

AMEA Power

Attn: Mr. Mohamed AlNowais, Managing Director

Marina Plaza Office Tower

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Brussels, 05.09.2025

REGARDING AMEA POWER'S RENEWABLE PROJECTS IN OCCUPIED WESTERN SAHARA

Dear Mr. AlNowais,

Western Sahara Resource Watch (WSRW) presents you with its compliments. We are writing in relation AMEA Power's renewable energy projects in Western Sahara:

- Several Moroccan and international outlets reported in June that AMEA Power had signed an agreement with YNNA for the development of a 100 MW wind farm in El Aaiún;¹
- In August 2025, your company announced its participation in the second phase of the Agadir desalination projects, which "will be powered by AMEA Power's 150 MW wind project in Laayoune".²
- Your website also mentions a 1 GW green hydrogen project, stated to be in development", in the southern part of Western Sahara.³

On this basis, we have outlined several questions below to which we look forward to receiving responses, ideally before 15 September 2025. Your comments will help ensure our reporting is accurate and balanced.

Allow us to first contextualise our inquiry. Western Sahara is recognised by the United Nations as a Non-Self-Governing Territory without an administering power. The International Court of Justice has confirmed that Morocco holds no sovereignty over the territory, and the people of Western Sahara retain the inalienable right to self-determination.⁴ In 1988, the UN was able to broker a ceasefire arrangement between Morocco and the Western Sahara liberation movement, Polisario, in which both parties agreed to hold a referendum on self-determination.⁵ To that goal, a UN mission (MINURSO) has been deployed to the territory, but it has not been able to organise a referendum as Morocco continues to block any effort that offers a choice beyond integration. In November 2020, the ceasefire collapsed after the Moroccan army seized a section of the UN buffer zone to break up a Saharawi protest.⁶

While well over a hundred of UN Resolutions, and rulings by the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Justice⁷ and the African Court on Human and People's Rights⁸, all underline that Morocco has no sovereignty or administering mandate over Western Sahara, Morocco continues to militarily control about three-quarters of the territory. Incentivized by its exploitation of the territory's resources, Morocco has little interest to genuinely take part in the UN-mediated peace process. Meanwhile, the lingering conflict continues to have a high human and humanitarian cost: over 170,000 Saharawis are stuck in refugee camps in neighbouring Algeria, surviving in harsh desert conditions and dwindling humanitarian aid. Saharawis who live under the yoke of Morocco's occupation are

¹ See e.g. Hespress, 30.06.2025, <https://fr.hespress.com/431221-ynna-et-amea-power-sallient-pour-developper-un-parc-eolien-de-100-mw-a-laayoune.html>

² AMEA Power, 01.08.2025, AMEA Power Joins Second Phase of the Agadir Desalination Project in Morocco and Uses its Wind Farm in Laayoune to Generate 150MW of Green Energy, <https://www.ameapower.com/amea-power-joins-second-phase-of-the-agadir-desalination-project-in-morocco-and-uses-its-wind-farm-in-laayoune-to-generate-150mw-of-green-energy/>

³ AMEA Power, Projects, <https://www.ameapower.com/projects/>

⁴ International Court of Justice, Western Sahara, <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/61>

⁵ The "settlement proposals" are included in the Report of the UN Secretary General on Western Sahara of June 1990, available here: https://minurso.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/unsg_report_18_june_1990.pdf

⁶ WSRW, 19.11.2020, Saharawi gov calls for halt of all activity in Western Sahara over war, <https://wsrw.org/en/news/saharawi-gov-calls-for-halt-of-all-activity-in-western-sahara-over-war>

⁷ All Rulings can be accessed at the site of the EU Court of Justice, <http://curia.europa.eu>.

⁸ African Court on Human and People's Rights, 22.09.2022, Ruling on Application N° 028/2018 <https://www.african-court.org/cpmt/storage/app/uploads/public/632/e0f/3ad/632e0f3ad580e748464681.pdf>

victims of serious human rights violations that have been reported by the UN Human Rights Committee, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, in addition to credible international organisations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and others. In 2023, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recently lamented the fact that his Office has not been allowed to visit Western Sahara for the last eight years.⁹ Year after year, Western Sahara is ranked among the worst countries and territories in terms of political rights and civil liberties, on par with countries and territories like North Korea, Syria, Afghanistan and Crimea.¹⁰

The status of the territory comes with repercussions for business activities. As established in 2002 by the UN Legal Counsel at the request of the Security Council, any economic activity in the territory would be in violation of international law if not undertaken in accordance with the wishes and the interests of the people of the territory.¹¹ We also refer to the conclusions of the UN Treaty Body on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹² and of the UN Human Rights Committee¹³, which have both emphasized the need of obtaining the Saharawi people's "consent to the realization of developmental projects and [resource] extraction operations".

Since 2015, in ten consecutive rulings, the Court of Justice of the European Union has reiterated that Western Sahara is "distinct and separate" from Morocco and that no trade or development agreement involving the territory may proceed without the express consent of the Saharawi people, as represented by the Polisario Front.

In this context, we respectfully ask the following:

1. What steps has AMEA Power taken to obtain the consent of the people of Western Sahara, through their UN-recognised representative the Frente Polisario, for its planned projects on their land?
2. How does AMEA Power assess the legal status of Western Sahara?
3. We note that the map showing AMEA Power's projects on the company's website, is factually incorrect, as it depicts Western Sahara as part of Morocco. Will AMEA Power rectify this error and bring the map in line with UN cartography?
4. Will the 100 MW wind farm to be co-developed with YNNA be used for powering the Agadir desalination project, or will a separate wind farm be developed to that end?
5. How does AMEA Power assess the legal validity of permits, concessions, licences accorded by Moroccan authorities for the development of infrastructure in a territory over which Morocco has no sovereignty or administering mandate?
6. How does AMEA Power evaluate the potential implications of its operations on the UN peace process, which aims to resolve the conflict through the exercise of the Saharawi people's right to self-determination?

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns. We would highly appreciate a response.

Sincerely,

Sara Eyckmans

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⁹ OHCHR, 07.03.2023, GLOBAL UPDATE: HIGH COMMISSIONER OUTLINES CONCERNS IN OVER 40 COUNTRIES, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/03/global-update-high-commissioner-outlines-concerns-over-40-countries>

¹⁰ Freedom House, <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores>

¹¹ UN Security Council, 12.02.2002, Letter dated 29 January 2002 from the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, addressed to the President of the Security Council, S/2002/161, <https://undocs.org/S/2002/161>

¹² UN Economic and Social Council, 22.10.2015, Concluding Observations on the fourth periodic report of Morocco, E/C.12/MAR/CO/4*, §6, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fMAR%2fCO%2f4&Lang=en

¹³ UN Human Rights Committee, 01.12.2016, Concluding Observations on the sixth periodic report of Morocco, §10, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR/C/MAR/CO/6&Lang=En