

(6)

Indian Council of South America (CISA)

March 16 Wednesday 2016
Item 6 UPR Mauritania
Human Rights Council 31st session
Ambassador Ronald Barnes

Greetings Madame/Mr. Chair,

CISA warmly greets the delegation of Mauritania and congratulates you on the successful completion of the second cycle of your Universal Periodic Review. It is commendable that you have moved a step forward since the first cycle of your Universal Periodic Review, by revising your Constitution to affirm your country's cultural and linguistic diversity and to designate slavery and torture as crimes against humanity. Withdrawing particular reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of discrimination against Women is also an improvement, although it would be more commendable to look carefully at withdrawing other provisions of the Convention. We also recommend that before the next cycle of the UPR, Mauritania continue its efforts to submit its overdue reports to international treaty bodies.

It is clear that there are many recommendations on the issue of slavery and that this needs to be address. CISA encourages Mauritania to construct a viable roadmap towards addressing this issue through further work with its international obligations and careful review of the recommendations and work with special procedures. Also educating its justice system and staff in the area of human rights would be a commendable effort towards this roadmap.

For the recommendations on education, human rights and poverty, we recommend that you seek assistance in implementing your international obligations. We also recommend that Mauritania introduces a human rights based approach to all climate change policies and programs, including disaster risk reduction.

I thank you Mr. /Madame Chair