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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Mauritania

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Mauritania was held at the 3rd meeting on 3 November 2015. The delegation of Mauritania was headed by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Brahim Ould Daddah. At its 10th meeting held on 6 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Mauritania.
2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Mauritania: Bangladesh, Congo and France.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Mauritania:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/MRT/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/MRT/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/MRT/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Mauritania through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. La délégation de Mauritanie a souligné le ferme engagement du Président, Mr Mohammad Ould Abdel Aziz, en faveur de la promotion et de la protection des droits de l'homme. En effet, elle a indiqué qu'un plan de travail avait été élaboré pour établir une gouvernance garantissant l'unité nationale, l'ancrage de la démocratie et la solidarité entre les composantes de la société. La Mauritanie a également renforcé son cadre législatif et institutionnel en matière de droits de l'homme depuis le premier cycle EPU. Ainsi, la Constitution a été révisée en 2012 pour réaffirmer la diversité culturelle et linguistique du pays, l'assimilation de l'esclavage et de la torture à des crimes contre l'humanité, et la constitutionnalisation de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme. La délégation a ajouté que la Mauritanie accorde aux traités internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme un statut supérieur aux lois nationales. La Mauritanie a également retiré sa réserve à la Convention pour l'élimination de toutes les formes de discriminations à l'égard des femmes à l'exception de l'alinéa b de l'article 13 et de l'article 16 dans toutes ses dispositions et adhéré à ICPED, l'ICRPD et au Protocole facultatif à la Convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants. Enfin, la Mauritanie a adhéré aux mécanismes de l'Union africaine relatifs aux droits de l'homme auxquels elle n'était pas encore partie.

6. La délégation a ensuite abordé la question du renforcement de l'efficacité des institutions des droits de l'homme grâce à un accès facilité à la justice, la création de tribunaux spécialisés, dont un tribunal pour le crime d'esclavage et l'adoption de conditions pour un procès équitable. La Mauritanie a également créé le «Conseil Suprême de la Fatwa et Recours Gracieux» chargé de donner un avis consultatif dans les questions juridiques ayant un lien avec la charia ainsi que l'agence nationale «Tadamoun» pour mettre en œuvre des programmes de lutte contre la pauvreté et les séquelles de l'esclavage.

7. La délégation a relevé qu'un mécanisme national de prévention de la torture jouissant d'une indépendance administrative et financière avait été créé; qu'une loi criminalisant la torture avait été élaborée et que des ateliers de sensibilisation à l'interdiction de la torture avaient organisés. De plus, la Mauritanie a mis en place la fonction de Médiateur de la République et publié dans le Journal officiel tous les traités internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme auxquels elle a adhéré. La délégation a rappelé que la Mauritanie avait coopéré de façon positive avec tous les mécanismes internationaux des droits de l'homme, qu'elle avait présenté un grand nombre de rapports aux organes de traités et qu'elle avait reçu la visite de plusieurs rapporteurs spéciaux.

8. En ce qui concerne les droits de la femme, la délégation a relevé que la Mauritanie avait adopté une stratégie nationale intégrant la dimension genre dans les politiques publiques dans le but de mieux insérer les femmes dans la vie sociale et de lutter contre les stéréotypes et violences à leur encontre. La Mauritanie a également soutenu des programmes économiques visant à rendre financièrement indépendantes les femmes qui vivent en ville et à la campagne et à leur faciliter l'accès aux soins de santé, à l'éducation, et à l'emploi. La politique familiale a été modernisée et l'âge de la retraite a été fixé à 60 ans pour les femmes qui travaillent dans le cadre de la convention collective. Dans le domaine de la participation à la vie politique, la délégation a noté que la Mauritanie a adopté plusieurs mesures visant à promouvoir l'équité entre les hommes et les femmes, par exemple, l'institution d'une liste spécifique de 20 sièges réservés aux femmes à l'occasion des élections des députés à l'Assemblée Nationale.

9. La délégation a relevé qu'une stratégie nationale pour la protection de l'enfant, un plan d'action contre le travail des enfants sous toutes ses formes ainsi qu'un plan d'action pour la renonciation volontaire et définitive de la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF) avaient été élaborés.

10. La délégation a rappelé que la lutte contre les séquelles de l'esclavage et la traite des êtres humains étaient une priorité pour le Gouvernement qui avait adopté un plan d'action pour lutter contre les séquelles de l'esclavage. Ainsi, une loi criminalisant l'esclavage et les pratiques esclavagistes, remplaçant la loi 2007/048, a été adoptée; une journée nationale de lutte contre les séquelles de l'esclavage a été instaurée; une loi contre le travail de l'enfant a été adoptée; les infrastructures scolaires dans les zones d'éducation prioritaire ont été réalisées; un système de transfert d'argent pour soutenir la scolarisation des enfants issus de familles pauvres ou concernées par les séquelles de l'esclavage a été mise en place; des campagnes de sensibilisation pour lever le tabou sur les pratiques esclavagistes ont été organisées; une fatwa sur l'illégalité des pratiques esclavagistes a été délivrée et les conditions de détention ont été améliorées.

11. Dans le domaine de la santé, la délégation a déclaré que la couverture sanitaire s'était élargie, que les services de santé avaient été améliorés et que les formations nécessaires ont été réalisées. En outre, la lutte contre la mortalité maternelle et infantile est devenue une priorité en matière de santé publique.

12. La délégation a souligné que l'éducation était gratuite et obligatoire pour tous les enfants en âge de scolarisation et que, les trois dernières années, les taux de réussite et de scolarisation étaient plus élevés parmi les filles que parmi les garçons

13. La délégation a également indiqué la mise en œuvre d'une stratégie nationale de lutte contre la corruption, le Gouvernement étant conscient du lien étroit qui unit promotion des droits de l'homme et bonne gestion des ressources publiques.

14. Quant à la mise en œuvre du «troisième cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté», la délégation a déclaré qu'il avait permis de réaliser un taux de croissance de 6.2 pour cent. De plus, les stratégies nationales pour la sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural ont renforcé les capacités des groupes vulnérables à affronter les crises alimentaires, ont réduit les disparités et ont permis de trouver des solutions durables à la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire.

15. La délégation a également noté la création d'un comité technique interministériel chargé de la préparation des rapports liés à la mise en œuvre des traités et des recommandations des organes de traités.

16. La délégation a souligné que le Gouvernement avait coopéré avec tous ses partenaires pour la mise en place d'un plan d'action contre la discrimination raciale, la xénophobie, et l'intolérance, ainsi que pour la préparation d'une stratégie nationale pour la promotion de la cohésion sociale.

17. Cependant, malgré les efforts de la Mauritanie pour promouvoir et consolider les droits de l'homme, la délégation a rappelé les défis majeurs auxquels le pays faisait face. En effet, la Mauritanie manque, notamment, des capacités et ressources suffisantes pour assurer à ses citoyens la pleine jouissance de leurs droits économiques et sociaux. Le Ministre de la Justice a toutefois affirmé que son pays allait continuer à mettre en œuvre des programmes de lutte contre la pauvreté pour atteindre les objectifs post-2015.

18. La délégation a exprimé son assurance par l'assistance du bureau du HCDH en Mauritanie. Elle a exprimé son espoir que ce soutien permettra de renforcer les capacités des institutions nationales des droits de l'homme ainsi que du mécanisme national de prévention de la torture.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

19. Mali welcomed Mauritania's accession to international human rights instruments, the creation of new human rights institutions and measures taken for women and children's rights.

20. Mauritius positively noted key initiatives, particularly the strategy on food security and poverty reduction, the 2012 constitutional review, the ratification of additional human rights treaties and their domestication, the drafting of legislation to combat violence against women, and measures aimed at improving the justice system's efficiency.

21. Mexico acknowledged the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee to comply with the obligations to prepare reports and follow up on international recommendations. It commended actions taken to increase participation of women in legislative elections.

22. Montenegro welcomed access to OP-CAT, CRPD and ICPPED. It noted with concern that homosexuality is considered a crime punishable with death penalty and demanded that Mauritania elaborate on the measures it has planned to decriminalize homosexuality.

23. Morocco praised Mauritania's commitment towards strengthening human rights and appreciated the establishment of a NHRI, a national preventive mechanism to combat torture, and steps taken towards combatting contemporary forms of slavery.

24. Mozambique noted Mauritania has submitted reports to the Committee against Torture, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee and to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
25. Namibia commended the ratification of all major human rights instruments and noted the efforts to improve the efficiency of the justice system, including an anti-slavery court created in May 2015.
26. The Netherlands commended Mauritania for having ratified outstanding Human Rights treaties particularly the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
27. The Niger noted the formal recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the country, qualification of slavery and torture as crimes against humanity, and the constitutional value attached to the A-status National Human Rights Commission.
28. Nigeria commended the efforts for the Implementation of the Strategic Framework for Poverty Eradication (phase III). It urged that Mauritania register children of refugees and asylum seekers at birth in line with international standard.
29. Norway encouraged the government to strengthen its efforts to promote a human rights culture throughout the country and to enhance the capacities of the National Human Rights Commission.
30. Oman recognised the challenges facing the country, particularly persistent drought, and welcomed that the Government has strived to uphold its international human rights commitments.
31. Pakistan commended the 2012 constitutional review, which had led to formal recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the country. It also appreciated Mauritania's accession to human rights instruments.
32. Panama welcomed the revision of the Constitution incorporating recognition of the country's cultural and linguistic diversity and of slavery and torture as crimes against humanity and of the National Human Rights Commission, which now had "A" status.
33. The Philippines acknowledged the improvement of health condition, access to education and employment for the most vulnerable sectors of the population. It requested information about national child protection strategy, anti-slavery and anti-trafficking programs
34. Poland is concerned about the repeated cases of women and children in slavery. It urges Mauritania to include a provision in the Criminal Code that defines and criminalizes racial or ethnic discrimination.
35. Portugal welcomed the ratification of CRPD, ICPED and OPCAT. It also welcomed the A status of the national human rights institution.
36. Qatar praised Mauritania's efforts in achieving food security and reducing poverty by implementing the third strategic framework to combat poverty, the national food security strategy and the rural sector strategy.
37. Saudi Arabia noted the importance Mauritania has placed upon strengthening the rule of law, democracy, national cohesion, security, good governance, education, and health, and combatting terrorism, poverty, corruption, and slavery.
38. Senegal welcomed the establishment of an anti-slavery court in 2015, the National Agency Tadamoun and the National Human Rights Commission as well as the ratification of the Convention against Torture and its optional protocol and African Union instruments.

39. Sierra Leone remained concerned about the reports of racial discrimination and encouraged Mauritania to enact laws on anti-discrimination, especially with regard to radical prejudice and disparities in citizenship rights for the nationals.
40. Slovakia acknowledged the establishment of the national agency Tadamoun to eradicate slavery. It remained concerned that the Penal Code allows death penalty for minors and imposes it for crime such as apostasy and homosexual acts.
41. Slovenia noted the ratification of OP-CAT and CRPD and criminalization of slavery and torture as crimes against humanity. It is concerned about child labour and exploitation of girls in domestic work under slave-like conditions.
42. South Africa appreciated that the national report set out the vision for the promotion and protection of human rights, including prioritization of efforts aimed at the eradication of the consequences of slavery and contemporary forms of slavery.
43. Spain highlighted measures taken by Mauritania to combat slavery and torture, to improve the situation of women and to ratify human rights instruments.
44. Sri Lanka noted in particular criminalization of slavery as a crime against humanity, creation in 2015 of an anti-slavery court and other progressive national efforts following the 2012 constitutional review.
45. The State of Palestine welcomed Mauritania's cooperation with the human rights mechanisms through ratification of international instruments and acceptance of visits by Special Rapporteurs. It also appreciated Mauritania's efforts to bring national legislation in line with international standards.
46. The Sudan praised Mauritania for adhering to various human rights instruments, establishing a NHRI, implementing an action plan to empower rural women and adopting the roadmap to combat contemporary forms of slavery.
47. Switzerland expressed concern regarding the ongoing practice of slavery and the use of torture by security forces. It welcomed the fact that the death penalty had not been applied since 1987.
48. Sweden thanked Mauritania for the information related to its advance questions.
49. Togo commended Mauritania's efforts in implementing its international engagements and noted with satisfaction the integration of gender in the public policies and programmes and the adoption of national strategies to abolish female genital mutilation.
50. Tunisia commended Mauritania's efforts in empowering women and promoting their role in society through the adoption of the framework law to combat violence against women and increasing women's participation in political life.
51. Turkey welcomes the significant progress in the field of the fight against discrimination, and notes the recent adoption of the law allowing civil society to bring civil actions in cases related to slavery.
52. Uganda welcomed the measures taken to criminalize acts of slavery. It noted concern regarding the gaps in providing protection for victims, third party representation of victims in the courts and placing the burden of proof.
53. La délégation de Mauritanie a répondu aux questions qui avaient été posées à l'avance. Elle a ainsi confirmé que la Mauritanie avait ratifié le OP-CRC-AC, fixé l'âge de la responsabilité pénale à 15 ans et mis en œuvre un plan d'action contre le travail des enfants.

54. Au sujet de la peine de mort, la Mauritanie a rappelé qu'elle observait un moratoire *de facto* depuis 1987, c'est-à-dire depuis 28 ans.

55. La délégation a déclaré que l'article 9 de la loi 2015/033, incriminant la torture, assujettissait les autorités judiciaires compétentes à un impératif catégorique d'initier immédiatement une enquête impartiale chaque fois qu'il existait des motifs raisonnables de croire qu'un acte de torture ou de mauvais traitement avait été tenté ou commis dans leur juridiction de ressort, et ce même en l'absence de plainte. En ce qui concerne l'esclavage, des circulaires du Ministère de la Justice adressées aux procureurs auprès des différentes cours rappellent à ceux-ci l'obligation d'agir immédiatement dès l'enregistrement d'une plainte portant allégation de pratiques esclavagistes.

56. La délégation a relevé que l'Agence «Tadamoun» était dotée de ressources financières autonomes gérées par le Conseil d'administration réunissant toutes les parties concernées par la lutte contre la pauvreté et l'esclavage, dont la société civile. L'Agence bénéficie également de procédures simplifiées et accélérées afin d'intervenir rapidement, pouvant se constituer partie civile dans les affaires relatives aux pratiques esclavagistes.

57. En matière de droits de la femme, la délégation a noté que le Gouvernement avait mis en œuvre plusieurs politiques et stratégies telles que la politique de la famille, les stratégies nationales de promotion féminine, et l'abandon des mutilations génitales féminines. De plus, les mariages précoces sont interdits par le Code de statut personnel et le Gouvernement a entamé plusieurs campagnes de sensibilisation de lutte contre les mariages des enfants. La délégation a ajouté que la Mauritanie interdisait les mutilations génitales féminines en application des dispositions du Code pénal et du Code de protection pénale de l'enfant. Elle a également indiqué que le Gouvernement procédera à l'évaluation et à la réactualisation de la stratégie nationale d'abandon des mutilations génitales féminines axée sur les déclarations publiques d'abandon, la reconversion des praticiens, la scolarisation des filles, la formation des acteurs et l'organisation de campagnes nationales de tolérance zéro.

58. Pour promouvoir la participation des femmes au processus de prises de décision, la délégation a noté que les pouvoirs publics avaient engagé des mesures d'action positive telles que l'adoption de la loi 2012/034 relative à l'accès des femmes aux mandats et fonctions électives; la finalisation d'un projet de loi-cadre sur les violences basées sur le genre; la mise en œuvre des recommandations du Comité pour l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes; l'élaboration d'un projet de loi de lutte contre la discrimination et l'élaboration d'un projet de loi-cadre sur les violences basées sur le genre, qui incrimine le viol.

59. La délégation de la Mauritanie a affirmé que l'esclavage n'existe plus en Mauritanie, et cela depuis bien longtemps. Elle a souligné que le pays était en construction, et que des problèmes se posaient notamment quant à l'accès à l'éducation et à la pauvreté. La délégation a rappelé que des lois spéciales relatives à l'esclavage existaient, et seraient appliquées immédiatement, dans toute leur rigueur. Il suffit d'une allégation pour enclencher les procédures judiciaires; et cette loi, criminalisant l'esclavage, prévoit de doubles peines, notamment à une peine privative de liberté et une amende. Elle instaure également des réparations pour les victimes, qui ont droit à une assistance juridique automatique, ceci sans devoir justifier leur indigence. Des juridictions spéciales et continues seront mises en place, et la délégation a demandé l'appui de ses partenaires afin de réaliser des formations de magistrats.

60. En ce qui concerne la question de l'invitation permanente des procédures spéciales du Conseil des droits de l'homme, la délégation a indiqué que la Mauritanie n'avait jamais refusé une visite. Quant à la soumission de rapports aux organes des traités, la délégation a

reconnu qu'il y avait des retards, mais elle a souligné la mise en place d'un organe gouvernemental chargé spécifiquement de cette question.

61. Par rapport au problème des enfants en détention et leur séparation des adultes, la délégation a déclaré que le pays disposait de centres de réinsertion pour les enfants. De plus, la majorité pénale a été fixée à 15 ans et des organes judiciaires spéciaux pour le traitement de tels cas ont été mis en place.

62. La délégation a indiqué que le projet de plan d'action contre la traite des personnes avait été validé lors d'un atelier et qu'il serait bientôt adopté par le Gouvernement, puis mis en œuvre.

63. Quant au projet de loi-cadre sur les violences basées sur le genre, incluant les mutilations génitales féminines, la délégation a déclaré qu'il était en cours d'adoption. Un projet de loi incriminant la discrimination raciale a également été élaboré et sera adopté de manière imminente.

64. En ce qui concerne la situation des défenseurs des droits de l'homme, la délégation a affirmé que ceux-ci ne faisaient face à aucun problème, tout en soulignant que la Mauritanie était un Etat de droit et que les défenseurs devaient donc également respecter la loi, faute de quoi ils s'exposaient à des procédures judiciaires.

65. Ukraine welcomes progress of the government including anti-corruption efforts, poverty eradication, among others. Ukraine insists Mauritania still faces burdens in terms of eradication of contemporary forms of slavery.

66. The United Arab Emirates commended Mauritania for establishing the Supreme Council for Fatwa and Grievances to strengthen the human rights system as well as effectively preserve the balance and coexistence between different customs and cultures.

67. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognised the favourable response to Special Procedures visit requests. It expressed concern about gender discrimination and legal obstacles to birth registration of children of refugees and asylum-seekers.

68. The United States of America encouraged Mauritania to continue including civil society into security discussions. It remained deeply troubled that Mauritania failed to acknowledge and effectively prosecute cases under its anti-slavery laws and was concerned about the protection of anti-slavery civil society organizations.

69. Uruguay highlighted the approval of the National Strategy for Incorporation of the Gender Perspective and encouraged Mauritania to redouble its efforts in this regard by working to implement the recommendations from CEDAW.

70. Uzbekistan positively noted the enhancement of the National Human Rights Commission and the creation of the National Preventive Mechanism on torture. It welcomed the access to CRPD, its protocol and other international agreements.

71. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was pleased that Mauritania's human rights institution obtained category "A" status and for its receiving a distinction from FAO in reaching the development goal on food security and eradication of hunger as well as building new social housing.

72. Malaysia appreciated the acceptance of its recommendations on the rights of women and children as well as ensuring supply within the food chain to the country, among others. It noted a national strategy for gender mainstreaming.

73. Yemen appreciated measures taken by Mauritania to strengthen human rights, despite a lack of resources, including its accession to international human rights instruments such as ICPPED, OP-CAT, ICRPD and OP-ICRPD.
74. Afghanistan welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission that is mandated to raise awareness about human rights and to conduct training programs on international humanitarian law.
75. Algeria noted that despite a lack of financial and human resources Mauritania has shown commitment to human rights by establishing a NHRI and a national preventive mechanism to combat torture.
76. Angola expressed satisfaction at the ratification of the majority of international conventions and optional protocols, in particular the optional protocol to the convention against torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment
77. Argentina congratulated Mauritania for ratifying ICPPED in 2012, following the 1st UPR and recommendations issued by various delegations in this regard.
78. Armenia welcomes Mauritania's engagement with civil society organisations, the Ombudsmen and the OHCHR country office. Armenia encourages Mauritania to further promote the right to education in the country.
79. Australia commended the 2015 legislation adopted unanimously by Parliament to strengthen Mauritania's response to slavery. Australia noted that the death penalty had not been applied since 1987 but remained legal.
80. Azerbaijan appreciates the accession of Mauritania to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the adoption of the 2013 Act that criminalizes slavery and torture as crimes against humanity.
81. Bahrain praised Mauritania for acceding to ICRPD, adopting a national strategy to integrate gender issues and bringing its legislation in line with human rights standards by categorising slavery and torture as crimes against humanity.
82. Belgium noted ratification of OP-CAT and ICPPED and commended maintaining moratorium on the death penalty since 1987.
83. Benin welcomed initiatives to promote the rights of women and to combat violence against them as well as the improved participation of women in political life.
84. Botswana encourages Mauritania to do more to address issues of slavery and discrimination, including early and forced marriages and appreciates efforts made in addressing security and humanitarian issues.
85. Brazil appreciated the partial withdrawal of reservation to CEDAW and the adoption of a national strategy against female genital mutilation. It remained concerned regarding the need to eradicate discrimination and to safeguard fundamental rights of refugees.
86. Burundi commended curbing the phenomenon of slavery, particularly the creation of Tadamoun with a mandate to eradicate slavery, ratification of international human rights instruments, and measures to reduce maternal and child mortality.
87. Canada welcomed the legal measures taken to combat slavery. It is concerned by impunity enjoyed by people guilty of slavery, absence of executorial decisions to compensate victims and also by arrests of activists.
88. Chad welcomed the remarkable efforts made by Mauritania in the implementation of the first UPR recommendations. It encouraged Mauritania to continue its efforts and to solicit the support of the international community.

89. Chile noted that slavery persists in Mauritania and that the situation of women has deteriorated, that homosexuality is persecuted and punished by death.
90. China commended, inter alia, measures to promote women and children's rights, the establishment of the national preventive mechanism against torture, the strategic framework for poverty alleviation and food security and Mauritania's cooperation with OHCHR.
91. The Congo welcomed the ratification of major international legal instruments. It encouraged Mauritania to continue its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.
92. Costa Rica noted the creation of the National Human Rights Commission and the existence of the Ombudsman. It is concerned by the discrimination in law and in practice of the ethnic group of Haratins.
93. Cote d'Ivoire commends the national provisions adopted in favor of children's rights, women, and the elderly and invites the government to continue its efforts towards their full implementation.
94. Cuba welcomed Mauritania's accession to ICPPED and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Cuba also acknowledged the strategies to reduce inequalities and to solving food insecurity.
95. Cyprus welcomed Mauritania's accession of international instruments. Cyprus, while noting the designation of slavery by Mauritania as a crime against humanity, remained gravely concerned with the high prevalence of slavery in the country.
96. The Democratic Republic of the Congo asked Mauritania about obstacles preventing it from withdrawing its general reservation to CRC and what measures were envisaged to confront it.
97. Djibouti welcomed the adoption of a national programme for promoting cessation of female genital mutilation. It encouraged Mauritania to mobilise in favour of a quota system to improve access of women to political life.
98. La délégation de Mauritanie a rappelé que la question du retour des 24.000 à 26.000 réfugiés mauritaniens en exil au Sénégal avait définitivement été réglée. Tous ont été intégrés et ont eu accès à l'état civil, ceci ayant été confirmé dans le Protocole d'accord tripartite.
99. Quant aux recommandations relatives à la ratification des instruments internationaux, notamment à certains protocoles facultatifs, la délégation a affirmé que le Gouvernement allait étudier la question.
100. En ce qui concerne le travail des enfants, la délégation a expliqué que le code du travail interdisait le travail des enfants en dessous de l'âge légal, en conformité avec l'esprit et la lettre de la Convention 138 du BIT, ratifiée et mise en œuvre par la Mauritanie.
101. La délégation a déclaré que 11 Conventions relatives aux droits de l'homme avaient été publiées dans une édition spéciale du Journal Officiel et que des plans d'action destinés à leur application avaient été mise en œuvre.
102. S'agissant de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de protection nationale de l'enfance, la délégation a noté que de tables régionales de protection des enfants avaient été mises en place dans 10 wilayas ou provinces, s'attaquant à la problématique des enfants de la rue. A cet égard, des centres de protection et d'insertion de ces enfants existent dans les grandes villes.

103. La délégation a déclaré avec force qu'il n'existait pas de discrimination à l'égard de la communauté Haratin, et que toutes les communautés vivaient en harmonie depuis des siècles et concouraient au développement du pays.
104. Egypt praised Mauritania for establishing national mechanisms including the Supreme Council for Fatwa and Grievances, and adopting strategies to tackle violence against women, human trafficking, forced labour, slavery, and torture.
105. Ethiopia commends Mauritania for the significant progress made in areas of implementation of International Conventions and welcomes the government's effort in drawing up an action plan to combat racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance.
106. France welcomed the progress made by Mauritania since the first UPR, including the ratification of several international instruments as well as the adoption of the ambitious legislation against slavery.
107. Germany commended Mauritania for establishing a system of asylum, including provisions to protect refugees. However, it indicated some remaining concerns about the human rights situation.
108. Ghana noted with appreciation the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission to combat slavery, torture of detainees, poverty and rape. It also noted the strides made in ratifying international human rights legal instruments.
109. Indonesia welcomed continued efforts taken by Mauritania to promote and protect human rights through coordination with line ministries, national human rights commission, civil society organizations and the office of the ombudsman.
110. Iran (Islamic Republic of) welcomed the establishment of new institutions and the constitutional review.
111. Iraq noted accession to CRPD and its Optional Protocol and commended the establishment of a body dealing with gender equality under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Children and Family.
112. Ireland noted positively the adoption of a new anti-slavery law. It was concerned by harassment, intimidation and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders. It encouraged Mauritania to issue a standing invitation to all UNSP mandate holders.
113. Italy welcomes the implementation of the National Child Protection Strategy, the drafting of a Plan of Action to combat child labour, and the adoption by the Council of Minister of a national strategy for gender mainstreaming.
114. Jordan hailed the initiatives taken by Mauritania, in particular cooperation with human rights mechanisms and the setting up of legislation and strategies to promote human rights, including the rights to teaching and to health.
115. Kenya welcomed positive efforts made by Mauritania to confront contemporary practices of slavery and encouraged Mauritania to provide its NHRI with adequate resources as well as ensure its independent functioning.
116. Kuwait commended Mauritania for the progress it has made in strengthening human rights and addressed the challenges of combatting torture and discrimination in education.
117. Latvia welcomed Mauritania's commitment to abolish slavery and its cooperation with special rapporteurs. Latvia shared CEDAW's concerns that at the prevalence of sexual violence and female genital mutilation.

118. Libya praised Mauritania for establishing national institutions including the Supreme Council for Fatwa and Grievances, the national agency Tadamoun, the national preventive mechanism to combat torture, national courts, and NHRIs.

119. Madagascar welcomed the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanism against torture and strengthened economic and social policies and called on the international community to assist Mauritania in its human rights efforts.

120. Viet Nam appreciates that Mauritania has adopted many measures in the protection and promotion of human rights, and the number of international legal instruments on human rights that Mauritania has signed, ratified or acceded to.

121. La délégation de Mauritanie a rappelé que son pays était une république islamique et qu'elle ne comptait pas de minorités religieuses. Elle a précisé que les étrangers vivant en Mauritanie bénéficiaient de la liberté de religion et de culte.

122. La délégation a indiqué que la loi sur le mécanisme national de prévention contre la torture avait été adoptée et que celui-ci serait mis en place très prochainement et comprendrait les représentants des ordres professionnels et des organisations non-gouvernementales concernées.

123. La délégation a souligné, à nouveau, que l'agence «Tadamoun» disposait du mandat, du pouvoir et des moyens financiers nécessaires à la lutte contre les séquelles de l'esclavage.

124. Pour conclure, la délégation a rappelé que la Mauritanie attachait un intérêt particulier aux questions de droits de l'homme et avait comme ambition de prendre en charge, de façon prioritaire, le combat contre l'ignorance, la pauvreté et l'exclusion, qui constituent de véritables entraves à la promotion des droits de l'homme. La délégation a réitéré l'engagement ferme de la Mauritanie en faveur du respect de ses engagements conventionnels et sa volonté de coopérer avec les mécanismes des droits de l'homme, y compris l'EPU. Elle a remercié le Haut-Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme et l'ensemble de ses partenaires pour leur assistance et a indiqué que toutes les recommandations, requérant l'accord du Gouvernement feraient l'objet d'un plan national de mise en œuvre, inclusif et participatif.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

125. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below enjoy the support of Mauritania:**

125.1. **Pursue its review of laws that are not in line with international norms (State of Palestine);**

125.2. **Revise its national legislation and bring it in compliance with its international human rights obligations (Cyprus);**

125.3. **Improve the implementation of the legal framework regarding women's rights and finalise a violence against women law (Norway);**

125.4. **Take all necessary steps, in accordance with its commitments, to ensure the swift adoption of a law that prohibits and penalizes all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, and ensure that**

Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited.

victims of such violence have access to legal remedies and benefit from support and assistance to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration into society (Latvia);

125.5. Continue its close cooperation with the UN and NGOs (Ukraine);

125.6. Exhaust international assistance for building institutional capacities that are responsible for human rights (Ethiopia);

125.7. Ensure that the recently established national prevention mechanism receives the necessary resources to conduct its work (Australia);

125.8. Adopt a law on a National Preventive Mechanism and enact it as soon as possible (Slovenia);

125.9. Urgently accelerate the establishment of a national mechanism to combat torture, as well as guarantee its independence and the availability of the necessary resources to enable it to perform its functions (Kuwait);

125.10. Finalise the implementation of a national preventive mechanism against torture (France);

125.11. Establish an independent body with the mandate to conduct investigations into any acts of torture and the ill-treatment of all persons in detention (Ghana);

125.12. Develop a National Action Plan to prevent and criminalise acts of sexual and gender based violence, including Female Genital Mutilation and sexual offences against children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

125.13. Consider formulating a national human rights action plan and further strengthen the inter-ministerial technical committee as well as the national human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

125.14. Continue to implement National Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming and promote women empowerment (Pakistan);

125.15. Implement the national strategy to institutionalise gender (Algeria);

125.16. Approve and implement the national action plan to combat racial discrimination developed in 2013 (Spain);

125.17. Accelerate the process of elaboration of the national plan of action against racial discrimination (Turkey);

125.18. Continue to make efforts to implement National Child Protection Strategy (Pakistan);

125.19. Strengthen efforts in human rights training and education and disseminate awareness of human rights (Morocco);

125.20. Increase efforts to develop a system of education in the area of human rights and to strengthen the culture of human rights in society (Uzbekistan);

125.21. Undertake training of the police, administrative and judicial authorities to ensure efficient follow up of cases of slavery and slave-like practices (Uganda);

- 125.22. Increase its efforts aiming at training and qualifying judicial staff in the area of human rights (Oman);
- 125.23. Undertake, with international assistance, human rights training for the judiciary (Sierra Leone);
- 125.24. Take more steps to deliver human rights education in schools, and conduct human rights awareness-raising activities for public servants, in particular law enforcement officers (Viet Nam);
- 125.25. Strengthen efforts in the area of integrating human rights education in school curricula (Sudan);
- 125.26. Include a human rights component in the school curriculum (Sierra Leone);
- 125.27. Make efforts to include human rights principles in primary and secondary school curricula (Ethiopia);
- 125.28. Continue to strengthen its cooperation with the UN treaty bodies. Cooperation with the OHCHR is also key to support national reforms (Norway);
- 125.29. Continue efforts to submit national reports concerning specific human rights treaties (Iraq);
- 125.30. Submit its overdue reports to the treaty bodies, including CEDAW and the CRC (Sierra Leone);
- 125.31. Seek the assistance of the local office of the OHCHR to train the officials of its judiciary and the law enforcement body on human rights issues (Mauritius);
- 125.32. Step up efforts to facilitate administrative procedures so that all children are registered at birth (Turkey);
- 125.33. Further strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of women (Niger);
- 125.34. Consider additional efforts to increase the role of women in society (Senegal);
- 125.35. Take further measures to end the use of torture and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment, and ensure that allegations of torture, ill-treatment or excessive use of force by police and security forces are investigated, prosecuted and convicted in line with international standards (Sweden);
- 125.36. Adopt necessary measure so that acquisition, possession, use of fire arms by civilian persons can be regulated effectively in order to protect human rights of all persons (Uruguay);
- 125.37. Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in prisons and places of detention and prosecute persons responsible (Slovenia);
- 125.38. Establish expeditious legal remedies that are accessible to women victims of violence and harmful practices, as recommended by CEDAW (Slovenia);
- 125.39. Arrange the enactment of the law on combating violence against women as well as develop the instruments of its implementation (Ukraine);

- 125.40. Finalize the process of adoption of the draft law on gender-based violence, ensuring its effective implementation (Turkey);
- 125.41. Strengthen the legal framework to combat all forms of violence against women and ensure its concrete implementation (France);
- 125.42. Step up measures to put an end to sexual violence and promote participation of women in political and public life (Mexico);
- 125.43. Intensify efforts to combat violence against women, including the elimination of female genital mutilation, by increasing resources for public awareness and educational campaigns, and by encouraging faster legislative action against gender-based violence (Philippines);
- 125.44. Modify its national law to define rape as a criminal offense (Sierra Leone);
- 125.45. Adopt a comprehensive legislation to address gender based violence and human trafficking (Botswana);
- 125.46. Develop a comprehensive national strategy for combating child, early and forced marriages (Montenegro);
- 125.47. Continue and intensify efforts to eradicate female genital mutilations and gavage, including implementation of legal measures to penalise these practices (Canada);
- 125.48. Continue its efforts to implement a law to combat child labour by adopting a draft law on prohibition of child labour and tackling its main causes (State of Palestine);
- 125.49. Pursue its efforts to implement the plan of action for combatting child labour (Sudan);
- 125.50. Take all necessary measures to eradicate child labour and to enact and implement a suitable Action Plan (Italy);
- 125.51. Implement laws combating child and early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (Namibia);
- 125.52. Double its efforts in addressing the vulnerable conditions of children who live on the streets including by implementing existing legislation against child labour and its plan of action to combat child labour (Malaysia);
- 125.53. Ensure nationwide, systematic and regular collection of disaggregated data on all forms of slavery (South Africa);
- 125.54. Investigate and deal with complaints in relation to slavery and similar treatments, and protect children from these practices (Mexico);
- 125.55. Continue to take effective measures to combat human trafficking (Uzbekistan);
- 125.56. Strengthen national mechanisms and efforts in combating human trafficking (Ethiopia);
- 125.57. Increase efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation, particularly of women and children (Germany);
- 125.58. Continue and strengthen its efforts in implementing the action plan to combat trafficking in persons so that all perpetrators of trafficking in

persons are brought to justice and victims are provided with adequate protection and rehabilitation (Indonesia);

125.59. Adopt a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

125.60. Continue efforts to empower women and promote their participation in society, in particular, political life, decision making, and accessing high level posts (Jordan);

125.61. Pursue efforts to implement the third strategic framework to combat poverty and the national food security strategy (United Arab Emirates);

125.62. Continue to improve and implement its strategy on poverty reduction and further improve its people's living standards (China);

125.63. Fully implement the National Food Security Strategy (Cuba);

125.64. Continue pursuing the implementation of the national food security strategy and the strategy concerning the rural sector in order to achieve food security and combat poverty (Egypt);

125.65. Take additional measures to improve and widen the health coverage for employees in public and private institutions and companies as well as retirees having worked for those entities and their dependents (Qatar);

125.66. Improve the possibilities of benefitting from healthcare services (Saudi Arabia);

125.67. Consider further improving access to health and education with a focus on: improving maternal and new born health facilities and) expanding the secondary and tertiary education opportunities for all (Sri Lanka);

125.68. Continue to improve the education and healthcare systems in cooperation with relevant international organisations (United Arab Emirates);

125.69. Continue efforts to ensure universal access to quality education and health care (Uzbekistan);

125.70. Pursue efforts to combat maternal mortality (Algeria);

125.71. Move forward with a policy of free of charge education (Saudi Arabia);

125.72. Continue its efforts in providing access and quality education for children, and implement programmes that would further encourage them, especially girls, to go to school (Malaysia);

125.73. Introduce a human rights-based approach to all climate change-related policies and programmes, including in disaster-risk reduction measures (Philippines).

126. The following enjoy the support of Mauritania which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:

126.1. Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

126.2. Continue further improvement of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);

126.3. Strengthen measures taken to protect vulnerable groups (Cote d'Ivoire);

- 126.4. **Incorporate a definition of torture in domestic law in line with Article 1 of the Convention against Torture (Australia);**
- 126.5. **Consider establishing a permanent inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations (Portugal);**
- 126.6. **Continue to take measures to enhance the respect for human rights anchored on the rule of law and good governance (Ghana);**
- 126.7. **Give the Tadamoun national agency the mandate to identify any acts of slavery, propose and implement anti-slavery programmes (Ghana);**
- 126.8. **Continue to support the work of the National Agency Tadamoun and the National Commission of Human Rights (Senegal);**
- 126.9. **Provide its NHRI with the necessary means to ensure its regular work and reinforce its independence (Portugal);**
- 126.10. **Provide its National Human Rights Commission with the resources it needs to publicise its recommendations and reinforce its independence (South Africa);**
- 126.11. **Place more efforts by empowering organizations which are responsible for defending human rights in the country (Afghanistan);**
- 126.12. **Improve its national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Congo);**
- 126.13. **Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and the national commission to combat gender-based violence, and the capacities needed to secure advancement in the field of human rights, particularly in the area of human rights of women as well as to increase efforts in order to ban such practices as female genital mutilation (Sweden);**
- 126.14. **Let the legislative power complete the process of the adoption of the draft law on the National Mechanism for the Prevent of Torture (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**
- 126.15. **Adequately train, staff and well-resource judges, judicial personnel, and civil servants who work to fight child labour (Italy);**
- 126.16. **Pursue and intensify its efforts towards strengthening the rights of women and children (Bahrain);**
- 126.17. **Redouble efforts to promote the condition of women (Djibouti);**
- 126.18. **Pursue its efforts in strengthening women's rights, including through the adoption of a draft framework law to combat violence against women (Egypt);**
- 126.19. **Combat early marriages (Djibouti);**
- 126.20. **Enact laws which fully abolish child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);**
- 126.21. **Adopt practical measures to combat violence against women and children, particularly FGM (Angola);**
- 126.22. **Combat clandestine practices of female genital mutilations (Djibouti);**
- 126.23. **Strictly implement existing legislation against child labour and expedite the approval of the bill on the prohibition of child labour, in line with**

the recommendation made by the Committee on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Argentina);

126.24. Intensify its efforts to totally eliminate slavery and slavery-like practices in the country (Sri Lanka);

126.25. Fully and effectively eradicate practices of slavery and ensure that all victims of crimes of slavery receive justice, truth and reparation (Kenya);

126.26. Continue its efforts to eliminate all traditional and modern forms of slavery, including forced child labour (Argentina);

126.27. Continue to implement measures to eradicate the legacy of and the contemporary forms of slavery (Cuba);

126.28. Take adequate measures to eradicate all contemporary forms of slavery (Angola);

126.29. Ensure the effective implementation of the legislation criminalizing slavery and guarantee effective remedies to victims of slavery (Poland);

126.30. Enforces its anti-slavery legislation and fully guarantee the application of the principle of non-discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society (South Africa);

126.31. Implement the laws on slavery and ensure that all crimes of slavery are subject to prosecution. (Switzerland);

126.32. Review the Anti-Slavery Act explicitly to provide for victims' representation, protection and support (Uganda);

126.33. Step up the review of the 2007 law to combat slavery in order to ensure that exhaustive, impartial, and effective investigations can be carried out of all alleged slavery crimes (Uruguay);

126.34. Take measures to ensure the compliance of its legislation against slavery and take effective measures to compensate those who have suffered slavery (Costa Rica);

126.35. Ensure the effective application of the law on the criminalisation of slavery (France);

126.36. Provide all necessary means for the implementation of the 2015 anti-slavery law, as well as the 2014 road map on the eradication of the consequences of slavery, including specific measures for the protection of victims and effective access to justice, as well as mandatory training on anti-slavery laws for police, administrative and judicial officials (Ireland);

126.37. Continue the implementation of the national programme to combat the consequences of slavery, and increase the awareness raising campaigns on its prohibition (Qatar);

126.38. Continue to implement the national programme to eradicate the legacy of slavery adopted in March 2014 and continue raising awareness against all forms of slavery (Slovakia);

126.39. Strengthen the national programmes to eliminate slavery and take measures to ensure that complaints regarding slavery are taken seriously and are being brought before the domestic courts (Sweden);

- 126.40. Follow the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and implement the 2014 roadmap of the Government to eradicate slavery (Netherlands);
- 126.41. Design a complete strategy against all forms of discrimination, including traditional and modern forms of slavery, which include practices of early and forced marriages, servitude, and forced labour of children (Turkey);
- 126.42. Fully implement the National Roadmap to Combat the Vestiges of Slavery (United States of America);
- 126.43. Continue efforts to implement the roadmap to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery as adopted by the Council of Ministers in March 2014 (United Arab Emirates);
- 126.44. Continue to implement the national programme to eradicate the legacy of slavery, with a focus on impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of slavery and slavery-like practices (Australia);
- 126.45. Pursue the implementation of the roadmap of March 6th 2014 concerning the elimination of all contemporary forms of slavery (Libya);
- 126.46. Continue implementation of the national programme to eradicate the legacy of slavery and expand public awareness campaigns against all forms of slavery (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 126.47. Expand public awareness campaigns to cover effectively all forms of slavery (Uganda);
- 126.48. Take further measures towards combating slavery and in particular investigate allegations of slavery and prosecute and punish the perpetrators of that offence (Cyprus);
- 126.49. Implements the anti-slavery law without delay and prosecute perpetrators (Norway);
- 126.50. Prosecute slaveholders and find means for those who were enslaved to obtain compensation (United States of America);
- 126.51. Follow the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to abolish all remaining forms of slavery or slavery-related practices, and provide victims of such practices with the possibility to initiate criminal proceedings and obtain compensation (Germany);
- 126.52. Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of children, as well as guaranteeing the rights of delinquent minors (France);
- 126.53. Ensure that incarcerated minors are detained separately from adults (Togo);
- 126.54. Take legislative and administrative measures to ensure the right of association and peaceful protest (Costa Rica);
- 126.55. Establish clear legal protections for human rights defenders and civil society organizations and abide by them (United States of America);
- 126.56. Promote a higher and adequate representation of women in the public institutions (Italy);

- 126.57. Further integrate measures of protection and promotion of human rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights, into the national socio-economic development strategies (Viet Nam);
- 126.58. Further strengthen national programs to combat poverty and social exclusion in favour of the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 126.59. Continue efforts in poverty eradication through effective implementation of its Strategic Framework for Poverty Eradication as well as the National Strategy on Food Security and the Strategy for the Rural Sector (Malaysia);
- 126.60. Continue its efforts to adopt a development policy to meet the needs of the people to reduce poverty in order to protect and promote human rights (Yemen);
- 126.61. Improve access to education for marginalized groups in order to improve social and economic conditions for them. One group that may benefit from this are the Harratin (Germany);
- 126.62. Adopt policies to facilitate access of descendants of slaves to education and employment under conditions of equality (Congo);
- 126.63. Take further steps to ensure inclusive education and facilitate girls' access to secondary and higher education (Armenia).
127. The following recommendations will be examined by Mauritania which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 31st session of the Human Rights Council in March 2016:
- 127.1. Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Kuwait);
- 127.2. Consider the possibility of ratifying International Labour Organization Convention 189 on domestic workers (Panama);
- 127.3. Continue its efforts in expressing its international obligations through domestic laws (Bahrain);
- 127.4. Complete the transposition of treaties ratified by Mauritania into national law and promote their dissemination and effective implementation (Spain);
- 127.5. Reform its nationality law, provide women the capacity to acquire, retain and transfer citizenship on an equal basis with men, and bring the law into compliance with international human rights standards (Kenya);
- 127.6. Fully and effectively implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and ensure that the rights of women and children are respected, most particularly when they are in detention (Netherlands).
128. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Mauritania and would thus be noted:
- 128.1. Ratify international human rights instruments, to which the country is not yet a party (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 128.2. Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR (Namibia);

- 128.3. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**
- 128.4. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 128.5. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Uruguay);**
- 128.6. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Norway);**
- 128.7. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Slovakia);**
- 128.8. **Abolish the capital punishment in all cases and in all circumstances, as well as ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Portugal);**
- 128.9. **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);**
- 128.10. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to ICCPR Madagascar);**
- 128.11. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (Uruguay);**
- 128.12. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (Portugal);**
- 128.13. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to ICESCR (Madagascar);**
- 128.14. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Portugal);**
- 128.15. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Madagascar);**
- 128.16. **Accept the competence of the Committee against Torture to conduct confidential inquiries and to receive and consider communications from States or individuals (Spain);**
- 128.17. **Accede to the Rome Statute on the creation of the ICC. (France);**
- 128.18. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement the legislation that regulates it (Costa Rica);**
- 128.19. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC (Latvia);**
- 128.20. **Ratify the Rome Statute (Spain);**
- 128.21. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and implement it fully at national level and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);**
- 128.22. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and accede to its Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities (Botswana);**
- 128.23. **Take all necessary steps towards acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus);**
- 128.24. **Strengthen national laws to conform to international standards (Madagascar);**
- 128.25. **Incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into national legislation and abolish all discriminatory provisions, in particular with respect to the Personal Status Code in terms of family relations and child marriage (Spain);**
- 128.26. **Harmonise legislation with international obligations and standards in the field of combatting violence against women by effectively criminalizing**

effectively domestic violence, sexual violence, including marital rape, as well as human trafficking, in addition to establishing effective measures for assistance to victims and access to justice (Canada);

128.27. Remove the crime of apostasy from its legislation (Poland);

128.28. Delete the crime of apostasy from national legislation (Belgium);

128.29. Revise the legislation linked to apostasy and blasphemy to ensure its conformity with international obligations related to freedom of religion or belief (Canada);

128.30. Extend an open invitation to special procedures on human rights (Panama);

128.31. Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);

128.32. Extend an open ended and standing invitation to UN special procedures (Spain);

128.33. Invite the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions (Uruguay);

128.34. Cooperate with the Office of OHCHR in Mauritania and with civil society to conduct a study on nature, incidence and consequences of slavery, and ensure a systematic collection of disaggregated data to measure the progress realised in the application of laws and policies aimed at the eradication of slave-like and discriminatory practices (Canada);

128.35. Create the conditions for ensuring that religious minorities can fully enjoy their rights, without discrimination (Italy);

128.36. Commute without delay all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Belgium);

128.37. Ensure that the death penalty is not applied to consensual same sex-relations between adults, and that the Penal Code does not criminalise such activity, and include sexual orientation and gender identity in non-discrimination laws and programmes, and promote tolerance and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or identity in line with the Yogyakarta principles (Sweden);

128.38. Replace the death penalty by a sentence in conformity with international norms and initiate the procedure leading to the complete abolition of the death penalty (Togo);

128.39. Adopt necessary measures to definitively abolish the death penalty (Mexico);

128.40. Consider abolishing the death penalty (Panama);

128.41. Establish a de-jure moratorium on death sentences and commute all death sentences to alternative penalties. (Switzerland);

128.42. Establish a de-jure moratorium on the death penalty with a view to total abolition thereof (Namibia);

128.43. Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty as a first stage toward its definitive abolition (France);

128.44. Maintain the moratorium on the application of the death penalty and move towards its complete abolition (Spain);

- 128.45. Consider adopting a de jure moratorium in view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);
- 128.46. Study the possibility of the definitive abolition of the death penalty (Chile);
- 128.47. Ensure that all allegations of torture are investigated independently and that those responsible are brought to justice (Switzerland);
- 128.48. In addition to suggestions made by various Special Rapporteurs who agree with Chile's assessment, strengthen a judicial response to sexual violence on grounds of gender and ensure that women victims of violence have the same access to justice as men (Chile);
- 128.49. Abolish the caste system that continues to promote de facto slavery through domestic servitude and bondage or forced labour (Uganda);
- 128.50. Provide space for civil society organizations in line with international standards and best-practices, and in this respect, release from prison those human rights defenders who called for the full abolition of slavery (Germany);
- 128.51. Take action to identify and release people in slavery, support victims and end discrimination, in particular discrimination based on caste or ethnicity. As part of this, the Government should formally acknowledge the continued existence of slavery; and begin to collect detailed data on the number of people held in slavery to facilitate monitoring of eradication efforts under the 2007 anti-slavery law (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 128.52. Protect effectively freedom of expression of civil society, in particular for journalists and human rights defenders, so that they can carry out their activities freely without hindrance, intimidation, harassment or risk of condemnation (Belgium);
- 128.53. Decriminalize homosexuality as well as protect freedom and privacy of persons (Chile);
- 128.54. Repeal the provisions criminalising homosexuality (France);
- 128.55. Pursue measures taken to re-establish the rights of former refugees returning from Senegal and Mali and to allow the return of those remaining in those countries. (France);
- 128.56. Continue its cooperation with the High Commissioner for Refugees and related agencies, in order to identify, repatriate and provide proper citizenship documents for the displaced population in the wake of tensions with Senegal and the expelling of citizens from both countries between 1989-1991 (Brazil);
- 128.57. Amend the 1993 Amnesty Law, which grants full amnesty to members of armed and security forces, and fight against impunity of perpetrators of acts of torture, as recommended in 2013 by the Committee against Torture (Argentina);
- 128.58. Take concrete steps to prevent the arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defenders and to create and maintain, in law and practice, a safe and enabling environment, in which human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 22/6 (Ireland).

129. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Mauritania was headed by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Brahim Ould Daddah and composed of the following members:

- M. Brahim Ould Daddah, Ministre de la Justice;
 - Mme Aichetou Mint M'Haiham, Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme et à l'Action Humanitaire;
 - Mme Salka Mint Yamar, Ambassadeur, Mission permanente à Genève;
 - M. Isselmou Ould Meinouh, Conseiller du Premier Ministre chargé des Droits de l'Homme;
 - M. Hasni Ould Lefghih, Conseiller du Premier Ministre chargé de la Communication;
 - M. Haimoud Ramdane, Chargé de Mission au Ministère de la Justice;
 - M. Khaled Ould Cheikhne, Conseiller juridique au MFPTMA;
 - M. Abdellahi Diakhité, Conseiller juridique au MASEF;
 - M. Ba Samba, Ambassadeur au MAEC;
 - M. Cheikh Tourad Abdel Malick, Directeur général des Droits de l'Homme au CDHAH;
 - M. Boubakar Ould Ghadour, Sénateur;
 - M. Sidi Mohamed Ould Boune dit El Moudir, Député;
 - M. Harouna Traoré, Premier Conseiller.
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