While the clashes did not bring the negotiations to an end, they did heighten mistrust on both sides. As in previous rounds, each side remained firm on their 2007 positions—not agreeing to the others’ proposal as a sole basis for future negotiations.2 To break the impasse, Ross got the parties to agree to “deconstruct” their proposals and pursue innovative approaches for future rounds to build a new dynamic for this process on the basis of regular meetings. Some headway was made regarding the implementation of confidence-building measures, including increasing the number of family visits between Sahrawi separated in refugee camps in Tin-douf, Algeria, which were formalized in a meeting with Morocco, POLISARIO, Algeria, Mauritania, and UNHCR in Geneva on 9-10 February 2011.

While the events of the Gdeim Izik incident overshadowed informal talks from 16-18 December 2010 in New York, with both sides trading accusations of human rights violations, the parties agreed to meet again and did so a month later on