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PRESS RELEASE

**FRENTE POLISARIO CALLS ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO OUTLINE POLITICAL
PROCESS ON WESTERN SAHARA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, New York 25 July 2016 – Ahead of the UN Security Council meeting on Western Sahara that will take place on Tuesday 26 July, the Frente POLISARIO sent a letter to the UN Security Council expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on restoring the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to full independent functionality and the deadlock on returning to negotiations on a political process on Western Sahara.

Speaking to members of the UN press corps, Frente POLISARIO UN Representative Ahmed Boukhari said: "I hope that tomorrow's Security Council will not be paralyzed and find that this is fait accompli and no cooperation from the Moroccans. There is no convincing reason by which the Secretariat was not able to recruit or make sure that all who were expelled will return before the end of July. And the Security Council should not be implicated in an administrative exercise." He added that "the Security Council should not focus only on the personnel of MINURSO returning or not returning but should take responsibility for the management of the conflict and push forward the resumption of the negotiations."

On the issue of Morocco joining the African Union, Mr. Boukhari said: "I don't see any prospects for Morocco to become a member of the African Union while continuing its occupation of Western Sahara, which is a full member of the African Union. Then, at the end, the noises you have heard, is more a tactical game to divert the attention to Moroccan opinion or to what is going on with MINURSO."

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