



Universidad Autónoma
de Madrid

Conference on University Cooperation in the Sahrawi refugee camps

20 years of collaboration and humanitarian action by the UAM
2006–2026

DATE & TIME	VENUE	ACCESS
2026, 22 september 10:00 – 17:00	Graduation Hall Ángel Rivière, Faculty of Psychology, UAM	FREE ADMISSION Prior registration: FORM

ORGANISED BY THE OFFICE FOR SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION
VICECHANCELLOR'S OFFICE OF SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND CULTURE- AUTONOMOUS
UNIVERSITY OF MADRID (UAM)

Purpose of the event

To raise awareness of the UAM's work with the Sahrawi refugee community, share lessons from education, health, disability inclusion and research initiatives, and strengthen humanitarian collaboration focused on children, adolescents and their rights. The event also marks twenty years of the UAM's work and humanitarian aid in the Sahrawi refugee camps. During the event, an agreement will be signed between the University of Tifariti and the public universities of Madrid.



Programme

Time	Session title	Participants
10:00	Opening ceremony	Amaya Mendikoetxea, Rector of UAM Katarina Johansson, UNICEF Representative, Algeria M ^a Ángeles Espinosa, UNICEF Representative, Spain
10:20	Screening of short videos on UAM–UNICEF projects in 2026	Presented by Ruth Campos, Vice-Rector for Social Commitment and Culture
10:30–11:00	Signing of the agreement between the six public universities of Madrid and the Sahrawi University of Tifariti	Chancellors of Madrid’s public universities Moulay Emhamed Brahim, Chancellor of the University of Tifariti Moderated by Amaya Mendikoetxea, President of CRUMA
11:00–11:45	The role the academic institutions together with UNICEF to protect the rights of refugee children and adolescents	M ^a Ángeles Espinosa, UNICEF Spain representative and Professor, Faculty of Psychology UAM; Katarina Johansson, UNICEF Representative, Algeria. Presented by Ruth Campos, Vice-Rector for Social Commitment and Culture
11:45–12:15	Coffee break	
12:15–13:15	Sahara Health Alliance: the importance of coordination for positioning refugee children and women at the heart of essential service delivery	José Manuel Solla, Doctor from the Sahara Health Alliance Cristina Rodrigo, Recover Foundation Manuel Mozota, SEMG Solidaria Foundation Tomás Sánchez, Vivisol S.L. Mario Braier, Red TBS- Stop Epidemics Moderated by Julio Ancochea, Full professor at the UAM Faculty of Medicine and founder of the Sahara Health Alliance
13:15–14:15	Research, training and teaching through cooperation projects serving the Sahrawi refugee community: the value of investing in refugee capacity building, results and challenges.	Nacho Alonso, Professor at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Francisco Mendoza, Professor at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Estella Acosta, expert in vocational training in the Sahrawi refugee camps Margarita Billón, Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies Moderated by Rita Pérez Santos, Program Officer of the Office for Solidarity and Cooperation at UAM
14:15–15:00	Lunch break	

15:00–16:30	The decline in humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi refugee camps and the impact on the Sahrawi refugees' access to essential services	Yahya Buhobeini, President of the Sahrawi Red Crescent Abdulah Arabi, Representative of the SADR Delegation in Spain Maite Isla, President of CEAS–Sáhara Jennifer Lee Alvarez, UNICEF Algeria Moderated by Pedro Martínez Lillo, Full professor at the UAM Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities
16:30–17:00	Introduction to Sahrawi culture: poetry recital and musical closing	Bahia Mahmud Awah, Sahrawi poet and Honorary lecturer, Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities UAM Suilma Ali Fernández, Sahrawi Spanish musician Presented by Juan Carlos Gimeno y Juan Ignacio Robles, researchers and professors from the UAM Faculty of Philosophy and Humanities
17:00	Closing of the event	Ruth Campos, Vice-Rector for Social Commitment and Culture Silvia Arias, Director of the Office for Solidarity and Cooperation at UAM
Parallel activity Photography exhibition on the UAM–UNICEF experimental science education project, presented by David Bermúdez, Professor at the Faculty of Teacher Education and Education UAM.		



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