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### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

Note verbale dated 17 October 1986 from the Permanent Mission of  
Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him herewith a document concerning the position of the Kingdom of Morocco with regard to the debate in the Fourth Committee on the so-called question of Western Sahara, and requests him to ensure that the text of this note verbale and its annex are circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19.

ANNEX

Position of the Kingdom of Morocco with regard to the debate in the  
Fourth Committee on the so-called question of Western Sahara

The Kingdom of Morocco has taken note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of Western Sahara, dated 3 October 1986 and issued under the symbol A/41/673.

This report describes, with the objectivity and impartiality that befit the high office of the Secretary-General, the stages of the initiative undertaken through his good offices, in co-operation with the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), with a view to bringing about a cease-fire and organizing a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of OAU and the United Nations.

This initiative, for which the United Nations and OAU subsequently assumed responsibility, met with the agreement of all the parties concerned. Separate talks held under the auspices of the Secretary-General constitute, as he emphasizes in his report, a "credible framework for negotiations" which "must ... be given every chance to succeed".

The document lists a number of points of agreement with regard to the ultimate goal of self-determination, in accordance with internationally accepted practices and norms in this matter. Naturally, it also indicates that some divergences of view persist; however, the Secretary-General intends to "submit ... a number of proposals to help the present phase" and calls upon the parties to be more accommodating in their positions.

H.M. King Hassan II gave the Secretary-General every assurance on this point when they met at Rabat on 16 July 1986.

By virtue of its impartial and balanced nature, the aforementioned report of the Secretary-General makes the devising of a just and durable solution to the question of Western Sahara in the near future a foreseeable possibility.

Reason and political wisdom might have suggested that the conclusions of this report should be endorsed by a resolution of our Assembly backed by a consensus of all Member States.

Unfortunately, this reason and wisdom did not prevail, and a draft resolution, A/C.4/41/L.1, dated 13 October 1986, was put forward in an attempt to diminish, by setting a number of pre-conditions, the very essence of the Secretary-General's initiative, thereby jeopardizing the impetus for peace that he had set in motion.

Under these circumstances, the Kingdom of Morocco has decided not to participate in the debate on the question of Western Sahara so as to avoid becoming involved in a pointless and sterile polemic, thereby restoring to the initiative undertaken by the Secretary-General through his good offices all likelihood of success, in keeping with the request which the Secretary-General himself made to Member States in his report.

In doing so, we remain convinced that this is the only way to lift the question of Western Sahara out of the impasse into which it has been plunged for years, and to reach a just and lasting settlement within the framework of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Kingdom of Morocco wishes to express once again its full confidence in the Secretary-General's ability to carry out the initiative which he has undertaken through his good offices, and would remind him of its complete willingness to continue to co-operate in good faith with him and with the acting Chairman of OAU.

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