery, installation, commissioning and service of the wind turbines, being that legal duties related to project development are within the scope of responsibilities of our customers, which own and operate the wind farms according to applicable laws. In addition to this, although human rights treaties do not bind SGRE as a private Company, SGRE has made a voluntary commitment to observe fundamental human rights within the framework of the Global Compact.
5. Furthermore, in accordance with our commitment to the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines, the external legal assessment updated in February 2020 confirmed, again, the position of SGRE about the compliance of its activities in Western Sahara with applicable laws. On the basis of our hope for an amicable resolution of controversies, we are continuously monitoring the progress and development in the region closely together with our customers and key stakeholders.
6. In terms of the right of self-determination of people, the installation and servicing of a wind farm under SGRE´s scope of work does not prevent local population from such right, because the project does not cut them off from access to basic services or institutions, does not destroy or erode the existing infrastructure and does not result in a depletion of natural resources. The capture and use of wind power by the equipment supplied by SGRE is not contrary to the interests of the local population.
7. On the contrary, local population shall benefit from the access to electricity by SGRE´s contribution to green technologies, considering the vast renewables sources the region is endowed with. The region and its people have a tremendous opportunity to develop fostering investment in renewable energy, and SGRE is bringing and sharing the expertise gained globally throughout the years. SGRE follows its employment policy to hire local workforce first, whenever possible, for its projects. It is not only part time or secondary employment, it also involves both sub-contracting or else internal hiring of locals full time. For example, what SGRE has been capable of bringing on board is that during the construction of Tarfaya wind farm (located just above the western Sahara region), 30% of Saharawi workforce was hired, and in Aftissat wind farm, 40% of total workforce employed was also Saharawi. Recently in partnership with the NGO's High Atlas Foundation (HAF) and Santé Sud, SGRE has developed local programs focusing on water access systems, local health, and educational projects. For the access to water project, a canal and drinking towers and pumps were built to provide the main water supply for the Boujdour region´s nomadic population, enlighten by solar panels. SGRE and HAF also conducted an environmental campaign with 17 schools located in Boujdour focused on workshops involving 1,000 students on environmental awareness, waste management and tree planting activities. All initiatives are in respect to SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy). We also supported the local communities during covid-19 times by distributing food, sanitary products as well as planting 5,000 trees in the region.

8. As it is customary within its scope of work, SGRE engages with local civil society organizations, Saharawi people representatives present in the region in this case in order to maximize the positive socio-economic outcome of the activities being carried out.

While we remain close to key global institutional stakeholders to foster a prompt amicable resolution of controversies, SGRE remain committed to the development of the region and its people, based on vast renewables resources the land is endowed with.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lezamiz', is written over a horizontal line. A vertical line intersects the horizontal line, creating a cross-like structure.

Jon Lezamiz Cortazar

Global Head of Public Affairs