Dear Mr Ashton,

We at Western Sahara Resource Watch, Australia Western Sahara Association, Australian Unions for Western Sahara and Western Sahara Campaign – New Zealand, are again privileged to write to you. We are writing to enquire about Worley’s involvement in several controversial projects of the Moroccan government in occupied Western Sahara.

In particular, we have questions relating to Worley’s engagement in the territory, included below. Your views are appreciated, as they will allow us to accurately reflect Worley’s position on our website and in a report on Morocco’s phosphate exports from the territory that is scheduled to be published in the first half of 2022.

To start with the most recent development: the Moroccan government has commissioned a study for the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline that is set to go through the territory of occupied Western Sahara. It is our understanding that one of the contracts relating to the study has been awarded to Worley’s subsidiary Intecsea.

We’d be grateful for your answers to the following questions:

1. Can Worley confirm that its subsidiary Intecsea has been contracted to study the Nigeria-Morocco gas pipeline?
2. What work is Intecsea expected to carry out under the contract?
3. Is Worley aware that the pipeline trajectory will run through the territory of Western Sahara, and that the people of Western Sahara have not granted their consent to the project?
4. Given the non-consent of the people of Western Sahara, does Worley consider it appropriate to be involved in a project that hinges on implementation in their territory?

Worley’s name has also emerged in relation to other projects in the territory, as raised and further detailed in our letters of December 2019 and 17 March 2021 – both unanswered. To summarize: through a 50/50 stake in the joint-venture JESA, Worley co-owns with the Moroccan state-owned phosphate company OCP an integrated fertilizer platform and a new phosphate wharf in occupied Western Sahara. JESA is also the project owner of the Foum El Oued Technopole project, located in the occupied territory.

As we’ve not received any clarifications from Worley to the questions raised in aforementioned letters, we take the liberty to include them again:

5. Has Worley obtained the consent of the people of Western Sahara for its projects in the territory?
6. What actions is Worley planning to undertake in relation to the projects it has acquired in Western Sahara?
7. 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 20 January 2022.

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,

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