



Media Release

**WESTERN SAHARA DECLARES THE OUTER LIMITS OF ITS
200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)**

Bir Lehlou, 5 March 2016 – The Government of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), led by the Frente POLISARIO, the representative of the people of Western Sahara, took steps today to protect the resources of its offshore maritime zones by submitting to the UN Secretary-General the geographical coordinates and charts illustrating the outer limits of Western Sahara's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

Western Sahara's maritime zones, including the EEZ, were officially declared back in January 2009 (see: <http://www.sadroitlandgas.com/publicity.htm>). Today, taking advantage of the visit of Ban Ki-moon to Western Sahara, the SADR Government took the additional step of depositing with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as depositary of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the coordinates and charts delineating the outer limits of Western Sahara's EEZ.

As required under international law, the coordinates and charts showing the EEZ outer limits will now be communicated to all UN member states through their Permanent Missions in New York, and published by the UN.

In clarifying the outer limits of Western Sahara's EEZ, the SADR Government made clear that it is not willing to tolerate the illegal exploitation of its natural resources, including rich offshore fisheries resources, nor ongoing efforts by Morocco and complicit foreign companies to explore the seabed resources in Western Sahara's waters.

French company Total recently abandoned its activities in Western Sahara's waters after a strong campaign of protest against its oil and gas exploration work, while a number of big European pension funds have confirmed they will no longer finance companies operating in Western Sahara pursuant to illegal licences issued by the Territory's occupier, the Kingdom of Morocco. In addition, diplomatic relations

have broken down between the EU and Morocco following a decision of the European Court of Justice to annul an agricultural trade agreement that purported illegally to apply to produce originating in Western Sahara (see: <http://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/mogherini-heads-to-morocco-after-eu-ties-suspended/>).

The Frente Polisario UN Coordinator, Mhamed Khadad, said: "The International Court of Justice has said so, the UN Legal Counsel has said so, the European Court of Justice has said so – Morocco has no sovereign ties to Western Sahara, and it cannot treat Western Sahara's resources as its own. Under international law, the people of Western Sahara have the right to use their natural wealth and resources for their own economic development and in furtherance of their right to self-determination. Morocco is violating international law every time it takes or deals with the Saharawi people's natural resources without our consent".

The new clarification by the SADR Government of the geographical extent of Western Sahara's EEZ will assist States Parties and signatories to the UNCLOS, as well as private companies engaged in natural resource-related activities, to fulfil their obligation to respect and protect the rights and interests of the people of Western Sahara with respect to their offshore natural resources.

The Saharawi people call upon all countries and companies to cease and desist from any further illegal fishing or other exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara in contravention of international law.

For more information or to schedule an interview contact:

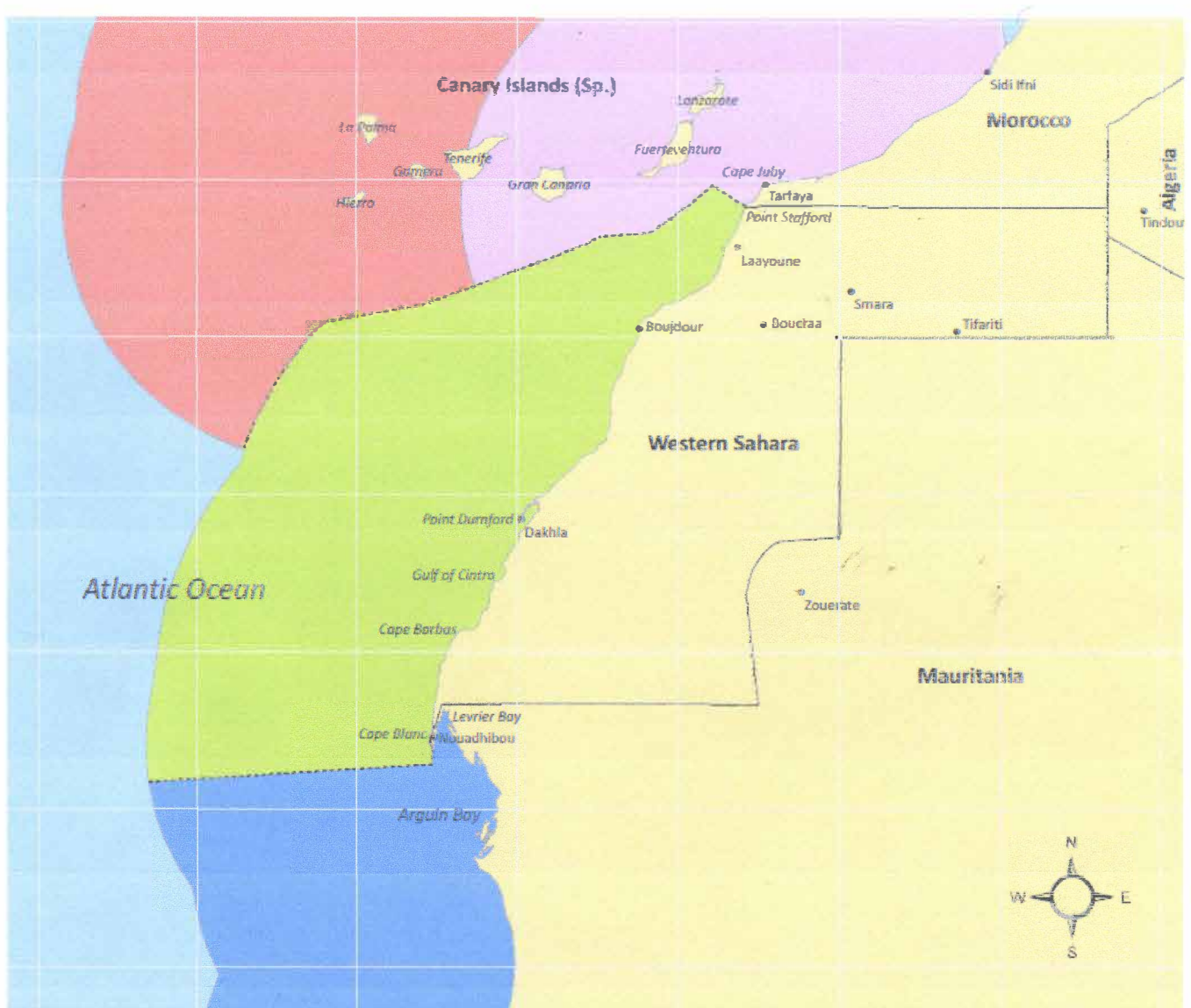
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Attachments: Map of the Western Sahara EEZ, and associated list of geographical coordinates.

**WESTERN SAHARA'S EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE
(INDICATED IN GREEN)**



WESTERN SAHARA'S EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

The following geographical coordinates define Western Sahara's 12 nautical mile (NM) territorial sea and 200 NM Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).*

Western Sahara's maritime zones begin at two places on the Saharan coast, one in the north at the land frontier with Morocco, the other in the south at the end of Cape Blanc, at the land frontier with Mauritania. Because of the location of such low water (low tide) points may change through coastal processes, the points given below for commencement of Western Sahara's territorial sea, where the land boundary at 27° 40' North latitude intersects the low water line at the seaward extension of such boundary and where the southern land boundary dividing the Cape Blanc peninsula intersects the low water line, the resulting geographical coordinates given at the commencement points of such boundaries, N1 and S1, respectively, are *approximate*.

The following coordinates are references to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS-84). They were checked by plotting Africa Equidistant Conic projection in ArcGIS software at scales of less than 1:25,000, cross-referenced to published nautical charts of the Saharan Atlantic region. The International Nautical Mile of 1,852 metres has been used.

Territorial sea and EEZ southern limit

Territorial sea: Commencing at a point named S1, being at the low water line of the Cape Blanc peninsula directly south (180° azimuth relative to the North) of the land boundary dividing Mauritania and Western Sahara (a location approximately 170 metres south of the centre of the Present 'Monument of the Castaways'), extending on a line directly south for a distance of 12 NM to point S2:

S1: 20° 46' 27" N, 17° 03' 07" W

S2: 20° 34' 23" N, 17° 03' 07" W

(being the limit of the territorial sea in the south)

EEZ: Beginning at point S2 and proceeding west along a line with an azimuth of 265° relative to North seaward a distance of 200NM sequentially between the following points:

S2: 20° 34' 23" N, 17° 03' 07" W

S3: 20° 32' 30" N, 17° 34' 26" W

S4: 20° 31' 48" N, 17° 47' 07" W

S5: 20° 30' 24" N, 18° 08' 57" W

S6: 20° 28' 26" N, 18° 40' 25" W

S7: 20° 28' 43" N, 18° 36' 06" W

S8: 20° 26' 43" N, 19° 03' 04" W

S9: 20° 25' 13" N, 19° 27' 53" W

S10: 20° 23' 23" N, 19° 55' 41" W

S11: 20° 22' 13" N, 20° 17' 39" W

S12: 20° 20' 59" N, 20° 36' 14" W

(being the limit of the EEZ in the south)

Territorial sea and EEZ northern limit

Territorial sea: Commencing at a point named N1; being the intersection of the northern land boundary at 27° 40' N and the low water line of the coast, and then proceeding along a line sequentially to point N3, a distance 12 NM northwest of the coast:

N1: 27° 40' 00" N, 13° 10' 05" W

N2: 27° 44' 19" N, 13° 16' 07" W

N3: 27° 47' 30" N, 13° 20' 39" W

(being the limit of the territorial sea in the north)

EEZ: Beginning at point N3 and proceeding initially in the same northwest direction as the territorial sea boundary, to a distance of 27.7 NM from the coast through point N4 to point N5 and then, at point N5 turning into the Atlantic Ocean in a generally south-west direction, sequentially between the following turning points:

N3: 27° 47' 30" N, 13° 39' 20" W

N4: 27° 52' 01" N, 13° 26' 55" W

N5: 27° 56' 44" N, 13° 33' 26" W

N6: 27° 56' 44" N, 13° 33' 26" W

N7: 27° 44' 49" N, 13° 47' 08" W

N8: 27° 29' 08" N, 14° 07' 34" W

N9: 27° 20' 00" N, 14° 20' 11" W

N10: 27° 18' 22" N, 14° 39' 19" W

N11: 27° 16' 43" N, 14° 58' 10" W

N12: 27° 12' 18" N, 15° 06' 22" W

N13: 27° 02' 41" N, 15° 29' 44" W

N14: 26° 52' 49" N, 15° 55' 54" W

N15: 26° 38' 25" N, 16° 33' 57" W

N16: 26° 24' 44" N, 17° 10' 11" W

N17: 26° 17' 59" N, 17° 48' 16" W

N18: 26° 11' 40" N, 18° 23' 57" W

N19: 25° 58' 45" N, 18° 36' 06" W

N20: 25° 45' 23" N, 18° 47' 03" W

N21: 25° 21' 16" N, 19° 02' 45" W

N22: 25° 06' 02" N, 19° 11' 16" W

N23: 24° 50' 13" N, 19° 18' 26" W

N24: 24° 34' 19" N, 19° 24' 04" W

(being the limit of the EEZ in the north)

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*Deposited on 5 March 2016