

Mission, Objectives and Demands

Mission

Western Sahara Resource Watch is an international non-governmental coalition of organisations and individuals working for the protection of natural resources in Western Sahara.

We believe that as long as Morocco is able to plunder the resources of the Western Sahara, the illegal occupation will not come to an end. We don't consider it possible for the two parties of the conflict to take part in fruitful UN talks over the Saharawi people's right to self-determination while Morocco is violating that right through its practices in the territory.

The Saharawi people's rights over its resources and territory are enshrined in numerous UN resolutions and international human rights instruments, namely in:

- General Assembly Resolution 1803 (XVII), of 14 December 1962, the "Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources";
- art. 1, nr. 2, of both International Covenants on Human Rights, of 1966;
- and in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, of 1974, whose art. 16, nr. 2, reads: "No State has the right to promote or encourage investments that may constitute an obstacle to the liberation of a territory occupied by force".

Objectives

- To affirm the sovereignty of the Saharawi people over their natural resources as the corollary of their right to self-determination,
- To prevent that Morocco benefits from the exploitation of the resources of the territory,
- To stop all kinds of activities related to resource exploration, resource exploitation and the development of infrastructure which have not obtained the consent of the Saharawi people,
- To collect and publish evidence documenting natural resource exploration, resource exploitation and Moroccan infrastructure programmes in Western Sahara and engage in campaigning to ensure that such activities do not take place without the genuine consent of the Saharawi people,
- To forge a network of individuals and organisations that promote and protect the legitimate rights of the Saharawi people over their natural resources.

Demands that...

- the UN and Spain assume their responsibilities under international obligations to protect the natural resources in Western Sahara, and in that light, UN bodies such as UNFCCC and UNFAO to respect the UN Charter,
- that Morocco respects the Saharawi people's right to self-determination, terminates the illegal and unethical plundering of Western Sahara natural resources, and ends its construction of settlement infrastructure projects in the territory and its labelling of products from the occupied territory as Moroccan,
- all states to support the efforts of the UN, to not engage in resource exploration, resource exploitation and infrastructure development in the territory, and to actively encourage its companies to do follow the same practice,

- the European Union to not enter into agreements with the Moroccan government that include the territory of Western Sahara, and to abide by the rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union,
- all involved companies immediately end their activities in relation to Western Sahara, unless explicit consent has been obtained from the representation of the people the territory,
- all individual and institutional shareholders exclude companies involved in activities in relation to the territory from their portfolio, or critically engage to make sure that the involved companies withdraw,
- all funding institutions ensure to not provide financial support, including loans, to activities relating to the exploration, exploitation and infrastructure programmes in Western Sahara without consent from the Saharawi people,
- all of Morocco's trading partners to ensure that their import from Morocco do not include products from Western Sahara, and that products sold to Morocco are not intended for re-export to Western Sahara.

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