



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 9

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance: follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

### **Written statement\* submitted by Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 January 2024]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **Positive Impact of Regional Economic Development in Western Sahara on the Sahrawi Population: Enhanced Inclusion**

We would like to bring to your attention the positive impact of regional economic development in Western Sahara on the Sahrawi population residing in the Western Sahara. This dynamic development has facilitated increased inclusion and significant improvement in the well-being of the Sahrawi indigenous community living in this region.

For years, Morocco has been committed to a continuous process of economic and social development in Western Sahara, meeting the aspirations and needs of the local populations, including the Sahrawi population. This inclusive development has been the catalyst for a series of positive effects that have strengthened the integration and empowerment of this indigenous community.

1. **Creation of Economic Opportunities:** Investment in infrastructure, industries, and key sectors such as tourism, fishing, and agriculture in Western Sahara has created an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. The economic opportunities generated have benefited the Sahrawi population, providing sustainable livelihoods and helping to reduce socio-economic disparities.
2. **Improvement in Access to Social Services:** The development of social infrastructure such as schools, health centers, and community facilities has improved access to essential services for the Sahrawi population. This improvement in access to basic social services has strengthened human capital and the overall well-being of the community.
3. **Enhancement of Social and Cultural Cohesion:** Regional economic development has fostered a climate of cooperation and social cohesion among the different components of society, including the Sahrawi population. The promotion of cultural diversity and the preservation of local traditions have strengthened the sense of belonging and identity among Sahrawi indigenous people, contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious society.
4. **Increased Participation in Decision-Making Processes:** The inclusion of representatives of the Sahrawi population in the planning and decision-making processes related to economic and social development in the region has strengthened their voice and representation. This active participation has ensured that the needs and interests of the community are taken into account in development policies and programs.

In conclusion, regional economic development in Western Sahara has had a significant impact on the inclusion and empowerment of the Sahrawi population. By investing in sustainable development and promoting the participation and representation of this indigenous community, Morocco reaffirms its commitment to human rights and social justice.

We call on the United Nations Human Rights Council to recognize and support Morocco's efforts to include and develop Sahrawi indigenous people in Western Sahara. Together, we can work towards a future where every individual, regardless of ethnic origin or social status, can enjoy their fundamental rights and contribute fully to sustainable development and the prosperity of society.

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