

46th EUCOCO-Final resolution

The 46th EUCOCO Conference in support of the struggle of the Sahrawi people to exercise their inalienable and imprescriptible right to self-determination and independence took place on 2nd and 3rd December 2022 in Berlin, Germany.

EUCOCO reaffirms its support for the right to self-determination for the independence of Western Sahara; all while being cognizant of the particularity of the current context characterized by the silent war in Western Sahara, regional tension, the energy crisis, the change of position by the President of the Spanish Government and the proceedings under way before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The Conference included 220 participants, with representatives of local, regional and national governments, parliamentarians, associations and committees in support of the Sahrawi people, in the presence of a large Sahrawi delegation, chaired by the Sahrawi Prime Minister, Bouchraya Beyun. It also included large delegations from Algeria, South Africa and Timor-Leste, the latter led by the guest of honour of the 46th EUCOCO, Xanana Gusmao, a political leader and the former president of the country.

The 46th EUCOCO appeals to the United Nations and the Security Council to assume their responsibility through the MINURSO to carry out the referendum in Western Sahara as provided for in the 1991 and 1997 agreements. It also called on the UN Mission to ensure respect for human rights in the occupied territories of Western Sahara.

The Conference welcomes the resistance of the Sahrawi people in the refugee camps, the diaspora and in the occupied territories of Western Sahara, especially that of the Sahrawi political prisoners.

The Conference also welcomes the steadfast position of the African Union on the principles of international law, in particular the right to independence of the Sahrawi people, as reflected in the ruling of 22 September 2022 of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights.

The 46th EUCOCO calls on the European Union as a whole, as well as on individual Member States, to unambiguously support the democratic solution towards to the decolonization of Western Sahara, the last colony in Africa. It is unacceptable that the respect of human rights is only promoted and demanded in certain parts of the world where they are violated, and not in others. This is a policy of double standards.

The forthcoming rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Union will be the right time for the countries of the European Union in particular and the international community in general to play a decisive role in the conflict in Western Sahara. Neutrality can no longer be an option in the face of occupation.

During their deliberations¹, the participants, taking into account the current context and at its height, agreed on the actions to be carried out in 2023 and created the follow-up committee of each of the workshops. These committees will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of decisions taken at the Conference in four areas: political and information, consolidation of the Sahrawi State, natural resources, human rights and occupied territories. This with the aim of carrying out a global action that, among others, mobilizes and unites the efforts of the European solidarity movement with other movements around the world, to continue supporting the consolidation of the Sahrawi State, human rights defenders in the occupied territories, as well as develop a strategy to end the illegal exploitation of natural resources in Western Sahara. Additionally, reinforce the communication aspect in order to break the media blockade regarding the conflict in Western Sahara and to mobilize all democratic forces and the media, even in Morocco.

The 46th EUCOCO decides that the next 47th EUCOCO Conference will be held in Zaragoza, Spain.

Berlin, 3rd December 2022

¹ The reports submitted by each workshop will be attached to this resolution.