

Preamble

The Western Sahara file is considered one of the most prominent foci of tension and regional conflicts on the African continent. Its direct effects are manifested in the disintegration of regional structures and the rupture of relations between the Maghreb states, in addition to hindering the drive for economic integration and the failure to achieve the desired socio-economic well-being.

The inability of regional institutions (Maghrebian or African) to contain the conflict or propose a serious regional solution paved the way for the internationalization of the file. This process began in its first phase in 1963, when the United Nations included the territory in the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. This was followed by a phase of advanced internationalization in 1991, with the issuance of Security Council Resolution 690, which provided for the formation of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to organize a self-determination referendum.

For long decades, the Sahrawi issue remained confined between the duality of a referendum on self-determination/independence versus sovereignty (Autonomy). Today, however, following the launch of the American President's "Zero Draft" project, which was subsequently transformed into a UN resolution supporting the Moroccan proposal for the Autonomy Initiative, the issue is witnessing a fundamental transformation. This shift deepens a realistic approach

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Important deadline

The date of the study day is December 17st, 2025

University of Oum El bouaghi
Faculty of Law and political Sciences
Departement of political
Sciences



research team (PRFU): Security
Sector Governance
G02L01UN040120230001
organizes a study day on

The Western Sahara File Between Self-Determination and Autonomy: A Reading in the Dynamics of the Conflict and the Reshaping of Regional Influence

Faculty of Law and Political Sciences
Auditorium

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Second: Providing a legal and political reading of the Security Council Resolution as a political document that reflects the balance of power, rather than merely a static text.

Third: Studying the roles of major powers in conflict management within the context of international competition and the policy of polarization, with the aim of redefining regional roles.

Fourth: Identifying the various diplomatic paths adopted, with an emphasis on highlighting the features of regional deterrence diplomacy (Algeria / Polisario).

The main topics of the study day

Axis I (Historical):

The Sahrawi Conflict and its Impact on the Disintegration of Regional Structures and Maghreb relations.

Axis II (Legal):

The Transformation of the UN Discourse from the Principle of Decolonization to the Autonomy Initiative.

Axis III (Geopolitical):

The Repercussions of the International Geopolitical Conflict and the Redistribution of Roles in the Region.

based on solidifying the principle of a political solution, establishing it as an alternative path to the traditional or theoretical approach.

This change is especially evident after the American President called on regional powers to expedite talks on the Moroccan Initiative proposal as a serious and realistic basis

for resolving the conflict. This portends a sudden and rapid change in the nature and pattern of the conflict, which is no longer merely an issue of traditional decolonization, but has transformed into a geopolitical file where the vested interests of competing powers intersect, leading to a redistribution of roles among local and regional actors in the area

The study day Problematic

What are the repercussions of the shift in the UN discourse on the future of the Western Sahara file? And how have the efforts of major powers in supporting the Autonomy approach affected the dynamics of Maghreb relations

Conference objectives

The study day aims to:

First: Monitoring the reality of Maghreb relations and the trajectories of regional integration in light of the developments in the Sahrawi issue.