

**Country/entity** Morocco  
Western Sahara

**Region** Middle East and North Africa

**Agreement name** UN Security Council Resolution 1541

**Date** 29 Apr 2004

**Agreement status** Unilateral document

**Interim arrangement** Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

### Western Sahara Conflict (1973 - 1991)

Conflict in Western Sahara began as an insurgency by the Polisario Front against Spanish colonization in 1973. Two years later, Spain withdrew from the territory. Following the annexation of the territory by Morocco and Mauritania in 1976, the insurgency continued. After proclaiming the establishment of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in 1976, the Polisario Front succeeded in gaining recognition by several states, but was not admitted into the United Nations. Instead, the territory was annexed by Morocco and Mauritania, sparking a 16-year resistance by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front. Following a withdrawal by Mauritania in 1979, the conflict reached a stalemate through the 1980s and then reignited in 1989 until a ceasefire in 1991. At the time 80 per cent of the territory was under the de facto control of Morocco, while 20 per cent continued to be held by the SADR including the refugee camps along the Algerian border. Unrest has continued to erupt at intervals in from 1999-2004, 2005, 2010 and 2011. Attempts to solve the conflict have manifested in the form of the Baker Plan (2000) and the Moroccan Initiative (2006-2008).

Close

Western Sahara Conflict (1973 - 1991)

**Stage** Renewal

**Conflict nature** Government/territory

**Peace process** Morocco-Western Sahara peace process

**Parties** United Nations Security Council

**Third parties** -

**Description** UN Security Council Resolution reaffirming support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara and calling for an extension and evaluation of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

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<b>Agreement document</b>	<a href="#">MO_040429_UNSCR 1541 (2004).pdf (opens in new tab)</a>   <a href="#">Download PDF</a>
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## Groups

<b>Children/youth</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Disabled persons</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Elderly/age</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Migrant workers</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Racial/ethnic/ national group</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Religious groups</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Indigenous people</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Other groups</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Refugees/displaced persons</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Social class</b>	No specific mention.
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## Gender

<b>Women, girls and gender</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Men and boys</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>LGBTI</b>	No specific mention.
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<b>Family</b>	No specific mention.
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## **State definition**

**Nature of state (general)** No specific mention.

**State configuration** No specific mention.

**Self determination** Page 1,  
... Reaffirming its commitment to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect,

Page 1,  
1. Reaffirms its support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara as an optimum political solution on the basis of agreement between the two parties;

**Referendum** Page 1,  
4. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 October 2004;

**State symbols** No specific mention.

**Independence/secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/unification** No specific mention.

**Border delimitation** No specific mention.

**Cross-border provision** No specific mention.

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## **Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Human rights and equality**

<b>Human rights/RoL general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Bill of rights/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Treaty incorporation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil and political rights</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Socio-economic rights</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

<b>Citizenship</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Democracy</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Detention procedures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Media and communication</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mobility/access</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Protection measures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

<b>NHRI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

<b>Criminal justice and emergency law</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State of emergency provisions</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Judiciary and courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisons and detention</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional Laws</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian rights or access** No specific mention.

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## **Security sector**

**Security Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** No specific mention.

**Police** No specific mention.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.

<b>DDR</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Intelligence services</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

<b>Transitional justice general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Amnesty/pardon</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mechanism</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisoner release</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Vetting</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Victims</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Missing persons</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reparations</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Reconciliation</b>	No specific mention.

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## Implementation

**UN signatory** UN SC Resolution

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** Page 1,  
4. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 October 2004;  
  
Page 1,  
5. Requests that the Secretary-General provide a report on the situation before the end of the present mandate and requests the Secretary-General to include in this report an evaluation of the mission size necessary for MINURSO to carry out its mandated tasks, with a view towards its possible reduction;

**Enforcement mechanism** No specific mention.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** UNSC website

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