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paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council  
resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council  
resolution 16/21**

## **Mauritania**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.



## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

#### International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1988)	OP-CAT (2012)	ICCPR-OP 2
	ICESCR (2004)	CRPD (2012)	OP-CRC-AC
	ICCPR (2004)	ICPPED (2012)	
	CEDAW (2001)		
	CAT (2004)		
	CRC (1991)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2007)		
	ICRMW (2007)		
Reservations and/or declarations	ICCPR (reservation arts. 18 and 23 (4), 2004)	CEDAW (partial withdrawal of general reservation made upon accession, which continues to apply for arts. 13 (a) and 16, 2014)	
	CEDAW (general reservation, 2001)		
	CAT (reservation arts. 20 and 30 (1), 2004)		
	CRC (general reservation, 1990)		
Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action <sup>3</sup>		OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2012)	ICERD, art. 14 OP-ICESCR ICCPR, art. 41 ICCPR-OP 1 OP-CEDAW CAT, arts. 20-22 OP-CRC-IC ICRMW, arts. 76-77 ICPPED, arts. 31-32

1. In 2013, the Committee against Torture invited Mauritania to ratify ICCPR-OP 1,<sup>4</sup> ICCPR-OP 2,<sup>5</sup> OP-ICESCR,<sup>6</sup> OP-CEDAW<sup>7</sup> and OP-CRC-AC.

2. In 2013, the Human Rights Committee encouraged Mauritania to withdraw its reservations to articles 18 and 23 (4) of ICCPR.<sup>8</sup>

### Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
Ratification, accession or succession	1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol Palermo Protocol <sup>9</sup> Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II <sup>10</sup> ILO fundamental conventions <sup>11</sup>		1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions <sup>12</sup> Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 <sup>13</sup> Convention against Discrimination in Education

3. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences,<sup>14</sup> and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women<sup>15</sup> encouraged Mauritania to ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189). In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance<sup>16</sup> urged Mauritania to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as did the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).<sup>17</sup>

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Mauritania ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>18</sup>

## B. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. Noting that slavery had been designated a crime against humanity in 2012,<sup>19</sup> the Special Rapporteur on slavery encouraged the Ministry of Justice to expedite the review of the Anti-Slavery Act of 2007; called upon the Government to amend the Act in accordance with her previous recommendations and road map; stated that the legislative approach should be accompanied by effective measures to compensate for discrimination and to rehabilitate victims;<sup>20</sup> and emphasized that the Government should, without delay, publish in the Official Gazette the anti-slavery conventions that Mauritania had ratified.<sup>21</sup>

6. The Committee against Torture urged Mauritania to include a provision in the Criminal Code that defined and specifically criminalized racial or ethnic discrimination, including slavery-like practices, to include in the Anti-Slavery Act a definition that covered all forms of slavery and amend it to enable victims of slavery or related practices to cause criminal proceedings to be initiated by suing for damages.<sup>22</sup>

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the 2013 Act criminalizing slavery and torture as crimes against humanity.<sup>23</sup>
8. The Committee against Torture recommended that Mauritania amend the Amnesty Act of 1993, which provides a blanket amnesty to members of the armed forces and security forces, combat impunity with respect to acts of torture and ensure that victims and their relatives are protected from reprisals and intimidation.<sup>24</sup>
9. The same Committee urged Mauritania to ensure that victims of torture obtain redress, and to amend the Criminal Code to remove references to *qisas* penalties.<sup>25</sup>
10. The Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to ensure that the reference to Islam in the preamble to the State party's Constitution did not prevent the full application of ICCPR in its legal order and did not serve to justify the non-implementation by the State party of its obligations under the Covenant.<sup>26</sup>
11. The United Nations country team took the view that Mauritania should finalize and adopt the pending bills on the Associations Act, the Violence against Women Act and the Asylum Act, and introduce the necessary accompanying measures to ensure their implementation.<sup>27</sup>
12. Noting that discriminatory provisions towards women were still to be found in the Criminal Code, the Nationality Code and the Personal Status Code, the country team took the view that Mauritania should amend and/or repeal those provisions.<sup>28</sup>
13. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Mauritania to define rape as a criminal offence in the Criminal Code.<sup>29</sup>
14. The Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to systematically publish in the Official Gazette the acts ratifying human rights treaties and conventions, and to raise the awareness of judges, lawyers and prosecutors of ICCPR to ensure that its provisions were taken into account by the national courts.<sup>30</sup>

### C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

#### Status of national human rights institutions<sup>31</sup>

<i>National human rights institution</i>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle<sup>32</sup></i>
Commission nationale des droits de l'homme	B (2009)	A (2011)

15. While noting with satisfaction that the National Human Rights Commission had been classified as A status, the Committee against Torture urged Mauritania to provide the Commission with the resources it needed to publicize its recommendations and reinforce its independence.<sup>33</sup>
16. Stating that analysis of and research on slavery by the Commission would be crucial, the Special Rapporteur on slavery encouraged Mauritania to ensure nationwide, systematic and regular collection of disaggregated data on all forms of slavery.<sup>34</sup>
17. The country team explained that, in 2014, the Council of Ministers had adopted a road map for eradicating the consequences of slavery that reflected the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, and that an interministerial committee had adopted a national action plan for implementing the road map.<sup>35</sup> The Special Rapporteur noted that further efforts were necessary in order to implement fully the

road map.<sup>36</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women<sup>37</sup> and the Human Rights Committee<sup>38</sup> made similar recommendations.

18. The country team indicated that a national agency (Tadamoun) on eradication of the consequences of slavery, social integration and poverty alleviation had been established in 2013. It noted that, although that agency was entitled to lodge complaints against alleged perpetrators of slavery-like practices by suing for damages on behalf of the victims, since its inception it had exercised that entitlement only once.<sup>39</sup>

19. Stating that Tadamoun did not have the necessary means to act, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations urged the Government to ensure that victims of slavery were able to assert their rights. It hoped that the special court for examining slavery-like practices would be established as soon as possible.<sup>40</sup>

20. The country team took the view that Mauritania should speed up the process of drafting the national action plan on combating racial discrimination, adopt all measures necessary for its implementation and follow an approach that was focused on victims' rights.<sup>41</sup>

21. The Special Rapporteur on racism recommended that the amendments to the anti-slavery law enabling non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to act on behalf of the victims of slavery-like practices and provide them with protection and support should be fast-tracked.<sup>42</sup>

22. The Special Rapporteur on slavery stated that awareness-raising efforts should be complemented by mandatory training seminars on anti-slavery laws for judges and representatives of local authorities, gendarmeries, police, media and NGOs.<sup>43</sup> The Human Rights Committee,<sup>44</sup> the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>45</sup> the ILO Committee of Experts<sup>46</sup> and the country team<sup>47</sup> made similar comments.

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	August 2004	-	-	Eighth to tenth reports overdue since 2008
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	-	2009 (initially due in 2007)	November 2012	Second report due in 2017
Human Rights Committee	-	2012 (initially due in 2006)	October 2013	Second report due in 2017

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	May 2007	2012 (initially due in 2010)	July 2014	Fourth report due in 2018
Committee against Torture	-	2012 (initially due in 2005)	May 2013	Second report due in 2017
Committee on the Rights of the Child	June 2009	-	-	Third to fifth reports overdue since 2013; initial report on OP-CRC-SC overdue since 2009
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2008
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2014
Committee on Enforced Disappearances	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2014

## 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

<i>Concluding observations</i>			
<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
Human Rights Committee	2014	Application of the Covenant; torture and ill-treatment; slavery; conditions of detention. <sup>48</sup>	2014 <sup>49</sup> and 2015 <sup>50</sup>
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	2016	Female genital mutilation; disadvantaged groups of women. <sup>51</sup>	-
Committee against Torture	2014	Length of police custody; prison conditions; torture and ill-treatment. <sup>52</sup>	Reminder sent in 2014 <sup>53</sup>

23. The country team indicated that the Government had set up a technical interministerial committee responsible for drafting reports and following up the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms. It added that that committee was developing a national action plan for implementing those recommendations, with technical support from the country office in Mauritania of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).<sup>54</sup> The

country team took the view that Mauritania should oversee the finalization and implementation of that plan.<sup>55</sup>

## B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>56</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
Standing invitation	No	No
Visits undertaken	Racism (2008) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (2008) Slavery (2009)	Racism (2013) Slavery (2014)
Visits agreed to in principle	Freedom of religion or belief Migrants	Freedom of religion or belief Torture Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
Visits requested	-	-
Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals	During the period under review, nine communications were sent. The Government replied to two communications.	
Follow-up reports and missions	Racism (mission) <sup>57</sup> ; slavery (mission) <sup>58</sup>	

24. The Committee against Torture urged Mauritania to invite the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to visit the State party.<sup>59</sup>

## C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

25. The country team noted that the OHCHR office in Mauritania, which had been inaugurated on 9 December 2010,<sup>60</sup> provided technical assistance to the Government, to civil society and to the National Human Rights Commission, in particular for drafting bills. The office had also undertaken activities related to monitoring human rights violations and drafting analysis reports.<sup>61</sup> It had, inter alia, drafted a public report on the incidents and arrests that had taken place in Rosso<sup>62</sup> in 2014.<sup>63</sup>

26. OHCHR had supported the interministerial committee to develop its workplan for drafting three periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the national report for the universal periodic review.<sup>64</sup>

27. During her visit to Mauritania in April 2011, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights raised a wide range of concerns about women's rights, slavery and its remnants, access to justice, transitional justice for past violations and the country's international legal obligations.<sup>65</sup>

## III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

## A. Equality and non-discrimination

28. The Special Rapporteur on racism noted that many individuals did not have equal opportunities with regard to education, employment, business opportunities, or access to justice and government services.<sup>66</sup> He recommended that Pular, Soninke and Wolof should be given constitutional status as official languages.<sup>67</sup>

29. UNHCR stated that the nationality law failed to guarantee the right of every child to acquire a nationality.<sup>68</sup>

30. The Special Rapporteur on racism indicated that it was paramount that the Government addressed the issues the census process had highlighted so that individuals, and consequently their children, were not unduly deprived of their right to identity and nationality.<sup>69</sup> In 2012, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Mauritania to facilitate birth registration.<sup>70</sup>

31. The Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to review its Nationality Code in order to allow Mauritanian women to transmit their nationality on an equal footing with men, and the 2001 Personal Status Code in order to remove the provisions that discriminated against women.<sup>71</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,<sup>72</sup> the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>73</sup> and UNHCR made similar recommendations.<sup>74</sup>

32. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that not all repatriated Mauritanian refugees had obtained identity and citizenship documents.<sup>75</sup>

33. UNHCR recommended that Mauritania ensure issuance of nationality documents to all returnees from Senegal, including birth certificates for children; review local integration and livelihood assistance policies for the returnees; and cooperate with UNHCR on implementing the voluntary repatriation of an additional 800 Mauritanian refugees.<sup>76</sup> The country team made similar recommendations.<sup>77</sup>

34. The Special Rapporteur on racism observed that, despite some progress, the Haratine suffered from discrimination, marginalization and exclusion. He noted that approximately 50 per cent of them were in de facto slavery through domestic servitude and bonded or forced labour.<sup>78</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had similar concerns.<sup>79</sup>

## B. Right to life, liberty and security of person

35. Noting with appreciation that Mauritania had been observing a moratorium on the death penalty since 2007, the Human Rights Committee remained concerned that the death penalty was still provided for in the Criminal Code and was applied by domestic courts, including in the case of crimes committed by minors. It urged Mauritania to consider abolishing the death penalty.<sup>80</sup>

36. The country team noted that the death penalty was prescribed, inter alia, in cases of apostasy, and that in December 2014 the Nouadhibou Correctional Court had found a man guilty of the offences of apostasy and *zendagha* and had sentenced him to death.<sup>81</sup>

37. Concerned by reports of killings of individuals following repression by security forces during various demonstrations, the Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to carry out investigations into those cases.<sup>82</sup>

38. The Committee against Torture was concerned by reports that since 2009 at least two prisoners had died after being tortured,<sup>83</sup> and that the authorities had been slow to investigate claims that acts of torture had been committed in 2011 and 2012 in



Nouakchott, Kaédi and Ould Yengé. It urged Mauritania to put an end to torture and to ensure that allegations of torture by police or security forces were promptly investigated and the persons concerned prosecuted and convicted, in line with the commitment made during the universal periodic review<sup>84</sup> in 2010.<sup>85</sup> The Human Rights Committee<sup>86</sup> and the country team<sup>87</sup> made similar recommendations.

39. The Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to establish a national preventive mechanism.<sup>88</sup>

40. Concerned that individuals were held in incommunicado detention, the Committee against Torture urged Mauritania to keep a register of all persons deprived of their liberty that was up-to-date and available to all competent judicial authorities.<sup>89</sup> The Human Rights Committee<sup>90</sup> and the Committee against Torture<sup>91</sup> urged Mauritania to guarantee regular access to all places of deprivation of liberty.<sup>92</sup>

41. The country team noted that, despite efforts to renovate some prison centres, conditions of detention remained below minimum standards. It also noted that judicial authorities continued to have excessive recourse to pretrial detention.<sup>93</sup> The Human Rights Committee<sup>94</sup> and the Committee against Torture<sup>95</sup> had similar concerns.

42. The country team recommended that Mauritania take steps to ensure that recourse to pretrial detention was limited solely to cases prescribed by law and that the recommendations of the treaty bodies concerning conditions of detention were implemented.<sup>96</sup>

43. Concerned by the stigmatization of women victims of rape and the fact that they could themselves risk criminal prosecution, the Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to review the requirement that a witness must be produced when a charge of rape was brought.<sup>97</sup>

44. UNHCR stated that the law enforcement and justice response in handling sexual gender-based violence cases needed to be strengthened to ensure that the survivors had effective access to adequate protection.<sup>98</sup>

45. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee noted with concern that the practice of female genital mutilation remained highly prevalent.<sup>99</sup> The Committee against Torture urged Mauritania to adopt a law prohibiting female genital mutilation, in line with the commitment made during the universal periodic review<sup>100</sup> in 2010.<sup>101</sup>

46. The country team took the view that Mauritania should eradicate sexual violence, evaluate the impact of implementation of the strategy to promote the abandonment of female genital mutilation and ensure that women victims of violence had access to justice on an equal basis with men.<sup>102</sup>

47. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern the persistence of early marriage,<sup>103</sup> and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Mauritania to prevent it.<sup>104</sup>

48. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about the vulnerable conditions of children who lived in the street and those who were engaged in labour. It recommended that Mauritania strictly enforce existing legislation against child labour, expedite the adoption of the draft law on the prohibition of child labour and address the root causes of child labour.<sup>105</sup>

49. Concerned about the exploitation of girls in child labour under slave-like conditions, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Mauritania fully dismantle the caste-based system of enslaving women in domestic work.<sup>106</sup>

50. The Committee against Torture urged Mauritania to develop a comprehensive national strategy for combating traditional and modern forms of slavery and discrimination, including early and forced marriage, servitude, forced child labour, human trafficking and the exploitation of domestic workers, in line with the commitment it had made during the universal periodic review in 2010.<sup>107</sup>

51. The Special Rapporteur on slavery indicated that the misinterpretation of religion to justify slavery and slavery-like practices was a powerful means to keep slaves in subordination and to perpetuate manifestations of slavery. She encouraged the Ministry of Religious Affairs to facilitate the formulation and pronouncement of a fatwa by religious leaders, in collaboration with civil society, asserting that all forms of slavery and slavery-like practices were forbidden under Islam.<sup>108</sup>

52. She recommended that the Government issue orders to the police and the judiciary regarding the enforcement of slavery legislation to ensure that allegations of slavery and slavery-like practices were effectively investigated and prosecuted.<sup>109</sup>

53. She indicated that the Government should provide slaves who had fled their masters with legal assistance to file a case, temporary shelter and, wherever possible, microcredit for small businesses.<sup>110</sup>

54. Concerned about the criminalization of women engaged in prostitution, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Mauritania adopt comprehensive legislation and policies aimed at combating all forms of trafficking.<sup>111</sup>

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law**

55. The Committee against Torture<sup>112</sup> and the Human Rights Committee<sup>113</sup> urged Mauritania to guarantee and protect the independence of the judiciary.

56. Concerned that legal aid was not always provided for most defendants and that procedural rights were not always respected, the Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to ensure that defendants were guaranteed all the rights provided for in article 14 of the Covenant.<sup>114</sup>

57. Concerned about the lack of effective judicial remedies for women who were victims of violence and harmful practices, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Mauritania establish expeditious legal remedies that were accessible to women.<sup>115</sup>

58. The Special Rapporteur on racism noted that, until 2014, no case of racial discrimination had been referred to national courts, and the few cases of slavery-like practices brought before courts had not led to prosecution or punishment of the perpetrators, or to redress for the victims.<sup>116</sup> Judges appeared to be recruited mainly from one caste or tribe, representing a barrier to access to justice, leading to the de facto exclusion of those who did not speak Arabic.<sup>117</sup>

59. The country team noted that the Anti-Slavery Act of 2007 was rarely enforced and that it was difficult to obtain reliable information on the number of cases that had given rise to investigations and to convictions of persons suspected of slavery.<sup>118</sup>

60. The country team took the view that Mauritania should investigate allegations of slavery and prosecute and punish the perpetrators of that offence.<sup>119</sup>

61. The Special Rapporteur on racism noted difficulties in registration, compensation and reparation for some returnees, continuing land disputes and the lack of accountability for the human rights violations committed in 1989. The national strategy on social cohesion that was under consideration should include a transitional

justice component to enable public discussion on the events of the late 1980s that had led to the deportation of thousands of Mauritanian citizens and the deprivation of their nationality and economic power.<sup>120</sup>

62. The country team noted that the Government's commitment to the definitive settlement of that humanitarian debt was weak, inasmuch as the matter had been officially closed, despite the fact that the victims maintained their claims.<sup>121</sup>

63. The country team drew attention to the Human Rights Committee's recommendation inviting Mauritania to set up a mechanism to address the humanitarian consequences of those events. It also recommended that Mauritania request the assistance of United Nations expertise in strengthening respect for and promoting the right to the truth, and in strengthening efforts to combat impunity, following the large-scale violations of human rights that had been committed between 1980 and 1990.<sup>122</sup>

64. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned that corruption affected all sectors of the State, including the judiciary. It called on Mauritania to expedite the establishment of the national anti-corruption observatory and to combat corruption.<sup>123</sup>

#### **D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life**

65. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the exclusive authority of the husband in family-related matters, the dissolution of marriage at the will of the husband only and polygamy.<sup>124</sup> The Human Rights Committee had similar concerns.<sup>125</sup> Both urged Mauritania to amend the Personal Status Code.<sup>126</sup>

66. Noting with concern that homosexuality was considered a crime punishable by the death penalty, the Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to decriminalize homosexuality and protect the freedom and privacy of the person.<sup>127</sup>

#### **E. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

67. Concerned that for Muslim Mauritanians a change of religion was classified as apostasy, punishable by the death penalty, the Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to remove the crime of apostasy from its legislation.<sup>128</sup>

68. The OHCHR country office urged the Government to undertake an impartial investigation into the conduct of the police and gendarmerie in relation to their actions to maintain order and disperse the public meeting of 11 November 2014.<sup>129</sup>

69. The country team took the view that Mauritania should harmonize its national legislation with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and undertake a review of the freedom of religion.<sup>130</sup>

70. The Human Rights Committee was concerned by obstacles to the creation and registration of some NGOs or associations.<sup>131</sup> The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Mauritania to permit the free registration of NGOs and lift the restrictions imposed on non-profit radio broadcasting stations.<sup>132</sup>

71. The Human Rights Committee urged Mauritania to adopt a new act governing the exercise of freedom of association that provided the protection necessary for human rights defenders.<sup>133</sup>

72. Reporting that OHCHR had noted deficiencies in the Associations Act and in the Right to Peaceful Assembly Act of 1973,<sup>134</sup> the country team took the view that Mauritania should align provisions concerning exercise of the freedom of association and the right to peaceful assembly with the State's international obligations.<sup>135</sup>

73. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Mauritania adopt a quota system to promote the appointment of women, including women from ethnic minorities.<sup>136</sup> The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>137</sup> and the Human Rights Committee<sup>138</sup> made similar recommendations.

74. The Special Rapporteur on racism noted that in 2013, out of 95 seats in the National Assembly, only 5 were reportedly held by Haratine and out of the 56 senators, only 1 was Haratine.<sup>139</sup> The Government should promote equal access to political life for the communities that had historically been discriminated against.<sup>140</sup>

## **F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

75. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called on Mauritania to ensure that the national minimum wage was sufficient to enable a decent standard of living for workers and their families.<sup>141</sup>

76. Concerned by the precarious labour conditions of women working in rural areas, especially Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian women who were often unpaid and lacked social protection, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Mauritania to support entrepreneurship among rural women.<sup>142</sup>

77. Concerned at the lack of monitoring of conditions of work in the informal economy, and that the informal economy still employed the majority of the working population, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Mauritania reduce the level of informal employment.<sup>143</sup>

78. The same Committee was concerned that the establishment of a trade union was subject to authorization and urged Mauritania to protect trade union rights.<sup>144</sup>

## **G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

79. Noting with concern that a large proportion of the population still lived in poverty, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Mauritania further reduce poverty and eliminate extreme poverty by paying particular attention to women, former slaves and descendants of slaves, and disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups.<sup>145</sup>

80. Concerned that the social security system was targeted at the segment of the population with stable employment and that no scheme was available to the majority of the population, the Committee called on Mauritania to improve the coverage of the social security system.<sup>146</sup>

81. Noting with concern the frequent food crises and the chronic food insecurity, the Committee urged Mauritania to strengthen its food security mechanisms.<sup>147</sup>

82. While noting with appreciation the expansion of public infrastructure,<sup>148</sup> the Committee called on Mauritania to ensure the safety of water supplied to the population and improve access to safe sanitation services.<sup>149</sup>

83. While recognizing that the development of a comprehensive action plan on nutrition represented significant progress, the country team took the view that Mauritania should, inter alia, ensure that canteens/cafeterias were available in all

public primary schools and strengthen programmes for dealing with acute malnutrition.<sup>150</sup>

84. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the obstacles to women's access to land and recommended that Mauritania amend any discriminatory provisions limiting the ownership, control and usage of land by women and adopt a public policy on land management that integrated a gender perspective.<sup>151</sup>

## H. Right to health

85. Pointing out that the health-care system was affected by a lack of qualified personnel and very limited access to health-care centres, especially in rural and suburban areas,<sup>152</sup> the country team took the view that Mauritania should increase the financial resources of the health-care system, especially in respect of the most vulnerable segments of the population.<sup>153</sup>

86. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Mauritania pursue the decentralization of health-care resources and activities with a view to achieving universality of health-care services.<sup>154</sup>

87. The Committee was concerned at the absence of adequate laws regulating the practice of traditional medicine and called on Mauritania to regulate it.<sup>155</sup>

88. Noting with concern that maternal and infant mortality remained high in spite of improvements in maternal health services, the Committee called on Mauritania to expand the provision of obstetric and neonatal care.<sup>156</sup>

89. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the delay in approving the bill on reproductive health and recommended that Mauritania enact and implement the bill, and protect the sexual and reproductive health of women.<sup>157</sup>

90. The same Committee was concerned that abortion was criminalized and recommended that Mauritania amend its legislation to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, risk to the life or health of the mother and severe foetal impairment.<sup>158</sup>

91. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Mauritania to combat HIV/AIDS and decentralize the provision of antiretroviral treatment.<sup>159</sup>

## I. Right to education

92. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called on Mauritania to address obstacles to education, including the distance to school, the cost of education and the social and cultural factors involved, such as girls' duties at home.<sup>160</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made similar recommendations.<sup>161</sup>

93. Although the enrolment rate at the primary level of education had increased,<sup>162</sup> the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern that more than half of the female population was illiterate. It urged Mauritania to ensure girls' access to secondary and higher education.<sup>163</sup>

94. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the marginalization of non-Arab and rural girls in the education system. It recommended that Mauritania strengthen its adult literacy programmes, especially for non-Arab women, Afro-Mauritanian women and women living in rural areas and facilitate their access to school.<sup>164</sup>

95. Concerned about the risk of sexual harassment and abuse by teachers in schools, that same Committee recommended that Mauritania adopt preventive strategies and ensure that perpetrators were punished.<sup>165</sup>

96. Concerned at the high school dropout rate and the poor quality of education, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called on Mauritania to reintegrate in school children who had dropped out.<sup>166</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had similar concerns.<sup>167</sup>

97. The country team took the view that Mauritania should develop a strategy to integrate human rights into the school system, improve the quality of education, keep children in school, in particular girls, and re-enrol school dropouts.<sup>168</sup>

## **J. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

98. UNHCR stated that, as at the end of November 2014, Mauritania had a refugee population of 56,832.<sup>169</sup>

99. UNHCR stated that, since October 2014, the Agence nationale du registre de la population et des titres sécurisés had started to use biometric registration for urban refugees, allowing them to receive refugee cards and a national identification number.<sup>170</sup>

100. UNHCR recommended that Mauritania prioritize the finalization and adoption of the draft refugee law and develop administrative regulations, policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with its obligations under the 1951 Convention.<sup>171</sup> The Human Rights Committee,<sup>172</sup> the Committee against Torture<sup>173</sup> and the country team<sup>174</sup> made a similar recommendation.

101. Stating that refugees and asylum seekers continued to face difficulties in registering their children born in Mauritania, UNHCR recommended that Mauritania ensure that those children were registered at birth and eliminate the constraints in the law.<sup>175</sup> The Human Rights Committee made a similar recommendation.<sup>176</sup>

## **K. Right to development, and environmental issues**

102. The country team noted that the many human rights violations related to land administration were caused by a lack of relevant information and tools for managing the land system, a lack of communication with rural communities and their defiance towards the administrative authorities, and a failure to enforce legislation.<sup>177</sup>

103. The country team took the view that Mauritania should implement the recommendations made by the special procedures and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in formulating and implementing land policies.<sup>178</sup>

104. Concerned at the negative impact of extractive and mining activities, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called on Mauritania to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and ensure that the free, prior and informed consent of the population was obtained in decision-making processes on extractive and mining projects affecting them.<sup>179</sup>

105. The Special Rapporteur on slavery remained concerned about the possible impact of businesses and foreign investors and companies investing in Mauritania that did not adhere to international standards preventing the use of child labour and forced labour, and said that all enterprises should develop corporate social responsibility policies.<sup>180</sup>

## L. Human rights and counter-terrorism

106. Concerned that article 3 of the 2010 act on combating terrorism defined terrorism in broad and vague terms, the Committee against Torture<sup>181</sup> and the Human Rights Committee<sup>182</sup> urged Mauritania to guarantee the fundamental legal safeguards for persons deprived of their liberty, and to bring the duration of police custody, including for terrorist offences, into line with the provisions of the Covenant.

107. Noting the scarcity of information concerning the conditions of detention of Salafist prisoners,<sup>183</sup> the country team took the view that Mauritania should protect human rights in the context of counter-terrorism measures, investigate the deaths and conditions of detention of Salafists, and include in the mandate of the next national mechanism for the prevention of torture the function of visiting secret places of detention, including those housing perpetrators of terrorism offences.<sup>184</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Mauritania from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/9/MRT/2).

<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

<sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

<sup>4</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 28.

<sup>5</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 12.

<sup>6</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 34.

<sup>7</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, para. 48.

<sup>8</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 6.

<sup>9</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

<sup>10</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12

- August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/IHL](http://www.icrc.org/IHL).
- <sup>11</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- <sup>12</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/IHL](http://www.icrc.org/IHL).
- <sup>13</sup> ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- <sup>14</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 38.
- <sup>15</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 36-37.
- <sup>16</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 67.
- <sup>17</sup> See UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Mauritania, p. 6.
- <sup>18</sup> See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Mauritania, para. 31.1.
- <sup>19</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 15.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 36. See also country team submission for the universal periodic review of Mauritania, para. 3, and CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 4 (c).
- <sup>21</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 41.
- <sup>22</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 21. See also A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 36 and CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 7.
- <sup>23</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, para. 4 (a).
- <sup>24</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 19.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- <sup>26</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 6.
- <sup>27</sup> See country team submission, para. 8.
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 21.
- <sup>29</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 26-27.
- <sup>30</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 5.
- <sup>31</sup> According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: voting member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles), B: non-voting member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination), C: no status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- <sup>32</sup> For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, see A/HRC/27/40, annex.
- <sup>33</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 13. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 17.
- <sup>34</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 42.
- <sup>35</sup> See country team submission, para. 9.
- <sup>36</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 34.
- <sup>37</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 28-29.
- <sup>38</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 17.
- <sup>39</sup> See country team submission, para. 11.
- <sup>40</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) – Mauritania, adopted in 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3187943](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3187943).
- <sup>41</sup> See country team submission, para. 14. See also CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 7, CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 44-45, OHCHR, “OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa” (2013), p. 312, and A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 64.
- <sup>42</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 73. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.2, para. 3 (d).
- <sup>43</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 41.
- <sup>44</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 17.
- <sup>45</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 7.
- <sup>46</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) – Mauritania, adopted in 2014,



- published 104th ILC session (2015), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3187943](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3187943).
- <sup>47</sup> See country team submission, para. 31.
- <sup>48</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 26.
- <sup>49</sup> See the information provided by Mauritania in follow-up to the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT\\_CCPR\\_AFR\\_MRT\\_18785\\_F.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT_CCPR_AFR_MRT_18785_F.pdf) (accessed 4 February 2015).
- <sup>50</sup> See CCPR/C/CMT/CO/1/Add. 1. See also the letter dated 13 April 2015 from the Human Rights Committee to the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT\\_CCPR\\_FUL\\_MRT\\_20157\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT_CCPR_FUL_MRT_20157_E.pdf) (accessed 7 July 2015).
- <sup>51</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, para. 53.
- <sup>52</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 30.
- <sup>53</sup> See the letter dated 7 July 2014 from the Committee against Torture to the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT\\_CAT\\_FUL\\_MRT\\_17609\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT_CAT_FUL_MRT_17609_E.pdf) (accessed 4 February 2015).
- <sup>54</sup> See country team submission, para. 16.
- <sup>55</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>56</sup> For the titles of special procedures mandate holders, see [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx).
- <sup>57</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1 and 2.
- <sup>58</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1.
- <sup>59</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 15.
- <sup>60</sup> See country team submission, para. 18.
- <sup>61</sup> See OHCHR, “OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa” (2011), pp. 360-363. See also OHCHR, “OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa” (2012), pp. 266-267; “OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa” (2013), pp. 312-314; and “OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa” (2014), pp. 245-246.
- <sup>62</sup> See “Rapport de la Mission d’établissement des faits du Bureau du Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l’homme en Mauritanie, 15-16 novembre 2014”.
- <sup>63</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F](http://www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F).
- <sup>64</sup> See OHCHR, “OHCHR in the field: Middle East and North Africa” (2014), p. 245.
- <sup>65</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10969&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10969&LangID=E).
- <sup>66</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 59. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 61, and A/HRC/26/49/Add.2, para. 3 (b).
- <sup>67</sup> See A/HRC/11/36/Add.2, para. 81.
- <sup>68</sup> See UNHCR submission, p. 5.
- <sup>69</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 67. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.2, para. 3 (g).
- <sup>70</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 19.
- <sup>71</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>72</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 14-15 and 32-33.
- <sup>73</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 10.
- <sup>74</sup> See UNHCR submission, pp. 6 and 8.
- <sup>75</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>76</sup> See UNHCR submission, p. 10. See also CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 16.
- <sup>77</sup> See country team submission, para. 49.
- <sup>78</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 7. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.2, para. 3 (b).
- <sup>79</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 44-45. See also A/HRC/28/85, p. 122.
- <sup>80</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>81</sup> See country team submission, para. 24.
- <sup>82</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 13.
- <sup>83</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>84</sup> Ibid., para. 18.
- <sup>85</sup> See A/HRC/16/17, paras. 90.33, 90.35, 91.13 and 91.15.
- <sup>86</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 14. See also the information provided by Mauritania in follow-up to the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, p. 2, available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT\\_CCPR\\_AFR\\_MRT\\_18785\\_F.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT_CCPR_AFR_MRT_18785_F.pdf) (accessed 4 February 2015).

- <sup>87</sup> See country team submission, para. 31.
- <sup>88</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 14 and CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 14. See also the information provided by Mauritania in follow-up to the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, p. 2. Accessible from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT\\_CCPR\\_AFR\\_MRT\\_18785\\_F.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT_CCPR_AFR_MRT_18785_F.pdf) (accessed 4 February 2015).
- <sup>89</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 11.
- <sup>90</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>91</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>92</sup> See also the information provided by Mauritania in follow-up to the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, p. 1, available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT\\_CCPR\\_AFR\\_MRT\\_18785\\_F.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CCPR/Shared%20Documents/MRT/INT_CCPR_AFR_MRT_18785_F.pdf) (accessed 4 February 2015).
- <sup>93</sup> See country team submission, para. 26. See also [www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F](http://www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15675&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15675&LangID=E).
- <sup>94</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 19.
- <sup>95</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>96</sup> See country team submission, para. 31. See also [www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F](http://www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15675&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15675&LangID=E).
- <sup>97</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 10.
- <sup>98</sup> See UNHCR submission, p. 7.
- <sup>99</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 21, CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 24-25 and CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 11.
- <sup>100</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>101</sup> See A/HRC/16/17, paras. 90.28-90.32, 91.12, 92.31, 92.32 and 92.39.
- <sup>102</sup> See country team submission, para. 24.
- <sup>103</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 23. See also CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 46-47.
- <sup>104</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 18.
- <sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- <sup>106</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 36-37.
- <sup>107</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>108</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 39.
- <sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 37.
- <sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 40.
- <sup>111</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 28-29. See also CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 23.
- <sup>112</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 15.
- <sup>113</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 20.
- <sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- <sup>115</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 16-17.
- <sup>116</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 21. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.2.
- <sup>117</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 22. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.2, para. 3 (e).
- <sup>118</sup> See country team submission, para. 25. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) – Mauritania, adopted in 2014, published 104th ILC session (2015), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3187943](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3187943).
- <sup>119</sup> See country team submission, para. 31.
- <sup>120</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 72. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add.2.
- <sup>121</sup> See country team submission, para. 30.
- <sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 31.
- <sup>123</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>124</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 46-47.
- <sup>125</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>126</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 46-47 and CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>127</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 21. See also country team , para. 35.
- <sup>129</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F](http://www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15414&LangID=F) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15675&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15675&LangID=E).
- <sup>130</sup> See country team submission, para. 35.
- <sup>131</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>132</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 33.

- <sup>133</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 22.
- <sup>134</sup> See country team submission, para. 34.
- <sup>135</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 35.
- <sup>136</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 36-37. See also CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 20-21 and 30-31.
- <sup>137</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 11.
- <sup>138</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>139</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 7. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add. 2, para. 3 (b).
- <sup>140</sup> See A/HRC/26/49/Add.1, para. 70. See also A/HRC/26/49/Add. 2, para. 3 (b).
- <sup>141</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 15.
- <sup>142</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 42-43. See also CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 40-41.
- <sup>143</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 14.
- <sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 16.
- <sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 22.
- <sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 17.
- <sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 23.
- <sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 6 (a).
- <sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 29.
- <sup>150</sup> See country team submission, para. 36.
- <sup>151</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 42-43.
- <sup>152</sup> See country team submission, para. 37.
- <sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 40.
- <sup>154</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 25.
- <sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 26.
- <sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 28. See also country team submission, para. 38.
- <sup>157</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 38-39. See also E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 28.
- <sup>158</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 38-39.
- <sup>159</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 27.
- <sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 30.
- <sup>161</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 34-35.
- <sup>162</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 6 (d).
- <sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 11.
- <sup>164</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 34-35.
- <sup>165</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 34-35.
- <sup>166</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 30.
- <sup>167</sup> See CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, paras. 34-35.
- <sup>168</sup> See country team submission, para. 42.
- <sup>169</sup> See UNHCR submission, p. 1.
- <sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.
- <sup>171</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- <sup>172</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>173</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 16.
- <sup>174</sup> See country team submission, para. 45.
- <sup>175</sup> See UNHCR submission, pp. 3-5.
- <sup>176</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>177</sup> See country team submission, para. 44.
- <sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 44.
- <sup>179</sup> See E/C.12/MRT/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>180</sup> See A/HRC/27/53/Add.1, para. 45.
- <sup>181</sup> See CAT/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 10.
- <sup>182</sup> See CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1, para. 18.
- <sup>183</sup> See country team submission, para. 50.
- <sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 51.