



## Communiqué - December 2011

Independent Diplomat (ID) works to empower those most disenfranchised in the international system, ensuring that their voices are heard. ID is proud to have contributed this year to the following client successes.

### Western Sahara

The Frente POLISARIO scored a significant victory on 14 December when the European Parliament voted to reject a protocol extending the operation of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Morocco. MEPs cited legal concerns that the protocol was used to license fishing by EU boats in Western Sahara's waters. No state in the world recognizes Morocco's claim over Western Sahara, which remains a Non-Self-Governing Territory awaiting a referendum to determine its status. EU boats fishing off Western Sahara have been withdrawn with immediate effect, and the European Commission now needs to consider whether any future agreement with Morocco is possible. This achievement is the culmination of five years of work by ID in support of the Frente POLISARIO's demands that any use of Western Sahara's natural resources must be with the consent of the Saharawi people, as required by international law.

For more, see press stories [here](#) and [here](#).

### Republic of the Marshall Islands / Climate Change

ID's Dean Bialek returned last week from the latest round of climate change negotiations in South Africa where, as a member of the Marshall Islands' negotiating team, he helped the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) put the world on track to a new, legally-binding treaty to respond to the challenge of our generation. The final 'Durban Platform' was based on a draft put forward by AOSIS negotiators on the penultimate night of the negotiations, with strong support from the EU and the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and includes an important work plan to raise the scale of global emission reduction efforts.

The new treaty must be adopted by 2015, and will include emission reduction commitments for all major emitters. In parallel, the EU and a handful of other industrialized countries have agreed to implement their current emission reduction targets in a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, ensuring continuity for the fledgling international carbon market.

While difficult negotiations lie ahead, Durban is proof that, when working together, the world's smallest and most vulnerable countries still have a voice as loud as any at the negotiating table.

### Somaliland

Somaliland has come a long way in 20 years of *de facto* independence, and represents a unique hub of peace, stability and democracy in the otherwise troubled Horn of Africa. In recent weeks, ID's Paul Whiteway paid his second visit to Somaliland to meet President Ahmed Silanyo, who came to power following the peaceful presidential elections in 2010. With a new advisor now working closely on the ground in Hargeisa with Foreign Minister Mohamed Omar, ID is helping Somaliland to articulate its foreign policy more clearly in support of its ongoing development.

### Looking Forward

ID's work here and elsewhere, including South Sudan, will continue and, we hope, build on this trend of growing achievements for our otherwise marginalized clients. If our clients' successes inspire you to be a part of a more equitable, just and effective international system, please consider supporting Independent Diplomat's work by clicking [here](#). Onwards and upwards in 2012.



[www.independentdiplomat.org](http://www.independentdiplomat.org)

---