



## Security Council

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### Letter dated 12 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Recent correspondence addressed to you pertaining to the situation in the Western Sahara refers.

South Africa wishes to reiterate that the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is a founding and full member state of the African Union, which was established on 9 July 2002.

In this regard, our approach on the matter of Western Sahara is informed by the position of the African Union and the United Nations, which continues to view the question of Western Sahara as a decolonization issue. Given our own history of colonization and institutionalized racial segregation under the system of apartheid, South Africa's stance resonates with countries that have experienced colonialism and occupation.

To this end, South Africa has consistently supported the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, which is grounded in relevant African Union decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions. South Africa therefore supports the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, whose primary mandate, as established in Security Council resolution [690 \(1991\)](#) and all subsequent resolutions, is the holding of a free and fair referendum on self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

Our conviction remains that a resolution of the Western Sahara matter lies with upholding international legality and that the parties conduct themselves within the confines of adopted Security Council resolutions and international norms. Furthermore, and in keeping with the African Union position, we call on the parties to urgently resume negotiations without preconditions and in good faith, under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, whose Security Council is seized of the matter in the pursuit of reaching a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution.

I would be grateful to you if you could have the present letter circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Jerry Matthews **Matjila**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

