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THE SITUATION CONCERNING WESTERN SAHARA

Report of the Secretary-General

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1. On 11 August 1988, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Special Envoy of the then Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) presented, in separate meetings, to the parties to the conflict in Western Sahara, namely Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO), a document ("the settlement proposals") containing proposals for a just and definitive solution of the question of Western Sahara in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) by means of a cease-fire and the holding of a referendum without military or administrative constraints to enable the people of Western Sahara, in the exercise of their right to self-determination, to choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

2. On 30 August 1988, in separate meetings, the representatives of each of the two parties, while making comments and observations, informed the Secretary-General of their agreement in principle to the settlement proposals. On 20 September 1988 the Security Council was informed of this fact by the Secretary-General, who provided the Council with an outline of the settlement proposals. The Council thereupon adopted resolution 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988, authorizing the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative for Western Sahara and requesting him to transmit to it as soon as possible a report on the holding of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and on ways and means to ensure the organization and supervision of such a referendum by the United Nations in co-operation with OAU.

3. The present report is divided into two parts:

(a) Part I contains the full text of the settlement proposals as accepted in principle by the parties on 30 August 1988. The Secretary-General believes that it would be useful for the Council to have the full text available to it at this stage, thus supplementing the outline he had provided to the Council in 1988;

(b) Part II contains a report on developments since September 1988 and it contains the Secretary-General's implementation plan for giving effect to the settlement proposals, taking account of developments since their acceptance in principle by the parties. The implementation plan is submitted to the Council pursuant to its request contained in resolution 621 (1988).

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