



## *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*

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Department of Political Affairs - Security Council Affairs Division  
Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch

### **1. The situation concerning Western Sahara**

#### **Overview**

During the period under review, the Security Council held two meetings and adopted two resolutions relating to the situation concerning Western Sahara. At the meetings, the Council considered the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), which was extended twice for the periods of one year.<sup>1</sup>

The table at the end of the section lists the meetings at which this item was considered, and gives information on, inter alia, invitees, speakers and decisions adopted.

#### **Extension of the mandate of MINURSO**

On 24 April 2012, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2044 \(2012\)](#) to extend the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2013. After the vote, the representative of South Africa expressed his disappointment that the Council, once again, had been unable to agree on establishing an international human rights mechanism within MINURSO. He held that MINURSO was one of the few United Nations missions without a human rights mandate, which created the impression that the Council did not give priority to the human rights of the people of Western Sahara. He further raised his delegation's concern at the manner in which the report of the Secretary-General dated 5 April 2012<sup>2</sup> had been prepared and finalized,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolutions [2044 \(2012\)](#) and [2099 \(2013\)](#). For more information, see part X, sect. I, with regard to MINURSO.

<sup>2</sup> [S/2012/197](#).

underscoring the importance of due consideration to Article 100 of the Charter.<sup>3</sup> On the other hand, the representative of Morocco stated that the Council was quite right to refuse, for the third year in a row, to broaden the mandate of MINURSO to include matters irrelevant to its functions and nature, opining that in adhering to the original mandate, the Council was directing MINURSO to commit to the existing agreements.<sup>4</sup>

On 25 April 2013, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2099 \(2013\)](#) encouraging the parties to continue in their respective efforts to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Western Sahara and the Tindouf refugee camps. By the same resolution, the Council extended the mandate of MINURSO until 30 April 2014 and supported the request by the Secretary-General for additional six United Nations police officers to implement the expanded family visit programme.

### **Meetings: the situation concerning Western Sahara**

<i>Meeting and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
<a href="#">S/PV. 6758</a> 24 April 2012	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara ( <a href="#">S/2012/197</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom, United States ( <a href="#">S/2012/249</a> )	Spain		South Africa, Morocco	Resolution <a href="#">2044 (2012)</a> 15-0-0
<a href="#">S/PV. 6951</a> 25 April 2013	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara ( <a href="#">S/2013/220</a> )	Draft resolution submitted by France, Russian Federation, Spain, United States ( <a href="#">S/2013/243</a> )	Spain			Resolution <a href="#">2099 (2013)</a> 15-0-0

<sup>3</sup> [S/PV. 6758](#), pp. 2-3.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.