

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

***Geneva Support Group for Western Sahara***

**45th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**General Debate Item 2**

**Oral update on the Annual Report of the UN-HCHR**

**14 September 2020**

Madame President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of a cross-regional group of states[[1]](#footnote-1).

We fully respect the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco within its internationally recognized boundaries, which does not include the occupied Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara.

We express once again our deepest concern about the systematic human rights violations and breaches of International Humanitarian Law due to the prolonged illegal occupation and annexation of part of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara by the Kingdom of Morocco.

We also express our concern at the lack of reliable information about the Covid-19 impact on the Sahrawi people in occupied Western Sahara and on the Sahrawi political prisoners held in Moroccan prisons.

Madame President,

We note with grievous disappointment the High-Commissioner’s persistent silence on the human rights situation in occupied Western Sahara despite our repeated appeals.

As we mark the 60th anniversary of UNGA Resolution 1514 (XV)[[2]](#footnote-2), we urge the High-Commissioner to implement OP 8 and OP 22 of UNGA Resolution 74/95[[3]](#footnote-3) and to resume, without further delay, the Technical Mission to Western Sahara.

More than a year after the resignation of the Secretary General’s Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, we call upon the UNSG to redouble his efforts to appoint a suitable person to facilitate the negotiations between the two parties so as to enable MINURSO to complete its mandate and organise the referendum on self-determination.

I thank you.

1. Algeria – Angola – Botswana – Cuba – Mozambique – Namibia – Nicaragua – Nigeria – South Africa – Tanzania – Timor Leste – Uganda – Venezuela - Zimbabwe [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations [↑](#footnote-ref-3)