

# William Ruto's Twitter message: Kenya shows its position on Western Sahara

Last week, after he was sworn in, President William Ruto caused confusion by posting and then deleting a Twitter message in which he appeared to deny Kenya's recognition of the SADR (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic). As a result, Nairobi has sent letters to various embassies to show its position.

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Kenyan President William Ruto during the swearing-in ceremony on September 13, 2022 in Nairobi. AP - Brian Inganga

And: RFI

The letter is dated September 16, and comes from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya. A clarification message that seems to be intended to reassure Kenya's allies, the United Nations and the African Union. It is written in the letter that Kenya "fully supports" the resolution of the African Union, AU, which in 1982 approved the admission of the Sahrawi Republic into the union. Kenya also claims to adhere to the African Union Charter which provides for the "inalienable right of peoples to self-determination".

In this note, Nairobi also reminds that it adheres to the resolution of the United Nations Security Council in 1991 which calls for "self-determination" for Western Sahara "through a referendum".

## **There is no information about the Twitter message**

There is no further question of breaking diplomatic relations with the SADR (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic). Nairobi confirms, however, that it wants to strengthen its trade relations with Morocco. A position that may seem controversial until the summer, King Mohamed VI asked his allies to support his position on this file "unequivocally".

In this note, the Kenyan ministry finally confirms that Nairobi "does not conduct its foreign policy on Twitter" but "through official documents". William Ruto's choice to present an announcement of this importance on social media surprised many and made others

angry. There is still no official information on the origin of this Twitter message and its deletion.