

Political status of Western Sahara

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Part of a series on the

Western Sahara conflict



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VTE

Western Sahara, formerly the **Spanish colony** of **Spanish Sahara**, is a **disputed territory** claimed by both the Kingdom of **Morocco** and the **Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro** (**Polisario Front**), which is an independence movement based in **Tifariti** and **Bir Lehlou**. The **Annexation of Western Sahara** by Morocco took place in two stages, in 1976 and 1979, and is considered illegal under **international law**.

Western Sahara is listed by the United Nations (UN) as a non-**decolonized** territory and is thus included in the **United Nations list of non-self-governing territories**, which regards **Spain** as the *de jure* administering state. Under international law, Western Sahara is not a legal part of Morocco and it remains under the international laws of **military occupation**.^[1]

Background [edit]

Since the **Madrid Accords** of 1975, a part of Western Sahara has been administered by Morocco as the **Southern Provinces**. Another section, the **Liberated Territories**, is administered by the Polisario Front as the **Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic** (SADR). **Mauritania** administers the western half of the **Ras Nouadhibou** Peninsula. A UN-monitored **cease-fire** has been in effect since September 1991.

While no other country than the **United States** has ever recognized Morocco's unilateral **annexation of Western Sahara**,^{[2][3]} a number of countries have expressed their support for a future recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the territory **as an autonomous part of the Kingdom**. There is, for instance, a *de facto* recognition of the Moroccan claim on the part of some countries such as the case of the United Kingdom. Although the **UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office** (FCO) treats the status of Western Sahara as 'undetermined', its lack of reference to its current effective partition, considering the existence of the Polisario-held areas, indicates an acceptance of Morocco as the administering power in the entire territory.^[4] Overall, the annexation has not garnered as much attention in the **international community** as many other disputed annexations (e.g. **the Russian annexation of Crimea**).

In order to resolve the **sovereignty** issue, the UN has attempted to hold a **referendum** through the **United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara** (MINURSO), and is holding direct talks between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front. The UN recognizes neither Moroccan^[5] nor SADR sovereignty over Western Sahara.

Moroccan settlers currently make up more than two thirds of the **500,000 inhabitants of Western Sahara**.^[6] Under **international law**, Morocco's transfer of its own civilians into **occupied territory** is in direct violation of **Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention** (cf. **Israeli and Turkish settlers**).^[7]

Positions of the main parties [edit]

Kingdom of Morocco [edit]



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Further information: ***Greater Morocco and Foreign relations of Morocco***

The official position of the Kingdom of Morocco since 1963 is that all of Western Sahara is an integral part of the kingdom. The Moroccan government refers to Western Sahara only as "Moroccan Sahara", the "Saharan provinces"^[*citation needed*], or the "**Southern Provinces**".

According to the Moroccan government, in 1958 the **Moroccan Army of Liberation** fought Spanish colonizers and almost liberated what was then Spanish Sahara.^[*citation needed*] The fathers of many of the Polisario leaders were among the veterans of the Moroccan Southern Army, for example the father of Polisario leader **Mohammed Abdelaziz**. Morocco is supported in this view^[*clarification needed*] by a number of **former Polisario founders and leaders**. The Polisario Front is considered by Morocco to be a Moroccan **separatist** movement, referring to the Moroccan origins of most of its founding members.

On 22 January 2020, Morocco's **House of Representatives** voted unanimously to add Western Sahara waters to the Moroccan maritime borders.^[8]

Polisario Front and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic [edit]

The **Polisario Front**, mainly backed by **Algeria**, is described by itself and its supporters as a national **liberation movement** that opposes Moroccan control of Western Sahara, whilst it is considered by Morocco and supporters of Morocco's claims over the Western Sahara to be a **separatist organization**. It began as a movement of students who felt torn between the divergent Spanish and Moroccan influences on the country. The original goal of the Polisario, which was to end Spanish colonialism in the region, was achieved, but their neighbours, Morocco and Mauritania, seized sovereignty of the region, which the Polisario felt was entitled to self-determination and eventually independence. The Polisario engaged in **guerrilla warfare** with the Moroccan and Mauritanian forces. It evacuated the **Sahrawi** population to the **Tindouf** refugee camps due to **Royal Moroccan Air Force** bombing of the refugee camps on Sahrawi land with **napalm** and **white phosphorus**.^{[9][10]} The Polisario Front has called for the **self-determination** of the people of Western Sahara to be decided through a referendum. Although the SADR is not recognized as a state by the UN, the Polisario is considered a direct participant in the conflict and as the legitimate representative of the **Sahrawi people**, recognized by the United Nations since 1979.^[11]

The Polisario Front argues that Morocco's position is due to economical interests (fishing, **phosphate** mining, and the potential for oil reserves) and political reasons (stability of the king's position and the **governing elite in Morocco**, deployment of most of the Moroccan Army in Western Sahara instead of in Morocco). The Polisario Front proclaimed the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in **Bir Lehlou** (Western Sahara), on 27 February 1976.

Mauritania [edit]

Claims on Western Sahara had proliferated since the 1960s, fuelled by Mauritanian President **Moktar Ould Daddah**. Before **Mauritania** signed the **Madrid Accords** and after the withdrawal of the last Spanish forces, in late 1975, the **Mauritanian Army** invaded the southern part of Western Sahara, while the **Moroccan Army** did the same in the north. In April 1976, **Mauritania and Morocco partitioned the country into three parts**, Mauritania getting the southern one, which was named **Tiris al-Gharbiyya**. Mauritania waged four years of war against Polisario guerrillas, conducting raids on **Nouakchott**, attacks on the **Zouerate** mine train and a coup d'état that deposed Ould Daddah. Mauritania finally withdrew in the summer of 1979, after signing the **Algiers Agreement** with the Polisario Front, recognizing the right of self-determination for the Sahrawi people, and renouncing any claims on Western Sahara. The Moroccan Army immediately took control of the former Mauritanian territory. Mauritania recognized the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic on 27 February 1984.

Algeria [edit]

Algeria has supported the independence of the whole of Western Sahara since 1975, when Spanish forces and settlers withdrew from the area. It is one of the few countries to do so in the Arab League. It has provided aid to the 'Polisario Front'. Algeria's role became indirect, through political and military



support for the Polisario Front. Algeria recognized the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic on 6 March 1976. Its involvement in Western Sahara independence movement has interrupted the development of [Algerian-Morocco diplomatic relations](#), which were restored in 1988.^[13]

United Nations [[edit](#)]

Further information: [MINURSO](#)

Western Sahara is on the [United Nations list of non-self-governing territories](#). The UN has been involved since 1988 in trying to find a solution to the conflict through self-determination. In 1988, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front agreed to settle the dispute through a [referendum](#) under the auspices of the UN that would allow the people of Western Sahara to choose between independence or integration with Morocco. In 1991, the parties agreed upon the *Settlement Plan*, contingent on the referendum being held the following year, but due to disputes over voter qualification, the vote was not held. In the following years, the UN argued for negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front to resolve the deadlock, culminating in the [Manhasset negotiations](#) in 2007–2008. As of 2020, the mandate for [MINURSO](#) has been extended 47 times^[14] and it maintains its presence in the country, but has yet to fulfill its mission by organizing a referendum.

VTE

Western Sahara conflict

[show](#)



A demonstration in Bilbao for the independence of the Western Sahara.

Positions of other states [[edit](#)]



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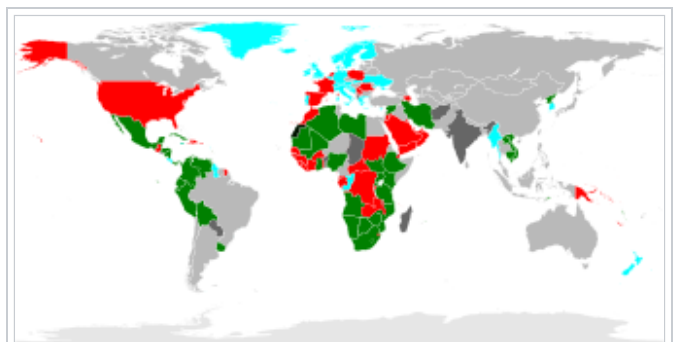
Further information: [International recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic](#)

Some states are supportive of the "right of self-determination of the [Sahrawi people](#)", including the option of [autonomy](#) under Moroccan sovereignty.^[15] Some states have changed their opinion frequently or have given separate announcements of support for both Morocco and the Polisario Front/SADR (Egypt, Italy, Lesotho, Russia, Rwanda, Yemen, etc.).^{[16][17][18][19][20][21][22]}

Some of the states announcing support of the "right of self-determination" currently recognize the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. Not all of the states that have terminated [diplomatic relations](#) with or withdrawn recognition of the SADR have announced their support for the Moroccan claims.

The overwhelming majority of United Nation member states have not announced any position.

States supporting Polisario and the SADR on Western Sahara [[edit](#)]



- [Western Sahara](#)
- Supports Morocco's autonomy proposal
- Maintains diplomatic relations with or recognizes the Sahrawi Republic
- Recognizes the [self-determination](#) of the Sahrawi people, but does not recognize the SADR nor maintain diplomatic relations with it
- Withdrew or froze recognition of the SADR without expressing support for Morocco's claim
- Has not expressed any position or has expressed conflicting opinions

#	State	Notes	International membership	References
1	 Algeria		 African Union member	^{[23][24][25]}

#	State	Notes	International membership	References
			 Arab League member	
2	 Angola		 African Union member	[24][26][27]
3	 Belize			[28][29]
4	 Bolivia			[30][24]
5	 Botswana		 African Union member	[31][32]
6	 Cambodia		 ASEAN member	[33][34]
7	 Colombia			[35][36]
8	 Cuba			[29][37][38]
9	 East Timor			[23][24][39]
10	 Ecuador			[40][41][42][43]
11	 Ethiopia		 African Union member	[44][45][46]
12	 Ghana		 African Union member	[47][48][49]
13	 Honduras			[50][51]
14	 Iran			[52][24]
15	 Kenya		 African Union member	[53][54][55][56]
16	 Laos		 ASEAN member	[57][34]
17	 Lesotho		 African Union member	[24][58][59]
18	 Libya		 African Union member  Arab League member	[60][34]
19	 Mali		 African Union member	[61]
20	 Mauritania		 African Union member  Arab League member	[62][34]
21	 Mauritius		 African Union member	[63][64]
22	 Mexico			[32][65][43][66]
23	 Mozambique		 African Union member	[24][67][68]
24	 Namibia		 African Union member	[69][70][71][72]
25	 Nicaragua			[29][43][73]
26	 Nigeria		 African Union member	[65][74]
27	 North Korea			[75]
28	 Panama			[43][76][77]

#	State	Notes	International membership	References
29	 Peru			[78][43][79]
30	 Rwanda		 African Union member	[61][80][81]
31	 Seychelles		 African Union member	[82][83][84]
32	 South Africa		 African Union member	[23][85][86]
—	 South Ossetia	State with limited recognition by UN as part of Georgia. ^[87]		[88][89]
33	 South Sudan		 African Union member	[90][91]
34	 Syria		 Arab League member	[92][93]
35	 Tanzania		 African Union member	[94][65][95]
36	 Trinidad and Tobago			[94]
37	 Uganda		 African Union member	[94][65][96]
38	 Uruguay			[32][65][97][98]
39	 Vanuatu			[99][100][101]
40	 Venezuela			[23][102][103]
41	 Vietnam		 ASEAN member	[104][105]
42	 Zimbabwe		 African Union member	[24][106]

States supporting Morocco's autonomy proposal [edit]



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States that have recognised the Western Sahara as part of the Kingdom of Morocco through official announcement.

States that have withdrawn, frozen or suspended their recognition of the SADR.

#	State	Notes ^[a]	Diplomatic mission ^[b]	References hide
1	 Antigua and Barbuda			[107][108]
2	 Azerbaijan			[109][<i>better source needed</i>][110]
3	 Bahrain	 Arab League member	14 December 2020 ^[111]	[112][113][<i>better source needed</i>][114][115][116]
4	 Burkina Faso	 African Union member	23 October 2020 ^[117] [<i>better source needed</i>][118][119]	[120][118]
5	 Burundi	 African Union member	28 February 2020 ^[121] [<i>better source needed</i>][115]	[122][115][120]
6	 Cape Verde	 African Union member		[123]
7	 Central African Republic	 African Union member	23 January 2020 ^[124] [<i>better source needed</i>][119][122]	[120]

#	State	Notes ^[a]	Diplomatic mission ^[b]	References
8	 Comoros	 African Union member  Arab League member	18 December 2019 ^[125]	[126][120]
9	 Democratic Republic of the Congo	 African Union member	19 December 2020 ^[127] <i>[better source needed]</i> ^[122]	[120]
10	 Djibouti	 African Union member  Arab League member	28 February 2020 ^[128]	[120]
11	 Dominica			[129][130][131]
12	 Equatorial Guinea	 African Union member	23 October 2020 ^[132] <i>[better source needed]</i> ^[122]	[122][119][115][120]
13	 Eswatini	 African Union member	27 October 2020 ^[133]	[122][119][115][120]
14	 France	 EU member		[134]
15	 Gabon	 African Union member	17 January 2020 ^[135]	[122][119][120]
16	 Gambia	 African Union member	7 January 2020 ^[136]	[120]
17	 Grenada			[137][131]
18	 Guatemala			[138] <i>[failed verification]</i> [139][140][141]
19	 Guinea	 African Union member	17 January 2020 ^[142]	[120]
20	 Guinea-Bissau	 African Union member	23 October 2020 ^[143] <i>[better source needed]</i> ^[122]	[120]
21	 Haiti		12 December 2020 ^[144]	[114][115]
22	 Hungary	 EU member		[145]
23	 Israel			[146][147][148]
24	 Ivory Coast	 African Union member	18 February 2020 ^[149] <i>[better source needed]</i> ^{[122][119]}	[120][131]
25	 Jordan	 Arab League member	4 March 2021 ^[150]	[151]
26	 Kiribati			[152]
27	 Kuwait	 Arab League member		[153]
28	 Liberia	 African Union member	12 March 2020 ^[154] <i>[better source needed]</i> ^{[122][119]}	[120]
29	 Malawi	 African Union member	29 July 2021 ^[155]	[156] <i>[better source needed]</i> [115]
30	 Maldives			[157]
31	 Netherlands	 EU member		[158][159]
32	 Oman	 Arab League member		[160] <i>[better source needed]</i> [115]
33	 Papua New Guinea			[161] <i>[better source needed]</i> [162][163][131]
34	 Poland	 EU member		[164] <i>[failed verification]</i>
35	 Qatar	 Arab League member		[165][166]
36	 Romania	 EU member		[167][168]
37	 Saint Lucia			[169][131][170]

#	State	Notes ^[a]	Diplomatic mission ^[b]	References
38	 Sao Tome and Principe	 African Union member	23 January 2020 ^[171] <i>[better source needed]</i> ^{[119][122]}	^{[119][122][120]}
39	 Saudi Arabia	 Arab League member		^{[172][165]}
40	 Senegal	 African Union member	5 April 2021 ^[173]	^[120]
41	 Serbia			^{[174][better source needed][175]}
42	 Sierra Leone	 African Union member	1 September 2021 ^[176]	^{[177][178]}
43	 Somalia	 African Union member Arab League member		^{[179][180][120]}
45	 Suriname		30 May 2022 ^[181]	^[182]
46	 Togo	 African Union member	9 June 2022 ^[183]	^{[120][184]}
47	 United Arab Emirates	 Arab League member	4 November 2020 ^{[165][115]}	^{[115][119][185]}
48	 United States			^{[186][187]}
49	 Zambia	 African Union member	27 October 2020 ^{[133][119]}	^{[119][115][122][120]}

Position of United Nations Security Council permanent members [edit]

France

France claims neutrality on the Western Sahara issue, despite its military involvement in the **Western Sahara War** on the side of Morocco and Mauritania (see **Operation Lamantin**). In 2009^{[188][189]} and 2010,^{[190][191]} France used the threat of its **veto power** to block the establishment of Human Rights monitoring by the MINURSO in Western Sahara. France has been a major backer of the **Moroccan autonomy proposal** and in the EU negotiated the concession of the **advanced status** to Morocco.^{[192][193]}

United States

Main article: [American policy on Western Sahara conflict](#)

The Obama administration disassociated itself from the Moroccan autonomy plan in 2009, however, reversing the Bush-backed support of the Moroccan plan, and returning to a pre-Bush position, wherein the option of an independent Western Sahara is on the table again.^[195]

In April 2009, 229 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, a clear majority and more than 50 more than the number who signed the letter^{*[clarification needed]*} in 2007, called on President Obama to support Morocco's autonomy plan and to assist in drawing the conflict to a close. The signers^{*[clarification needed]*} included Democratic Majority Leader **Steny Hoyer** and Republican Minority Leader **John Boehner**. In addition to acknowledging that Western Sahara has become a recruiting post for radical Islamists, the letter affirmed that the conflict is "the single greatest obstacle impeding the security and cooperation necessary to combat" terrorism in the Maghreb.^[196] The letter referenced UN Security Council Resolution 1813 (2008), and encouraged President Obama to follow the policy set by President Clinton and followed by President Bush.^[196] The congressmen expressed concerns about Western Sahara's viability. They



Photo of Former Assistant Secretary of State, David Welch (2005–2008) who in 2007 expressed strong support for Morocco and its autonomy plan in the conflict over Western Sahara, calling the plan a "serious and credible" solution.^[194]

referenced a UN fact-finding mission to Western Sahara which confirmed the State Department's view that the Polisario proposal, which ultimately stands for independence, would lead to a **non-viable state**.^[196] In closing, the letter stated, "We remain convinced that the U.S. position, favoring autonomy for Western Sahara under Moroccan sovereignty is the only feasible solution. We urge you to both sustain this longstanding policy, and to make clear, in both words and actions, that the United States will work to ensure that the UN process continues to support this framework as the only realistic compromise that can bring this unfortunate and longstanding conflict to an end."^[196]

Commenting on a 2004 free trade agreement with Morocco, **US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick** stated in a letter to Congressman **Joe Pitts** in response to his questioning, "the United States and many other countries do not recognize Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara and have consistently urged the parties to work with the United Nations to resolve the conflict by peaceful means. The Free Trade Agreement will not include Western Sahara."^{[197][198]}

In April 2013, the United States proposed that **MINURSO** monitored human rights (as all the other UN mission since 1991) in Western Sahara, a move that Morocco strongly opposed, cancelling the annual **African Lion military exercises** with **U.S. Army** troops.^[199] Also in mid-April, **United States Ambassador to Morocco Samuel L. Kaplan** declared during a conference in **Casablanca** that the Moroccan autonomy plan "can't be the only basis in these negotiations", referring to the UN sponsored talks between the Polisario Front and Morocco.^[200]




On 10 December 2020, President **Donald Trump** announced that the **United States** would officially recognize Morocco's claims over Western Sahara, as a result of **Morocco agreeing to normalize relations with Israel**.^[201] In April 2021, the **Biden administration** stated that they would not reverse the decision.^{[202][203]} In November 2021, **Antony Blinken** said that the Biden administration "[continues] to view Morocco's autonomy plan as serious, credible, and realistic, and one potential approach to satisfy the aspirations of the people of Western Sahara".^[204]







States which have not announced any position [edit]

The following states and entities have not announced any position:

- Americas: **Argentina**, **Bahamas**, **Chile**
- Africa: **Eritrea**, **Tunisia**
- Europe: **Andorra**, **Bulgaria**, **Belarus**, **Czech Republic**, **Monaco**, **San Marino**, **Liechtenstein**, **Vatican City**, **Malta**, **Luxembourg**, **Montenegro**, **Moldova**, **Lithuania**, **Latvia**, **Estonia**, **Georgia**, **Armenia**, **Switzerland**
- Asia: **People's Republic of China (UNSC-P5)**, **Indonesia**, **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Palestine**, **Tajikistan**, **Uzbekistan**, **Turkmenistan**, **Turkey**, **Pakistan**, **Nepal**, **Thailand**, **Singapore**, **Japan**, **Mongolia**, **Bhutan**, **Bangladesh**, **Brunei**, **Malaysia**, **Myanmar**, **Philippines**
- Oceania: **Australia**, **New Zealand**, **Tonga**, **Samoa**, **Niue**, **Palau**, **Micronesia**, **Marshall Islands**
- Others: **Abkhazia**, **Artsakh**, **Republic of China (Taiwan)**, **Kosovo**, **Somaliland**, **Transnistria**
- Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

Positions of international organizations [edit]

Organization	Membership	Position
 African Union (Formerly OAU)	22 February 1982	The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is a fully recognized AU founding member. ^[205] The African Union supports the right of self-determination of the Sahrawi people. ^[206]
 Andean Community of Nations	26 October 2011 (Observer)	The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is an Observer member in the framework of the Andean Parliament. ^{[207][208]}
 Arab League	Not a member.	The Arab League supports "the integrity of the Moroccan territorial sovereignty" without specifying a position on a solution to the conflict.

 Arab Maghreb Union	Not a member.	The Arab Maghreb Union has not made a unanimous statement about its position on the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario Front.
 Caribbean Community (CARICOM)	Not a member.	The CARICOM supports the right of the Western Sahara people's to self-determination, consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. ^[209]
Community of Latin American and Caribbean States	Not a member.	The CELAC supports efforts by all parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the right of self-determination for the inhabitants. ^[29]
 European Union	Not a member.	The EU supports the efforts by the Secretary General of the United Nations and his Personal Envoy to find a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will allow the self-determination of the people of the Western Sahara as provided for in the resolutions of the United Nations. ^{[210][211]}
Non-Aligned Movement	Not a member.	The NAM supports the right of the Western Sahara people's to self-determination, consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. ^[212]
 Organisation of Islamic Cooperation	Not a member.	The OIC supports the achievement of a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara consistent with relevant resolutions
Rio Group	Not a member.	The Rio Group supports the resolutions adopted by the UN to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable solution that leads to the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, in the context of compatible accords with the principles of the UN charter and the Resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly and other pertinent resolutions. ^{[213][214]}
 Union of South American Nations	Not a member.	The UNASUR supports for the achievement of a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara consistent with relevant resolutions. ^[29]
 United Nations	Not a member.	The UN does not recognize Moroccan claims, as the Western Sahara remains in its list of non-self-governing territories since 1963. The Security Council had argued for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front . ^[215] It had approved more than 100 resolutions supporting the right of Self-determination of the Sahrawi people. ^[citation needed]

The SADR is also a member of the [Asian-African Strategic Partnership](#), formed at the 2005 [Asian-African Conference](#), over Moroccan objections to SADR participation.^[216]

In 2006, the SADR participated in a conference of the [Permanent Conference of Political Parties of the Latin American and the Caribbean](#).^[217]

African Union

On 22 February 1982, the SADR secured membership in the [Organisation of African Unity](#).^[218]

In 1984, Morocco withdrew from the AU's predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in protest of the group's recognition of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).^[citation needed]

The [African Union](#) (formerly the OAU) has given the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic full recognition,^[205] and accepted it as a member state (which has led Morocco to leave the union.^[219]). [Mohamed Abdelaziz](#), president of the SADR, has been [vicepresident](#) of the OUA in 1985, and of the AU in 2002.^[citation needed]

In 2016, King [Mohammed VI of Morocco](#) declared his country's intention to become a member of the African union. On the same day, twenty eight African countries or about 52% of the 54 UN recognized member states of the African Union signed a petition to expel the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic

from the African Union.^{[120][220]} At the same time, AU Commission Chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma reaffirmed the AU's support for Western Sahara's independence.^[220]

European Union

The **European Union** supports the right of self-determination of the Sahrawi people (the MINURSO UN-sponsored referendum),^[221] but does not recognize the Polisario Front.^[222] Over practical issues such as fishing in the **EEZ** the EU deals with Morocco as the country currently exercising "jurisdiction, but not sovereignty" over the Western Sahara territory.^[223] In addition, members of the **EFTA** trade bloc have made statements excluding the Western Sahara from the Moroccan-EFTA free trade agreement.^[224] In December 2016, the **European Court of Justice** reaffirmed in *Council v Front populaire pour la libération de la saquia-el-hamra et du rio de oro (Front Polisario)* that Morocco has no basis for sovereignty over Western Sahara^[225] and that trade deals with Morocco cannot apply to the occupied territory.^[226]

United Nations

Since 1966, the United Nations request for the celebration of a referendum for enabling the "indigenous population" to exercise freely their right to self-determination.^[227] Since 1979, the United Nations has recognized the Polisario Front as the representative of the people of Western Sahara, and considered Morocco as an occupying force.^[11]

Former **United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan** stressed, in his last report on Western Sahara, to the **Security Council**:

"The Security Council would not be able to invite parties to negotiate about Western Saharan **autonomy** under Moroccan sovereignty, for such wording would imply recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara, which was out of the question as long as no States Member of the United Nations had recognized that sovereignty".^[228]

See also [edit]

- Foreign relations of Morocco
- Foreign relations of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
- List of states with limited recognition
- Polisario Front



Notes [edit]

- ↑ Major Regional Organization Members.
- ↑ The dates when countries had consulates in either **Dakhla** or **Laayoune**, Western Sahara.

References [edit]

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