WESTERN SAHARA

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State  none
Head of Government  none
Government Type  legal status of territory and issue of sovereignty are unresolved; territory contested by Morocco and Polisario Front (Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro), which in February 1976 formally proclaimed a government-in-exile of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), near Tindouf, Algeria.

ECONOMY
Economic Overview  has a small market-based economy whose main industries are fishing, phosphate mining, tourism, and pastoral nomadism; arid desert climate makes sedentary agriculture difficult; much of its food is imported
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)  $906.5 million (2007 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)  $2,500 (2007 est.)

GEOGRAPHY
Area  Total: 266,000 sq km
      Land: 266,000 sq km
      Water: 0 sq km
Climate  hot, dry desert; rain is rare; cold offshore air currents produce fog and heavy dew
Natural Resources  phosphates, iron ore

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population  652,270 (July 2020 est.)
Population Growth  2.54% (2020 est.)
Ethnicity  Arab, Berber
Language  Standard Arabic, Hassaniya Arabic, Moroccan Arabic, Berber, Spanish, French
Religion  Muslim
Urbanization  urban population: 86.8% of total population (2020)
            rate of urbanization: 2.61% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

as of May 2020