

Country/entity	Morocco Western Sahara
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Results of the Third Round of Direct Talks: Compromise of Troop Confinement (Lisbon Compromise)
Date	29 Aug 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Western Sahara Conflict (1973 - 1991)

Conflict in Western Sahara began as an insurgency by the Polisario Front against Spanish colonization in 1973. Two years later, Spain withdrew from the territory. Following the annexation of the territory by Morocco and Mauritania in 1976, the insurgency continued. After proclaiming the establishment of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) in 1976, the Polisario Front succeeded in gaining recognition by several states, but was not admitted into the United Nations. Instead, the territory was annexed by Morocco and Mauritania, sparking a 16-year resistance by the Algerian-backed Polisario Front. Following a withdrawal by Mauritania in 1979, the conflict reached a stalemate through the 1980s and then reignited in 1989 until a ceasefire in 1991. At the time 80 per cent of the territory was under the de facto control of Morocco, while 20 per cent continued to be held by the SADR including the refugee camps along the Algerian border. Unrest has continued to erupt at intervals in from 1999-2004, 2005, 2010 and 2011. Attempts to solve the conflict have manifested in the form of the Baker Plan (2000) and the Moroccan Initiative (2006-2008).

Close
Western Sahara Conflict (1973 - 1991)

Stage	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Morocco-Western Sahara peace process
Parties	Morocco, Frente Polisario

Third parties	Observer nations: Algeria, Mauritania, UNSRSG
Description	Provided for reduction and confinement of Moroccan armed forces in accordance with the settlement plan, and confinement and containment of Frente Polisario armed in locations and numbers as designated by the Special Representative of the Secretary General. Included statement that this compromise would in no way change, alter or affect the internationally recognised boundaries of Western Sahara. Also provided for repatriation of all prisoners of war in accordance with the settlement plan and the continuation of full cooperation with ICRC until completion of the repatriation process, and for release of all Saharan political prisoners or detainees before the referendum campaign.

Agreement document [MO_970829_LisbonCompromise.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	No specific mention.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	No specific mention.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) Page 1, I. COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON TROOP CONFINEMENT
3. This compromise agreement is for the sole purpose of further defining the rights and responsibilities of the parties and the observer nations regarding confinement or containment of troops for the purpose of carrying out the settlement plan and the referendum called for in such plan. This compromise shall in no way change, alter or otherwise affect the internationally recognized boundaries of Western Sahara, and shall not serve as precedent for any argument that such boundaries have changed or been altered.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum Page 1, III. POLITICAL PRISONERS OR DETAINEES
The parties agree that any and all Saharan political prisoners or detainees will be released, pursuant to the amnesty envisioned in the settlement plan, before the beginning of the referendum campaign. The parties further agree that they will fully cooperate with the Independent Jurist in carrying out his duties.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation Page 1, I. COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON TROOP CONFINEMENT

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Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, II. PRISONERS OF WAR
2. The parties further agree that they will continue their full cooperation with the International committee of the Red Cross until the completion of the repatriation process.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts Page 1, III. POLITICAL PRISONERS OR DETAINEES
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Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
Page 1, I. COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON TROOP CONFINEMENT
1. The parties agree that Moroccan armed forces will be reduced and confined or contained in all respects strictly in accordance with the provisions of the settlement plan.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions

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Page 1, I. COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON TROOP CONFINEMENT

2. The parties and the observer nations of Algeria and Mauritania also agree that Frente POLISARIO armed forces will be confined or contained in locations and numbers as designated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (as called for in the settlement plan) provided, however, that no more than 2,000 individuals may be confined or contained on the territory of Western Sahara east of the sand berm and no more than 300 individuals on the territory of Mauritania. Frente POLISARIO armed forces over and above the number designated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for confinement or containment in Western Sahara east of the sand berm and in Mauritania shall be confined or contained on the territory of Algeria. As far as the locations of the troops to be confined and contained in Algeria and Mauritania are concerned, these locations will be identified in coordination with the Algerian and Mauritanian authorities.

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Page 1, II. PRISONERS OF WAR

1. The parties agree that all prisoners of war will be repatriated in accordance with the provisions of the settlement plan.

Page 1, II. PRISONERS OF WAR

2. The parties further agree that they will continue their full cooperation with the International committee of the Red Cross until the completion of the repatriation process.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>Page 1, I. COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON TROOP CONFINEMENT</p> <p>2. The parties and the observer nations of Algeria and Mauritania also agree that Frente POLISARIO armed forces will be confined or contained in locations and numbers as designated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (as called for in the settlement plan) provided, however, that no more than 2,000 individuals may be confined or contained on the territory of Western Sahara east of the sand berm and no more than 300 individuals on the territory of Mauritania. Frente POLISARIO armed forces over and above the number designated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for confinement or containment in Western Sahara east of the sand berm and in Mauritania shall be confined or contained on the territory of Algeria. As far as the locations of the troops to be confined and contained in Algeria and Mauritania are concerned, these locations will be identified in coordination with the Algerian and Mauritanian authorities.</p>
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	<p>Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper</p> <p>Page 1, III. POLITICAL PRISONERS OR DETAINEES</p> <p>The parties agree that any and all Saharan political prisoners or detainees will be released, pursuant to the amnesty envisioned in the settlement plan, before the beginning of the referendum campaign. The parties further agree that they will fully cooperate with the Independent Jurist in carrying out his duties.</p>
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.

Prisoner release Page 1, II. PRISONERS OF WAR
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Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism

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Related cases

No specific mention.

Source

INCORE, International Conflict Research Institute, Ulster University
<http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/>
