



Security Council

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Letter dated 17 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In response to the letter dated 9 October 2020 from the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste deeply regrets the inappropriate and unacceptable content of the above-mentioned letter.

We strongly reject the attempt by Morocco to undermine a sovereign right of a Member State exercised in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council.

Timor-Leste recognizes the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and commends the continued calls by the Security Council to Morocco, Frente POLISARIO, Algeria and Mauritania to cooperate more fully with each other and to continue ongoing consultations to achieve progress towards a political solution.

In this regard, Timor-Leste supports the resumption of negotiations between Morocco and Frente POLISARIO, in good faith and with no preconditions, to reach a just and lasting solution based on respect for the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination. The resumed implementation of the United Nations plan for a referendum, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, remains crucial as a mechanism that will ensure a just, free and democratic process leading to the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Moreover, various General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, such as Assembly resolutions [34/37](#) and [35/19](#) and Council resolution [2468 \(2019\)](#), refer to Frente POLISARIO as the legitimate representative of the people of Western Sahara. These United Nations resolutions demonstrate Morocco's attempt to falsify reality and mislead Member States regarding well-established facts with regard to Frente POLISARIO. In addition, throughout past years, Frente POLISARIO communications have been transmitted to the Security Council and other United Nations organs and have been well received.

Timor-Leste established diplomatic relations with the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic in 2002 and recognizes Frente POLISARIO as a legitimate representative of the people of Western Sahara.

Hence, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste reiterates its full support for the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination in accordance with relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Maria Helena de Jesus Pires

