European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
Civil Society Engagement Unit
One Exchange Square,
London EC2A 2JN

London, 25 June 2020

Via electronic mail from Beccy Allen, Committee Member, Western Sahara Campaign UK
Re: EBRD and support to projects in occupied Western Sahara

Dear Ms Allen,

We have received the letter from Western Sahara Campaign and the request for information on EBRD investment and project engagement in El Aaiun. It has been shared with our Teams to provide you with accurate information regarding your request. Please find below the Bank’s response to your questions.

Please note that the Bank’s position provided by our Team of the Civil Society Engagement Unit in March 2019 remains valid. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is engaging in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region in several countries and projects. Morocco is a country of operation where EBRD is providing project and investment support and investment lending. The response provided by the Bank in the Report on Public Comments on the draft Country Strategy for Morocco in 2015 remains valid and thus the Bank considers the West Sahara to be disputed territory as per UN Resolution.

The requests regarding the Bank’s investment with the company Iglo Fish are answered in cumulative way. At that date EBRD has no on-going engagement with the stated company, Iglo Fish SA in the Western Sahara in the city of El Aaiun. Every project is reviewed in the development stage, which includes environmental, social and political reviews. Local communities are being engaged when stakeholder engagement plans are developed, this is part of every project assessment and it is compulsory for clients of EBRD to comply.

Kind regards,

Civil Society Engagement Unit
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development