

Worley Ltd.

Att: Chris Ashton, Chief Executive Officer

Level 17, 141 Walker Street

North Sydney, NSW 2060

Australia

Brussels, 17.03.2021

## RE. WORLEY LTD'S BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN OCCUPIED WESTERN SAHARA

Dear Mr. Ashton,

Western Sahara Resource Watch (WSRW) is privileged to present you with our greetings. We hope that this message finds you well in the current phase of the COVID-19 crisis.

We are writing to invite Worley Ltd's to comment on its business activities in occupied Western Sahara. WSRW is in the process of writing an update report on the 2020 phosphate exports from the territory, and Worley will be featured. Accordingly, we would be grateful for your answers to the questions below, so that we may accurately present your views on the matter.

In 2019, Worley acquired Jacobs Energy's Chemicals & Resources division, and as such, a 50% stake in Jacobs Engineering S.A. (JESA) – a joint venture with OCP SA.

As you know, JESA has a regional office in El Aaiun, Western Sahara. The company has been commissioned by OCP to plan what they refer to as 'a sustainable city' and an 'academic Technopole' near El Aaiún. OCP's vision of the Technopole is one of an innovative driving force for the further "development" of the "southern regions" – the epithet used by Moroccan authorities to refer to the areas of Western Sahara that are held under Moroccan military occupation. Through the take-over of JESA, Worley has inherited these projects.

The United Nations consider Western Sahara to be a Non-Self-Governing Territory without an administering power in place. As stipulated by the International Court of Justice and repeated in four consecutive rulings by the European Court of Justice, Morocco has no sovereignty over or international mandate to administer the territory. Nevertheless, Morocco continues to militarily control three-quarters of the territory, including the Bou Craa phosphate mines which are operated by Phosboucraa, a subsidiary of the Moroccan state-owned company *Office Chérifien des Phosphates*, OCP SA.

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 victims of serious human rights violations that have been reported by the UN Human Rights Committee, in addition to credible international organisations such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and others. Just two weeks ago, Freedom House published its annual update report on the status of civil and political rights in the world, ranking Western Sahara alongside Syria and North Korea.

The situation on the ground in Western Sahara has changed dramatically in recent months. The ceasefire agreement between Morocco and Frente Polisario has come to a halt mid-November, and armed conflict has resumed in the territory.

Investors are becoming increasingly sensitive regarding companies' involvement in the protracted conflict in Western Sahara. In recent years, companies that are associated to the phosphate trade or oil industry have suffered substantial divestments by private investors and government pension funds.

In view of the above, we kindly ask you as new owner of JESA SA, to answer the following questions, also raised in our previous letter of December 2019 which did not receive a response.

1. Has Worley obtained the consent of the people of Western Sahara for its projects in the territory?
2. What actions is Worley planning to undertake in relation to the projects it has acquired in Western Sahara?
3. Does Worley plan to realize more projects in Western Sahara?

We are convinced that it is not in the interest of an esteemed company such as Worley to become associated to the continued brutal occupation of the territory.

We'd be grateful for your answers to the above questions before 1 April 2021.

We thank you beforehand for your consideration of our letter and look forward to your response. Naturally, we remain at your disposal should you have any further questions.

Sincerely

Sara Eyckmans

Coordinator, Western Sahara Resource Watch

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