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Steffan de Mistura, the United Nations' Personal Envoy to the Moroccan Sahara, is preparing to conduct his first field tour in the region since his appointment.

According to Spanish agency EFE, Steffan de Mistura is expected to visit Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, and the Polisario at its headquarters in Tindouf starting January 12.

The visit, reported to last a week, was previously confirmed by the UN Security Council resolution, without official dates.

United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that “the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Moroccan Sahara is preparing for the first regional tour in the region with the aim of reviving the political process,” adding that “Steffan de Mistura is already in contact with all parties involved in the conflict.”

The Sahara file has been pending an official UN resolution, since the resignation of the last UN Personal Envoy, Horst Köhler, in 2019.

Since then, Moroccan diplomacy has achieved great improvements by gathering consensus around its autonomy plan, which is backed by the UN, as more countries recognize Morocco's autonomy over its southern territories.