



## **END OF COLONIALISM, REFERENDUM FOR INDEPENDENCE!**

### **48<sup>e</sup> EUCOCO FINAL RESOLUTION**

The 48<sup>th</sup> EUCOCO Conference in support of the Sahrawi people's struggle to exercise their inalienable and imprescriptible right to self-determination and independence was held on 29 and 30 November 2024 at the Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal.

In the presence of a large Sahrawi delegation, chaired by the Prime Minister of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), Mr. Buchraya Bayun, the 48<sup>th</sup> Conference was a high point of international solidarity. It was attended by 302 participants from 21 countries around the world, including a large delegation from Algeria, representatives of national, regional, and local governments, parliamentarians, associations, and committees supporting the Sahrawi people.

The Conference was preceded by a remarkable working meeting of parliamentarians, trade unions, defenders of human rights and natural resources, defenders of Sahrawi political prisoners, and civilian missions in the occupied territory and refugee camps.

The Conference took note of the victory of the Polisario Front following the rejection by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in Luxembourg of the appeal brought by the Commission and the Council of the European Union against its ruling of 29 September 2021. The fundamental rights of the Sahrawi people have been clearly reaffirmed.

On 4 October 2024, the CJEU, in rejecting the appeal of the Commission and the Council, reaffirmed its previous rulings, which set out the 4 pillars:

1. Morocco and Western Sahara are two distinct territories;
2. The right to self-determination is reaffirmed;
3. The Polisario Front is recognized as the sole representative of the Sahrawi people;
4. The consent of the people of Western Sahara is the indispensable basis for any agreement on the exploitation of the riches of Western Sahara.

This is a clear and historic decision that confirms the rulings and opinions of the highest courts in the world— the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Conference also denounced the colonial and genocidal wars committed against the Palestinian and Sahrawi peoples by the states of Israel and Morocco, and welcomes the

worldwide mobilisation in support of the Palestinian people and denounces the collusion between Israel and Morocco in the framework of the 'Abraham Accords'.

It emphasizes that ending colonial wars of occupation and withdrawing occupying forces is an absolute priority that the UN must address, or it risks losing all credibility.

Similarly, the 48<sup>th</sup> EUCOCO, noting the multiple violations of human rights done by the Moroccan regime, calls for the immediate release of all Sahrawi political prisoners, including the Gdeim Izik group, and demands that the international observers and organizations will be able to investigate in the occupied territory. As for MINURSO, its mandate must include the protection of human rights.

The work of the parliamentarians, trade unionists, and workshops at this 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EUCOCO led to the development of a vast program of international mobilization for the immediate implementation of the referendum on self-determination, which should enable the Sahrawi people to get their right to independence, in accordance with all the relevant UN resolutions, in particular G.A. resolutions 1514 (XV) and 34/37.

The EUCOCO Conference adopted the reports of the four workshops, which are annexed to this final resolution and constitute the key programmatic axes for the year 2025.

The Conference denounces the French, Spanish, and American heads of state that, in violation of international law and the right of peoples to self-determination, are supporting the Moroccan attempt to annex Western Sahara. This is an abuse of authority and an unacceptable violation of international law against a people that is sovereign in the eyes of the United Nations and the African Union. To defend the rights of the Sahrawi people is to defend the United Nations Charter and the construction of an Africa of peaceful coexistence between peoples.

Once again, the EUCOCO 48 welcomes the position of principle and Algeria's unwavering support for the Sahrawi people's struggle.

Finally, the 48<sup>th</sup> EUCOCO Conference strongly condemns the genocidal practices and war crimes committed against the Palestinian people by the State of Israel and affirm its solidarity and support for Palestine.

The 49<sup>th</sup> EUCOCO will be held in France at the end of 2025.

*Lisbon, 30 November 2024*