



Media Release

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

Bir Lehlu, 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

