

**STATEMENT BY THE PETITIONERS' PROGRAMME TO THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERFERENCE IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE**

It is a fundamental rule of all nations to respect the course of controversies or disputes that are dealt with within the framework of the United Nations, as is the case with the dispute over the Sahara in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly.

In this context, the attitude of the South African Government to invite the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Staffan de Mistura, to address the problem of the above-mentioned dispute is irrelevant, senseless and destabilizing, constituting a gesture that breaks the impartiality of States, since South Africa's position in favoritism of the secessionist claims of the self-proclaimed Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) is widely known.

In the light of the above, the petitioners who regularly appear before the Fourth Committee and who come from various parts of the world reaffirm, because of our adherence to international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, our unwavering support for the Moroccan Sahara Autonomy Initiative as the only credible solution, realistic and durable.

We also reject the inexplicable attitude of Staffan de Mistura, as well as the dubious unilateral gesture of South Africa, which does not contribute to the objectives of stability and peace in strict compliance with international law, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and we urge the Government in Pretoria to correct its above-mentioned international actions, detrimental to the very course of the dispute that is being disseminated at the United Nations, as well as in South Africa's foreign policy.

Yours sincerely:

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