



## Security Council

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### **Letter dated 23 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to kindly request that the present letter and its annex, a letter dated 17 November 2020, be issued as a document of the Security Council.

I would like to indicate that the letter dated 17 November 2020 had already been addressed, on that same day, individually to members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Omar **Hilale**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 23 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

As a follow-up to my letter dated 13 November 2020 concerning the latest developments in the Guergarate zone in the Moroccan Sahara ([S/2020/1133](#)), I have the honour to share with you, upon instructions from my Government, the following information:

- His Majesty King Mohammed VI had a telephone conversation yesterday with the Secretary-General of the United Nations regarding the latest developments concerning the issue of the Moroccan Sahara, including the situation in the Guergarate zone.
- During this conversation, His Majesty the King stressed that after the failure of all the laudable attempts by the Secretary-General, Morocco has shouldered its responsibilities within the framework of its most legitimate right and has restored the situation in Guergarate, definitively resolved the problem and re-established the flow of traffic in this area on the border between Morocco and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, stressing that the Kingdom will continue to take the measures necessary to ensure order and guarantee a safe and fluid movement of people and goods in this zone.
- Furthermore, His Majesty the King reaffirmed to the Secretary-General Morocco's steadfast commitment to the ceasefire. Likewise, the Kingdom remains firmly determined to react, with the utmost severity and within the framework of legitimate defence, to any threat to its security and the peace of its citizens.
- In addition, His Majesty the King assured the Secretary-General that Morocco will continue to support his efforts within the framework of the political process. The latter should resume on the basis of clear parameters, involving the real parties to this regional dispute and allowing for a realistic and achievable solution within the framework of the Kingdom's sovereignty.
- It is worth recalling that the action taken by Morocco, aimed at putting a definitive end to the inadmissible violations by "polisario", in Guergarate, of the ceasefire, the military agreements and the resolutions of the Security Council, took place in a peaceful manner, without any threats or attacks on the life and the security of civilians. This action took place in the presence of MINURSO, which has observed it in its entirety.
- No casualties were recorded during this non-offensive action, which was without any bellicose intent.
- The legitimate action carried out by Morocco was unanimously and greatly welcomed by all the components of the Moroccan society, particularly the populations of the Sahara. It also received strong and active support from the international community. Indeed, during the past four days alone, a very large number of African, Arab, European and other countries, as well as international and regional organizations, unanimously supported the decisive action by Morocco, which made it possible to restore freedom of circulation in the passage of Guergarate.
- These countries and organizations insisted on the imperative to ensure the fluidity, freedom and sustainability of the movement of goods, vehicles and people through the road axis of Guergarate, which constitutes an essential and

vital passage for economic, commercial, human, social and cultural exchanges between Africa and the rest of the world, through the Kingdom of Morocco.

- In Africa, several countries, including the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Djibouti, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and Zambia reaffirmed their support for the Moroccanity of the Sahara and expressed their deep concern over the illegal actions of “polisario” in the buffer zone of Guergarate since 21 October 2020, expressing their solidarity and full support for the measures taken by the Kingdom of Morocco to ensure the free movement of goods, vehicles and people through this zone.
- The Executive Secretariat of the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States expressed the concern of that organization about the violations committed by the “polisario” in Guergarate and underlined its support for the Moroccan authorities in all the measures they have taken, in complete sovereignty and in full compliance with international law, to restore and preserve opportunely, in this dynamic, the African Continental Free Trade Area, security and the free movement of people and goods in this area.
- In the Arab world, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Morocco, expressing their unconditional support for the measures it has taken to end violations of the “polisario” in Guergarate and restore free movement in this important passage. Egypt has, in particular, called for the need to refrain from any act which is provocative or which is likely to harm economic interests and trade in this area.
- For their part, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Gulf Cooperation Council, through its Secretary-General, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and the President of the Arab Parliament, expressed their solidarity with the measures taken by Morocco to secure the flow of goods and people in Guergarate in the Moroccan Sahara, condemning, at the same time, any act threatening free movement in this zone linking Morocco and Mauritania.
- The European Union, through its High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, “particularly insisted on the preservation of freedom of movement and cross-border trade in the Guergarate area, and its significant impact on the entire Maghreb and Sahel region, a region of strategic importance”. In particular, he “stressed the paramount importance of ensuring respect for the ceasefire agreements in place since 1991 and reiterated the EU’s full support for MINURSO’s efforts to this end.”
- The Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations welcomed Morocco’s attachment to the ceasefire and insisted that “guaranteeing the free movement of people and goods is fundamental”, adding, among other things, that “it is essential to preserve the political and economic stability of the neighbourhood”.
- The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey affirmed that his country is following the measures taken by Morocco to ensure the free movement of goods and people at the Guergarate crossing point and underlined the importance of maintaining the fluidity of movement of goods and people at the level of this passage.

(Signed) Omar **Hilale**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative