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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Mauritania

* The annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only.



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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, 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, 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, the Congo and France.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council 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 the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Mauritania through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the Working Group.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Mauritania underlined the firm commitment of the President, Mohammad Ould Abdel Aziz, to promoting and protecting human rights. It stated that a workplan had been developed to institute governance that would ensure national unity and cement democracy and solidarity among the various sectors of society. In addition, since the first reporting cycle, Mauritania had strengthened the legislative and institutional framework for human rights: the Constitution had been revised in 2012 to reaffirm the country's cultural and linguistic diversity, to designate slavery and torture as crimes against humanity and to make provision for a national human rights institution. The delegation further noted that in Mauritania, international human rights treaties had priority over national laws. Mauritania had withdrawn its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, except to article 13 (a) and to article 16 in its entirety, and it had acceded to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Finally, Mauritania had joined the human rights institutions of the African Union to which it did not already belong.

6. The delegation then addressed the issue of improving the effectiveness of human rights institutions through easier access to justice, the establishment of specialized

courts, including one for the crime of slavery, and the creation of conditions for fair trials. Mauritania had also set up a High Council for Fatwa and Administrative Appeals, which issued advisory opinions on Sharia-related legal matters, and a national agency called Tadamoun for implementing programmes to combat poverty and the last remnants of slavery.

7. The delegation noted that an administratively and financially independent national mechanism to prevent torture had been created, a law criminalizing torture had been drafted and workshops to raise awareness on the prohibition of torture had been organized. Mauritania had also instituted the post of ombudsman and had published in the official gazette the texts of all the international human rights treaties to which it had acceded. The delegation recalled that Mauritania had engaged in constructive cooperation with all the international human rights treaty bodies, that it had presented a large number of reports to such bodies and that it had received visits from several special rapporteurs.

8. With regard to women's rights, the delegation pointed out that Mauritania had adopted a national strategy for gender mainstreaming of all government policies with a view to greater inclusion of women in the life of society and to combating stereotypes and violence against women. In addition, Mauritania had supported economic programmes to enable women living in cities and rural areas to become financially independent and to facilitate their access to health care, education and jobs. The policy on families had been updated, and the retirement age set at 60 for women working under a collective agreement. With respect to participation in politics, the delegation noted that Mauritania had adopted a number of measures to promote equality between men and women — for example, the designation of 20 seats as specifically reserved for women in elections to the national assembly.

9. The delegation noted that a national strategy for the protection of the child, an action plan against all forms of child labour and an action plan on the voluntary and definitive renunciation of female genital mutilation had been developed.

10. The delegation recalled that overcoming the vestiges of slavery and human trafficking was a priority for the Government, which had adopted an action plan to that end. A law criminalizing slavery and slavery-like practices, replacing Act No. 2007/048, had been adopted; a national day to combat the remnants of slavery had been inaugurated; a law against child labour had been adopted; school infrastructure in priority areas had been built; a system for allocating funding to support school enrolment for children from impoverished families or former victims of slavery had been set up; awareness-raising campaigns to dispel prejudices about slavery-like practices had been organized; a fatwa prohibiting slavery-like practices had been issued; and detention conditions had been improved.

11. On health, the delegation stated that health care had been expanded, medical services had been improved and relevant training provided. In addition, combating maternal and child mortality had become a public health priority.

12. The delegation emphasized that education was free of charge and compulsory for all children of school age and that over the three previous years, the school enrolment rates and levels of achievement for girls had been better than for boys.

13. The delegation also referred to the implementation of a national strategy to combat corruption; the Government was aware of the close link between the promotion of human rights and the proper management of public funding.

14. Concerning the implementation of the third phase of the Strategic Framework for Poverty Eradication, the delegation stated that it had permitted the growth rate to rise to 6.2 per cent. In addition, the national strategies for food security and rural

development had enhanced the capacity of vulnerable groups to deal with food crises, reduced disparities and helped in discovering lasting solutions to the food security problem.

15. The delegation also pointed to the creation of an interministerial technical committee responsible for drawing up reports on the implementation of treaties and recommendations by treaty bodies.

16. The delegation emphasized that the Government had cooperated with all partners in developing an action plan against racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance and in drafting a national strategy for promoting social cohesion.

17. However, despite the efforts made by Mauritania to promote and consolidate human rights, the delegation recalled that there were major challenges facing the country. Among other things, Mauritania lacked sufficient capacity and resources to enable its citizens to fully enjoy their economic and social rights. The Minister of Justice had nevertheless stated that his country would continue to carry out the programmes to eliminate poverty, so as to attain the post-2015 objectives.

18. The delegation stressed the importance of assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mauritania. It expressed the hope that such support would help to reinforce the capacities of national human rights institutions and of the national preventive mechanism to combat torture.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

19. During the interactive dialogue, 84 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

20. Mali welcomed the accession of Mauritania to several international human rights instruments, the creation of a new human rights institution and measures taken for women's and children's rights.

21. Mauritius noted key initiatives, particularly the strategies 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 efficiency of the justice system.

22. Mexico acknowledged the establishment of the interministerial technical committee to comply with the obligation to prepare reports and follow up on international recommendations. It commended actions taken to increase women's participation in legislative elections.

23. Montenegro welcomed the accession of Mauritania to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It noted with concern that homosexuality was considered a crime punishable by the death penalty and requested that Mauritania elaborate on the measures it had planned to decriminalize homosexuality.

24. Morocco praised the commitment of Mauritania to strengthening human rights and appreciated the establishment of a national human rights institution, a national preventive mechanism to combat torture, and steps taken towards combating contemporary forms of slavery.

25. Mozambique noted that Mauritania had submitted reports to the Committee against Torture, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human

Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

26. Namibia commended Mauritania for its ratification of all the major human rights instruments and noted its efforts to improve the efficiency of the justice system, including the establishment of an anti-slavery court in May 2015.

27. The Netherlands commended Mauritania for having ratified outstanding human rights treaties, particularly the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

28. The Niger noted the formal recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the country, the qualification of slavery and torture as crimes against humanity, and the constitutional value attached to the A-status National Human Rights Commission.

29. Nigeria commended the efforts to implement phase III of the Strategic Framework for Poverty Eradication. It urged Mauritania to register children of refugees and asylum seekers at birth, in line with international standards.

30. Norway encouraged the Government to strengthen its efforts to promote a human rights culture throughout the country and to enhance the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission.

31. Oman recognized the challenges facing the country, particularly persistent drought, and welcomed the Government's efforts to honour its international human rights commitments.

32. Pakistan commended the 2012 constitutional review, which had led to formal recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the country. It appreciated the accession of Mauritania to several human rights instruments.

33. Panama welcomed the revision of the Constitution, incorporating recognition of the country's cultural and linguistic diversity, of slavery and torture as crimes against humanity and of the National Human Rights Commission, which had A status.

34. The Philippines acknowledged the improvement in health conditions and access to education and employment for the most vulnerable sectors of the population. It requested information about the national child protection strategy and the anti-slavery and anti-trafficking programmes.

35. Poland was concerned about the number of cases of women and children in slavery. It urged Mauritania to include a provision in the Penal Code that defined and criminalized racial and ethnic discrimination.

36. Portugal welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It also welcomed the A status of the national human rights institution.

37. Qatar praised the efforts of Mauritania to achieve food security and reduce poverty by implementing the third phase of the Strategic Framework for Poverty Eradication, the national food security strategy and the rural sector strategy.

38. Saudi Arabia noted the importance Mauritania had placed on strengthening the rule of law, democracy, national cohesion, security, good governance, education and health, and on combating terrorism, poverty, corruption and slavery.

39. Senegal welcomed the establishment of an anti-slavery court in 2015, the Tadamoun national agency and the National Human Rights Commission, as well as the ratification of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol and African Union human rights instruments.

40. Sierra Leone remained concerned about reports of racial discrimination and encouraged Mauritania to enact anti-discrimination laws, especially with regard to deep-rooted prejudice and disparities in citizenship rights.
41. Slovakia acknowledged the establishment of the Tadamoun national agency to eradicate slavery. It remained concerned that, under the Penal Code, the death penalty could be handed down to minors and for crimes such as apostasy and homosexual acts.
42. Slovenia noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and the criminalization of slavery and torture as crimes against humanity. It was concerned about slavery-like practices and continued discrimination against women.
43. South Africa appreciated the fact that the national report set out the vision for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the prioritization of efforts aimed at the eradication of the consequences of slavery and contemporary forms of slavery.
44. Spain highlighted measures taken by Mauritania to combat slavery and torture, improve the situation of women and ratify human rights instruments.
45. Sri Lanka noted in particular the categorization of slavery as a crime against humanity, the creation in 2015 of an anti-slavery court and other national efforts following the 2012 constitutional review.
46. The State of Palestine welcomed the cooperation of Mauritania with the human rights mechanisms through the ratification of international instruments and the acceptance of visits by Special Rapporteurs. It also appreciated the efforts of Mauritania to bring national legislation into line with international standards.
47. The Sudan praised Mauritania for adhering to several human rights instruments, establishing a national human rights institution, implementing an action plan to empower rural women and adopting the road map to combat contemporary forms of slavery.
48. 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.
49. Sweden thanked Mauritania for the information related to the questions it had prepared in advance.
50. Togo commended the efforts of Mauritania to implement its international commitments and noted with satisfaction the integration of gender in public policies and programmes and the adoption of national strategies to abolish female genital mutilation.
51. Tunisia commended the efforts of Mauritania to empower women and promote their role in society by adopting the framework law to combat violence against women, and to increase women's participation in political life.
52. Turkey welcomed the significant progress in the fight against discrimination, and noted the recent adoption of the law allowing civil society to bring civil actions in cases related to slavery.
53. Uganda welcomed the measures taken to criminalize acts of slavery. It was concerned about gaps in the provision of protection for victims, third party representation of victims in the courts and placement of the burden of proof.
54. The Mauritanian delegation responded to the questions prepared in advance.
55. Concerning the death penalty, the delegation recalled that it had observed a de facto moratorium since 1987, in other words, for the past 28 years.

56. The delegation stated that article 9 of Act No. 2015/033 incriminating torture placed upon the competent judicial authorities a categorical imperative to immediately undertake an impartial investigation whenever there were reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture or ill-treatment had been attempted or committed within their jurisdiction, even where no complaint was received. Regarding slavery, circulars sent by the Ministry of Justice to prosecutors in the various courts were intended to remind them of the obligation to act immediately whenever a complaint containing allegations of slavery-like practices was received.

57. The delegation pointed out that the Tadamoun agency received its own financial resources that were managed by a board of administrators in which all parties involved in poverty reduction and the abolition of slavery, including civil society, were represented. The agency also had the advantage of simplified and accelerated procedures for rapid intervention and could become a party to civil proceedings concerning slavery-like practices.

58. With regard to women's rights, the delegation noted that the Government had launched a number of policies and strategies, such as the family policy and national strategies for the promotion of women and renunciation of female genital mutilation. In addition, early marriage was prohibited by the Personal Status Code, and the Government had conducted a number of awareness-raising campaigns against child marriage. The delegation also noted that Mauritania prohibited female genital mutilation, in conformity with the Criminal Code and the code on judicial protection of children. It likewise indicated that the Government was planning to evaluate and renew the national strategy on renunciation of female genital mutilation through public statements on the subject, alternative employment for practitioners, school enrolment of girls, the training of stakeholders and the organization of national zero tolerance campaigns.

59. The delegation pointed out that in order to promote women's participation in the decision-making process, the authorities had taken affirmative action, such as the adoption of Act No. 2012/034 on access of women to electoral mandates and posts; the finalization of a draft framework law on gender-based violence; the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; the preparation of a bill on combating discrimination; and work to develop the draft framework law on gender-based violence, incriminating rape.

60. The delegation of Mauritania stated that slavery had not existed in the country for a great many years. It emphasized that it was a country in transition which faced problems such as access to education and poverty reduction. The delegation recalled that special legislation on slavery was in place and would be effectively and immediately put into action. An allegation sufficed to set judicial procedures in motion; the law criminalizing slavery set out dual penalties — detention and a fine. It also provided for redress for victims, who automatically had the right to legal assistance, with no need to prove their lack of resources. Special permanent courts were to be set up, and partners were requested to provide assistance to enable judges to be trained.

61. Regarding the question of issuing a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council to visit the country, the delegation indicated that Mauritania had never refused such visits. As to the submission of reports to treaty bodies, the delegation acknowledged that there had been delays, but emphasized the fact that a governmental body with specific responsibilities for such matters had been set up.

62. Concerning the problem of children in detention and their separation from adults, the delegation stated that there were centres for the reintegration of children in

Mauritania. In addition, the age of criminal responsibility had been set at 15 years, and special judicial bodies for handling such cases had been put in place.

63. The delegation indicated that the draft action plan against human trafficking had been approved at a workshop and was soon to be adopted by the Government and subsequently put into practice.

64. As regards the framework law on gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, the delegation stated that it was about to be adopted. A bill to incriminate racial discrimination had also been drawn up and was soon to be adopted.

65. With regard to the situation of human rights defenders, the delegation stated that they were not confronted with any difficulties and emphasized that Mauritania was a State based on the rule of law, and that human rights defenders were also required to respect the law, failing which they were subject to judicial proceedings.

66. Ukraine welcomed the progress the Government had made, including in its anti-corruption efforts and on poverty eradication. Mauritania continued to face challenges in terms of the eradication of contemporary forms of slavery.

67. The United Arab Emirates commended Mauritania for establishing the High Council for Fatwa and Administrative Appeals to strengthen the human rights system, and for effectively preserving the balance and coexistence between different customs and cultures.

68. The United Kingdom acknowledged the favourable response to the visit requests from special procedure mandate holders. It expressed concern about gender discrimination and legal obstacles to birth registration of children of refugees and asylum seekers.

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

70. Uruguay highlighted the adoption of the national strategy for gender mainstreaming and encouraged Mauritania to redouble its efforts in that regard by working to implement the recommendations from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

71. Uzbekistan noted the enhancement of the National Human Rights Commission and the creation of the national preventive mechanism to prevent torture. It welcomed the accession of Mauritania to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and other international treaties.

72. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was pleased that the human rights institution of Mauritania had obtained A status, that Mauritania had received a distinction from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in recognition for reaching the development goal on food security and eradication of hunger, and that it was building new social housing.

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

74. Yemen appreciated measures taken by Mauritania, despite a lack of resources, to strengthen human rights, including its accession to international human rights instruments such as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against

Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

75. Afghanistan welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, which was mandated to raise awareness about human rights and to conduct training programmes on international humanitarian law.

76. Algeria noted that, despite a lack of financial and human resources, Mauritania had shown commitment to human rights by establishing a national human rights institution and a national preventive mechanism to combat torture.

77. Angola expressed satisfaction at the ratification of the majority of international conventions and their optional protocols, particularly the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

78. Argentina congratulated Mauritania for ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2012, following the first review and the recommendations made by several delegations in that regard.

79. Armenia welcomed the engagement of the Government of Mauritania with civil society organizations, the Ombudsman and the OHCHR country office. Armenia encouraged Mauritania to further promote the right to education in the country.

80. Australia commended the legislation that had been adopted unanimously by the parliament in 2015 to strengthen the response of Mauritania to slavery. Australia noted that the death penalty had not been applied since 1987, but remained legal.

81. Azerbaijan appreciated 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 categorizing slavery and torture as crimes against humanity.

82. Bahrain praised Mauritania for acceding to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopting a national strategy to mainstream gender issues and bringing its legislation in line with human rights standards by categorizing slavery and torture as crimes against humanity.

83. Belgium noted the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It commended Mauritania for having maintained the moratorium on the death penalty since 1987.

84. Benin welcomed initiatives to promote the rights of women and to combat violence against them, as well as the increased participation of women in political life.

85. Botswana encouraged Mauritania to do more to address slavery, discrimination and early and forced marriages. It appreciated the efforts made to address security and humanitarian issues.

86. Brazil appreciated the partial withdrawal of the reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the adoption of a national strategy to abolish female genital mutilation. More needed to be done to eradicate discrimination and to safeguard the fundamental rights of refugees.

87. Burundi commended Mauritania for its efforts to combat slavery, particularly the creation of Tadamoun, which had a mandate to eradicate slavery, for its ratification of international human rights instruments and for the measures it had taken to reduce maternal and child mortality.

88. Canada welcomed the legal measures taken to combat slavery. It was concerned by impunity enjoyed by people guilty of slavery, absence of executorial decisions to compensate victims and also by arrests of activists.
89. Chad welcomed the remarkable efforts made by Mauritania in the implementation of the recommendations from the first review. It encouraged Mauritania to continue its efforts and to request the support of the international community.
90. Chile noted that slavery persisted in Mauritania, that the situation of women had deteriorated and that perpetrators of homosexual acts were prosecuted and punished by death.
91. China commended Mauritania for the measures it had taken to promote women's and children's rights, the establishment of the national preventive mechanism against torture, the strategic framework for poverty alleviation and food security and its cooperation with OHCHR.
92. The Congo welcomed the ratification of major international legal instruments. It encouraged Mauritania to continue its cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms.
93. Costa Rica noted the creation of the National Human Rights Commission and the existence of the Ombudsman. It was concerned about discrimination in law and in practice against the Haratin ethnic group.
94. Côte d'Ivoire commended Mauritania for adopting measures to improve the rights of children, women and the elderly and urged the Government to continue its efforts to fully implement those measures.
95. Cuba welcomed the accession of Mauritania to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Cuba acknowledged the strategies to reduce inequalities and address food insecurity.
96. Cyprus welcomed the accession of Mauritania to several international instruments. While noting the designation of slavery by Mauritania as a crime against humanity, Cyprus remained deeply concerned about the prevalence of slavery in Mauritania.
97. The Democratic Republic of the Congo asked Mauritania what obstacles prevented it from withdrawing its general reservation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and what measures it planned to take to overcome them.
98. Djibouti welcomed the adoption of a national programme to abolish female genital mutilation. It encouraged Mauritania to mobilize in favour of a quota system to improve women's participation in political life.
99. The delegation of Mauritania recalled that the question of the return of 24,000 to 26,000 Mauritania who were in exile in Senegal had been definitively resolved: all had been reintegrated and had received citizenship documents, a measure confirmed in the text of a tripartite agreement.
100. As to the recommendations on ratification of international instruments, particularly certain optional protocols, the delegation stated that the Government would study the matter.
101. With regard to child labour, the delegation explained that it was prohibited by the Labour Code for children under the age of majority, in conformity with the spirit and the letter of the International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), which Mauritania had ratified and applied.

102. The delegation stated that 11 conventions on human rights had been published in a special edition of the official gazette and that action plans for their implementation had been launched.

103. With regard to the implementation of the national child protection strategy, the delegation noted that regional round tables on protection of children had been organized in 10 *wilayas*, or provinces, for the purpose of tackling the problems of street children, and that there were centres for the protection and integration of children in the major cities.

104. The delegation stated forcefully that there was no discrimination against the Haratin ethnic group and that all ethnic groups had been living together in harmony for centuries, contributing to the country's development.

105. Egypt praised Mauritania for establishing national mechanisms, including the High Council for Fatwa and Administrative Appeals, and adopting strategies to tackle violence against women, human trafficking, forced labour, slavery and torture.

106. Ethiopia commended Mauritania for the significant progress made in the implementation of international conventions and welcomed the Government's efforts to draw up an action plan to combat racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance.

107. France welcomed the progress made by Mauritania since the first review, including the ratification of several international instruments and the adoption of the ambitious legislation against slavery.

108. 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.

109. 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.

110. Indonesia welcomed continued efforts by Mauritania to promote and protect human rights through coordination with line ministries, the National Human Rights Commission, civil society organizations and the Office of the Ombudsman.

111. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the constitutional review and the establishment of new institutions.

112. Iraq noted the accession of Mauritania to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and commended the establishment of a body dealing with gender equality under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and the Family.

113. Ireland noted the adoption of a new anti-slavery law. It was concerned about harassment, intimidation and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders. It encouraged Mauritania to issue a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedure mandate holders.

114. Italy welcomed 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 Ministers of a national strategy for gender mainstreaming.

115. Jordan commended Mauritania for the initiatives it had taken, particularly to cooperate with human rights mechanisms and develop legislation and strategies to promote human rights, including the rights to education and health.

116. Kenya welcomed the efforts made by Mauritania to eliminate contemporary forms of slavery and encouraged Mauritania to provide its national human rights institution with adequate resources and to ensure its independent functioning.

117. Kuwait commended Mauritania for the progress it had made in strengthening human rights and noted the challenges involved in combating torture and discrimination in education.

118. Latvia welcomed the commitment of Mauritania to abolishing slavery and its cooperation with the special procedures. Latvia shared the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at the prevalence of sexual violence and female genital mutilation.

119. Libya praised Mauritania for establishing national institutions including the High Council for Fatwa and Administrative Appeals, the Tadamoun national agency, the national preventive mechanism to combat torture, national courts and the National Human Rights Commission.

120. Madagascar welcomed the establishment of the national preventive mechanism against torture and the strengthening of economic and social policies and called on the international community to assist Mauritania in its human rights efforts.

121. Viet Nam appreciated the fact that Mauritania had adopted many measures for the protection and promotion of human rights, and its signature, ratification or accession to a number of international human rights instruments.

122. The delegation of Mauritania recalled that the country was an Islamic republic and did not have any religious minorities. The delegation explained that foreigners living in Mauritania enjoyed freedom of religion and of faith.

123. The delegation indicated that the law on the national preventive mechanism to combat torture had been adopted and was soon to be implemented; it would cover representatives of professional associations and the relevant NGOs.

124. The delegation again emphasized the fact that the Tadamoun agency possessed the mandate, capacities and financial resources necessary for combating the consequences of slavery.

125. In conclusion, the delegation recalled that Mauritania attached special importance to matters relating to human rights and aspired to take up, on a priority basis, the fight against ignorance, poverty and exclusion, veritable obstacles to the promotion of human rights. The delegation reiterated the firm commitment of Mauritania to fulfilling its treaty obligations and its readiness to cooperate with the human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review. It thanked the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and all of its partners for their assistance and indicated that all the recommendations requiring the Government's agreement would be the subject of an inclusive and participatory implementation plan.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

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

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

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 126.2 **Revise its national legislation and bring it in compliance with its international human rights obligations (Cyprus);**
- 126.3 **Improve the implementation of the legal framework regarding women's rights and finalise a violence against women law (Norway);**
- 126.4 **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 victims of such violence have access to legal remedies and benefit from support and assistance to ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration into society (Latvia);**
- 126.5 **Continue its close cooperation with the United Nations and NGOs (Ukraine);**
- 126.6 **Exhaust international assistance for building institutional capacities that are responsible for human rights (Ethiopia);**
- 126.7 **Ensure that the recently established national prevention mechanism receives the necessary resources to conduct its work (Australia);**
- 126.8 **Adopt a law on a National Preventive Mechanism and enact it as soon as possible (Slovenia);**
- 126.9 **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);**
- 126.10 **Finalise the implementation of a national preventive mechanism against torture (France);**
- 126.11 **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);**
- 126.12 **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);**
- 126.13 **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);**
- 126.14 **Continue to implement National Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming and promote women empowerment (Pakistan);**
- 126.15 **Implement the national strategy to institutionalise gender (Algeria);**
- 126.16 **Approve and implement the national action plan to combat racial discrimination developed in 2013 (Spain);**
- 126.17 **Accelerate the process of elaboration of the national plan of action against racial discrimination (Turkey);**
- 126.18 **Continue to make efforts to implement National Child Protection Strategy (Pakistan);**
- 126.19 **Strengthen efforts in human rights training and education and disseminate awareness of human rights (Morocco);**

- 126.20 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);
- 126.21 Undertake training of the police, administrative and judicial authorities to ensure efficient follow up of cases of slavery and slave-like practices (Uganda);
- 126.22 Increase its efforts aiming at training and qualifying judicial staff in the area of human rights (Oman);
- 126.23 Undertake, with international assistance, human rights training for the judiciary (Sierra Leone);
- 126.24 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);
- 126.25 Strengthen efforts in the area of integrating human rights education in school curricula (Sudan);
- 126.26 Include a human rights component in the school curriculum (Sierra Leone);
- 126.27 Make efforts to include human rights principles in primary and secondary school curricula (Ethiopia);
- 126.28 Continue to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies. Cooperation with the OHCHR is also key to support national reforms (Norway);
- 126.29 Continue efforts to submit national reports concerning specific human rights treaties (Iraq);
- 126.30 Submit its overdue reports to the treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Sierra Leone);
- 126.31 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);
- 126.32 Step up efforts to facilitate administrative procedures so that all children are registered at birth (Turkey);
- 126.33 Further strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of women (Niger);
- 126.34 Consider additional efforts to increase the role of women in society (Senegal);
- 126.35 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);
- 126.36 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);
- 126.37 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in prisons and places of detention and prosecute persons responsible (Slovenia);

- 126.38 Establish expeditious legal remedies that are accessible to women victims of violence and harmful practices, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);
- 126.39 Arrange the enactment of the law on combating violence against women as well as develop the instruments of its implementation (Ukraine);
- 126.40 Finalize the process of adoption of the draft law on gender-based violence, ensuring its effective implementation (Turkey);
- 126.41 Strengthen the legal framework to combat all forms of violence against women and ensure its concrete implementation (France);
- 126.42 Step up measures to put an end to sexual violence and promote participation of women in political and public life (Mexico);
- 126.43 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);
- 126.44 Modify its national law to define rape as a criminal offense (Sierra Leone);
- 126.45 Adopt a comprehensive legislation to address gender based violence and human trafficking (Botswana);
- 126.46 Develop a comprehensive national strategy for combating child, early and forced marriages (Montenegro);
- 126.47 Continue and intensify efforts to eradicate female genital mutilations and gavage, including implementation of legal measures to penalise these practices (Canada);
- 126.48 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);
- 126.49 Pursue its efforts to implement the plan of action for combatting child labour (Sudan);
- 126.50 Take all necessary measures to eradicate child labour and to enact and implement a suitable Action Plan (Italy);
- 126.51 Implement laws combating child and early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (Namibia);
- 126.52 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);
- 126.53 Ensure nationwide, systematic and regular collection of disaggregated data on all forms of slavery (South Africa);
- 126.54 Investigate and deal with complaints in relation to slavery and similar treatments, and protect children from these practices (Mexico);
- 126.55 Continue to take effective measures to combat human trafficking (Uzbekistan);
- 126.56 Strengthen national mechanisms and efforts in combating human trafficking (Ethiopia);

- 126.57 Increase efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation, particularly of women and children (Germany);
- 126.58 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);
- 126.59 Adopt a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 126.60 Continue efforts to empower women and promote their participation in society, in particular, political life, decision making, and accessing high level posts (Jordan);
- 126.61 Pursue efforts to implement the third strategic framework to combat poverty and the national food security strategy (United Arab Emirates);
- 126.62 Continue to improve and implement its strategy on poverty reduction and further improve its people's living standards (China);
- 126.63 Fully implement the National Food Security Strategy (Cuba);
- 126.64 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);
- 126.65 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);
- 126.66 Improve the possibilities of benefitting from healthcare services (Saudi Arabia);
- 126.67 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);
- 126.68 Continue to improve the education and healthcare systems in cooperation with relevant international organisations (United Arab Emirates);
- 126.69 Continue efforts to ensure universal access to quality education and health care (Uzbekistan);
- 126.70 Pursue efforts to combat maternal mortality (Algeria);
- 126.71 Move forward with a policy of free of charge education (Saudi Arabia);
- 126.72 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);
- 126.73 Introduce a human rights-based approach to all climate change-related policies and programmes, including in disaster-risk reduction measures (Philippines).
127. The following enjoy the support of Mauritania, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:

- 127.1 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 127.2 Continue further improvement of human rights in the country (Azerbaijan);
- 127.3 Strengthen measures taken to protect vulnerable groups (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 127.4 Incorporate a definition of torture in domestic law in line with Article 1 of the Convention against Torture (Australia);
- 127.5 Consider establishing a permanent inter-ministerial committee responsible for the implementation of its international human rights obligations (Portugal);
- 127.6 Continue to take measures to enhance the respect for human rights anchored on the rule of law and good governance (Ghana);
- 127.7 Give the Tadamoun national agency the mandate to identify any acts of slavery, propose and implement anti-slavery programmes (Ghana);
- 127.8 Continue to support the work of the National Agency Tadamoun and the National Commission of Human Rights (Senegal);
- 127.9 Provide its national human rights institution with the necessary means to ensure its regular work and reinforce its independence (Portugal);
- 127.10 Provide its National Human Rights Commission with the resources it needs to publicise its recommendations and reinforce its independence (South Africa);
- 127.11 Place more efforts by empowering organizations which are responsible for defending human rights in the country (Afghanistan);
- 127.12 Improve its national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Congo);
- 127.13 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);
- 127.14 Let the legislative power complete the process of the adoption of the draft law on the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 127.15 Adequately train staff and well-resource judges, judicial personnel, and civil servants who work to fight child labour (Italy);
- 127.16 Pursue and intensify its efforts towards strengthening the rights of women and children (Bahrain);
- 127.17 Redouble efforts to promote the condition of women (Djibouti);
- 127.18 Pursue its efforts in strengthening women's rights, including through the adoption of a draft framework law to combat violence against women (Egypt);
- 127.19 Combat early marriages (Djibouti);
- 127.20 Enact laws which fully abolish child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);

- 127.21 **Adopt practical measures to combat violence against women and children, particularly female genital mutilation (Angola);**
- 127.22 **Combat clandestine practices of female genital mutilations (Djibouti);**
- 127.23 **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 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Argentina);**
- 127.24 **Intensify its efforts to totally eliminate slavery and slavery-like practices in the country (Sri Lanka);**
- 127.25 **Fully and effectively eradicate practices of slavery and ensure that all victims of crimes of slavery receive justice, truth and reparation (Kenya);**
- 127.26 **Continue its efforts to eliminate all traditional and modern forms of slavery, including forced child labour (Argentina);**
- 127.27 **Continue to implement measures to eradicate the legacy of and the contemporary forms of slavery (Cuba);**
- 127.28 **Take adequate measures to eradicate all contemporary forms of slavery (Angola);**
- 127.29 **Ensure the effective implementation of the legislation criminalizing slavery and guarantee effective remedies to victims of slavery (Poland);**
- 127.30 **Enforce 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);**
- 127.31 **Implement the laws on slavery and ensure that all crimes of slavery are subject to prosecution (Switzerland);**
- 127.32 **Review the Anti-Slavery Act explicitly to provide for victims' representation, protection and support (Uganda);**
- 127.33 **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);**
- 127.34 **Take measures to ensure the compliance of its legislation against slavery and take effective measures to compensate those who have suffered slavery (Costa Rica);**
- 127.35 **Ensure the effective application of the law on the criminalisation of slavery (France);**
- 127.36 **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);**
- 127.37 **Continue the implementation of the national programme to combat the consequences of slavery, and increase the awareness raising campaigns on its prohibition (Qatar);**

127.38 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);

127.39 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);

127.40 Follow the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and implement the 2014 roadmap of the Government to eradicate slavery (Netherlands);

127.41 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);

127.42 Fully implement the National Roadmap to Combat the Vestiges of Slavery (United States of America);

127.43 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);

127.44 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);

127.45 Pursue the implementation of the roadmap of March 6th 2014 concerning the elimination of all contemporary forms of slavery (Libya);

127.46 Continue implementation of the national programme to eradicate the legacy of slavery and expand public awareness campaigns against all forms of slavery (Islamic Republic of Iran);

127.47 Expand public awareness campaigns to cover effectively all forms of slavery (Uganda);

127.48 Take further measures towards combating slavery and in particular investigate allegations of slavery and prosecute and punish the perpetrators of that offence (Cyprus);

127.49 Implement the anti-slavery law without delay and prosecute perpetrators (Norway);

127.50 Prosecute slaveholders and find means for those who were enslaved to obtain compensation (United States of America);

127.51 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);

127.52 Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of children, as well as guaranteeing the rights of delinquent minors (France);

127.53 Ensure that incarcerated minors are detained separately from adults (Togo);

127.54 Take legislative and administrative measures to ensure the right of association and peaceful protest (Costa Rica);

- 127.55 Establish clear legal protections for human rights defenders and civil society organizations and abide by them (United States of America);
- 127.56 Promote a higher and adequate representation of women in the public institutions (Italy);
- 127.57 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);
- 127.58 Further strengthen national programs to combat poverty and social exclusion in favour of the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 127.59 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);
- 127.60 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);
- 127.61 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);
- 127.62 Adopt policies to facilitate access of descendants of slaves to education and employment under conditions of equality (Congo);
- 127.63 Take further steps to ensure inclusive education and facilitate girls' access to secondary and higher education (Armenia).
128. The following recommendations will be examined by Mauritania, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council, in March 2016:
- 128.1 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Kuwait);
- 128.2 Consider the possibility of ratifying International Labour Organization Convention 189 on domestic workers (Panama);
- 128.3 Continue its efforts in expressing its international obligations through domestic laws (Bahrain);
- 128.4 Complete the transposition of treaties ratified by Mauritania into national law and promote their dissemination and effective implementation (Spain);
- 128.5 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);
- 128.6 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).
129. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Mauritania and would thus be noted:

- 129.1 **Ratify international human rights instruments, to which the country is not yet a party (Côte d’Ivoire);**
- 129.2 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**
- 129.3 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**
- 129.4 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 129.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Uruguay);**
- 129.6 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Norway);**
- 129.7 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Slovakia);**
- 129.8 **Abolish the capital punishment in all cases and in all circumstances, as well as ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Portugal);**
- 129.9 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Australia);**
- 129.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Madagascar);**
- 129.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);**
- 129.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
- 129.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Madagascar);**
- 129.14 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal);**
- 129.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Madagascar);**
- 129.16 **Accept the competence of the Committee against Torture to conduct confidential inquiries and to receive and consider communications from States or individuals (Spain);**
- 129.17 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);**

- 129.18 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement the legislation that regulates it (Costa Rica);**
- 129.19 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**
- 129.20 **Ratify the Rome Statute (Spain);**
- 129.21 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at national level and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);**
- 129.22 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Botswana);**
- 129.23 **Take all necessary steps towards acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus);**
- 129.24 **Strengthen national laws to conform to international standards (Madagascar);**
- 129.25 **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);**
- 129.26 **Harmonise legislation with international obligations and standards in the field of combatting violence against women by effectively criminalizing 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);**
- 129.27 **Remove the crime of apostasy from its legislation (Poland);**
- 129.28 **Delete the crime of apostasy from national legislation (Belgium);**
- 129.29 **Revise the legislation linked to apostasy and blasphemy to ensure its conformity with international obligations related to freedom of religion or belief (Canada);**
- 129.30 **Extend an open invitation to special procedures on human rights (Panama);**
- 129.31 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);**
- 129.32 **Extend an open ended and standing invitation to United Nations special procedures (Spain);**
- 129.33 **Invite the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (Uruguay);**
- 129.34 **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);**
- 129.35 **Create the conditions for ensuring that religious minorities can fully enjoy their rights, without discrimination (Italy);**

- 129.36 Commute without delay all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Belgium);
- 129.37 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);
- 129.38 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);
- 129.39 Adopt necessary measures to definitively abolish the death penalty (Mexico);
- 129.40 Consider abolishing the death penalty (Panama);
- 129.41 Establish a de jure moratorium on death sentences and commute all death sentences to alternative penalties (Switzerland);
- 129.42 Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty with a view to total abolition thereof (Namibia);
- 129.43 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty as a first stage toward its definitive abolition (France);
- 129.44 Maintain the moratorium on the application of the death penalty and move towards its complete abolition (Spain);
- 129.45 Consider adopting a de jure moratorium in view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);
- 129.46 Study the possibility of the definitive abolition of the death penalty (Chile);
- 129.47 Ensure that all allegations of torture are investigated independently and that those responsible are brought to justice (Switzerland);
- 129.48 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);
- 129.49 Abolish the caste system that continues to promote de facto slavery through domestic servitude and bondage or forced labour (Uganda);
- 129.50 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);
- 129.51 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);

129.52 **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);**

129.53 **Decriminalize homosexuality as well as protect freedom and privacy of persons (Chile);**

129.54 **Repeal the provisions criminalising homosexuality (France);**

129.55 **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);**

129.56 **Continue its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations 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);**

129.57 **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);**

129.58 **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).**

130. **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;
- M^{me} Aichetou Mint M'Haiham, Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme et à l'Action Humanitaire;
- M^{me} 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.