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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Security Council has been calling, since 2004, for a negotiated and mutually acceptable political solution to the "Western Sahara" dispute and requested the States of the region to fully cooperate to work it

Antigua and Barbuda firmly supports the political process launched by the Security Council since 2007, under the exclusive auspices of the United Nations, "with a view to achieving a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution" to this dispute. This process has also the strong support of the General Assembly in all its resolutions since 2007, including resolution 70/98 adopted on 9 December 2015.

Antigua Barbuda also supports the Security Council's "endorsement of the recommendation in the report of 14 April 2008 (S/2008/251) that a visit of

We note with some satisfaction that two local leaders were elected as Presidents of the 2 regions of the Sahara and that the Presidents and Members of the regional and communal Councils are all from this region. This will allow these elected men and women, as representatives of the population, to effectively manage the affairs of the region.

With regards to economic and social development, I would like to refer to the new development model in the Sahara, launched, recently by the Kingdom of Morocco.

This new model forecasted to create over a 120 000 jobs, will have a positive impact on the Sahara and the population of the region.

This model encompasses sustainable development as an important aspect of the development of the region, including: The development of renewable energy,