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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Mauritania

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its ninth session from 1 to 12 November 2010. The review of Mauritania was held at the 16th meeting, on 10 November 2010. The delegation of Mauritania was headed by Mohamed Abdallahi Ould Khattra, Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme, à l'Action Humanitaire et aux Relations avec la Société Civile. At its 17th meeting, held on 12 November 2010, the Working Group adopted the report on Mauritania.

2. On 21 June 2010, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Mauritania: Hungary, Guatemala and Mauritius.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1, 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.6/9/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.6/9/MRT/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/9/MRT/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and Norway was transmitted to Mauritania through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

5. During the interactive dialogue, 52 delegations made statements. A number of delegations commended Mauritania for the ratification of core human rights instruments and for its efforts in the areas of human rights and democracy. Recommendations made during the dialogue are found in section II of the present report.

A. Presentation by the State under review

6. La délégation a saisi l'occasion du dialogue avec le Groupe de travail, dans le cadre de l'examen périodique universel, pour réaffirmer la volonté du gouvernement de la République Islamique de Mauritanie de poursuivre ses efforts, en sa qualité de membre du Conseil, pour la défense des droits de l'homme, la préservation de la dignité humaine ainsi que le respect des principes fondamentaux des Nations Unies.

7. La délégation a souligné que le rapport national était le résultat d'un processus de concertation dans lequel ont contribué tous les acteurs concernés. Ce rapport a été élaboré par un comité technique interministériel, avec la participation de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme.

8. La délégation a indiqué que la Mauritanie, qui s'apprête à commémorer dans les prochains jours le cinquantenaire de l'indépendance nationale, a érigé les droits de l'homme en principes fondamentaux et irréversibles. Ces principes sont consacrés dans le préambule

de la Constitution qui affirme que « le peuple mauritanien est déterminé à garantir les principes démocratiques tels que définis dans la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme du 10 décembre 1948 et la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples du 28 juillet 1981 ainsi que dans les conventions internationales auxquelles la Mauritanie est partie ».

9. Les lois nationales ont consacré les principes de liberté, de justice et d'égalité, de non-discrimination et de tolérance ainsi que le respect des droits civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels. La Mauritanie a ratifié les principaux traités, conventions et protocoles internationaux relatifs aux droits de l'homme et soumis, à ce titre, les rapports portant sur la mise en œuvre de ces instruments. De même, la Mauritanie a répondu positivement à toutes les demandes de visite de la part des procédures spéciales. Dans ce cadre, le pays a présenté les rapports au Comité pour l'élimination de toutes formes de discrimination raciale (CERD) en 1999 et 2004 ; au Comité des droits de l'enfant (CRC) en 2001 et 2009 ; au Comité pour l'élimination de toutes les formes de discriminations à l'égard des femmes (CEDAW) en 2007.

10. En ce qui concerne les visites des procédures spéciales, la Mauritanie a reçu le Rapporteur spécial sur les formes contemporaines de racisme et de discrimination raciale en 2008, celui sur l'esclavage en 2009 ainsi que le Groupe de travail sur la détention arbitraire en 2008. Toutes ces visites ont permis de mettre en relief la volonté politique du gouvernement mauritanien de relever les défis auxquels il est confronté.

11. En vue de consacrer tous les droits, la Mauritanie a mis en place un cadre institutionnel exhaustif, à travers plusieurs départements ministériels et institutions en charge des droits de l'homme. On peut noter en particulier : le Ministère des affaires sociales, de l'enfance et de la famille ; le Commissariat aux droits de l'homme, à l'action humanitaire et aux relations avec la société civile ; le Médiateur de la République ; la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme ; la Commission nationale pour la transparence financière dans la vie publique ; et le Conseil national de l'enfance.

12. La délégation a indiqué que les réalités mises en exergue par le rapport national confirment la volonté politique forte de son Excellence le Président de la République, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, dans la poursuite des efforts visant à mettre fin aux violations des droits de l'homme, telles que le passif humanitaire et les séquelles de l'esclavage. Elles dénotent aussi la détermination à renforcer les politiques et programmes dont l'objectif est d'édifier un Etat de droit fort, fondé sur la justice et l'égalité.

13. La délégation a souligné que le pays poursuit également l'objectif d'améliorer les conditions de vie et de santé des détenus et mène une politique pénale orientée vers l'amnistie des personnes condamnées ayant rempli les conditions requises.

14. Dans le domaine de la bonne gouvernance, des actions importantes de lutte contre la gabegie ont été engagées à travers la création d'une Commission nationale pour la transparence financière dans la vie publique et la mise en place des instances de la Haute Cour de Justice, chargée de juger les Hauts responsables de l'Etat. Cette nouvelle politique a pour objectifs de garantir une redistribution équitable des ressources et le développement du pays, auparavant entravés par la mauvaise gestion.

15. La délégation a noté que malgré les efforts investis dans la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme, le pays continue, à l'instar des pays en développement, à affronter de multiples défis, en particulier en matière de droits économiques et sociaux qui nécessitent un développement rapide en vue de garantir l'atteinte des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

16. Algeria noted the consolidation of the National Human Rights Commission. It also noted that a de facto moratorium on the death penalty had been in place for 20 years, while sharing concerns regarding its abolition. Algeria also noted a 20 per cent quota for women allocated in electoral mandates, which had led to their representation in municipal councils, the judiciary and other State institutions. Algeria made recommendations.

17. Senegal noted the positive strides made in promoting and protecting human rights, despite a context characterized by some institutional instability. It congratulated Mauritania on the strong measures taken to do away with slavery and welcomed the progress achieved in promoting women's rights, the fact that Mauritania had given priority to the return and total integration of Mauritians who had been refugees in Senegal, and the fact that an OHCHR office would soon open in Nouakchott. Senegal made recommendations.

18. Qatar acknowledged the positive measures taken to address the discrimination issue. It also noted the efforts made with regard to the national human rights institution and its work with civil society to implement human rights policy, as this had been done by the Ministry of Children and the Family. It was pleased that steps and efforts had been undertaken by the Government to achieve reconciliation among all people in the country and encouraged this to continue. Qatar made a recommendation.

19. Oman commended Mauritania for the measures taken to fulfil its international commitments. It highlighted the country's efforts in building institutions such as the Commission for Human Rights, as well as its humanitarian action and relations with civil society. It made a recommendation.

20. Saudi Arabia noted with appreciation that national legislation and policy had included human rights principles. It also welcomed the fact that Mauritania had established a national human rights institution and had provided compulsory education for all children between the ages of 6 and 14. It made a recommendation.

21. Bahrain noted the priorities and challenges, particularly extreme poverty, a major obstacle to the full enjoyment of economic and social rights. It also expressed appreciation for the Government's efforts to promote the advancement of women and for the progress made in building institutions and the judiciary in order to protect women and children, and in creating a civil society that provided care and protection for them. Bahrain requested further information about efforts made to combat poverty through social security. Bahrain made a recommendation.

22. Greece recognized Mauritania's efforts to promote and advance the status of women in society. It expressed concern over Mauritania's general reservation to CEDAW and its reservations to certain provisions of ICCPR, relating to the implementation of Shariah law. It made recommendations.

23. Palestine was pleased that the report submitted by Mauritania indicated the Government's great interest in human rights. Mauritania had codified international human rights principles in its national law. In addition, Mauritania had criminalized slavery and had adopted a broad programme to eliminate it.

24. Mexico welcomed the principal activities undertaken to improve health care and universal access to education. It welcomed initiatives to involve women in politics. It requested further details about the current status of the implementation of conclusions resulting from the study on social protection. Mexico made recommendations.

25. Tunisia welcomed the continued cooperation between Mauritania and international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. It appreciated the role played by institutions such as the Ombudsman, as an independent institution for mediation

between the governmental administration and citizens to settle conflicts in a cordial and neutral manner. It made a recommendation.

26. Iraq appreciated the efforts made by Mauritania to promote and protect human rights, as reflected in the Constitution of 1991. Mauritania had also adopted a series of measures to address human rights challenges. It made a recommendation.

27. Brazil noted the legislation providing for a 20 per cent quota for women in electoral mandates, while noting concerns about the prevalence of discriminatory practices against women, including female genital mutilation. Brazil noted the concerns of the Committee on the Rights of the Child about gavage and the lack of a clear definition of rape and other sexual crimes. Brazil also noted that, owing to unequal access to employment for women, they were overrepresented in the informal sector. Brazil praised the high school enrolment of girls and encouraged the birth registration campaigns. Brazil urged Mauritania to abrogate corporal punishment in law and to abolish the death penalty. Brazil made recommendations.

28. Malaysia positively noted Mauritania's engagement with the international community and the United Nations human rights machinery. It inquired about the progress made in establishing the OHCHR country office, which had been agreed in September 2009. It made recommendations.

29. Bangladesh was pleased to note that Mauritania had demonstrated the political will to address the situation of women and children. It also welcomed the fact that the poverty reduction strategy paper accorded priority to health. While recognizing challenges facing Mauritania, it acknowledged that the country had been affected by international circumstances, including the financial and economic crisis and the food crisis, and had drawn the attention of the international community in the assessment of human rights in Mauritania. It made recommendations.

30. Morocco expressed appreciation for the effective role played by the National Human Rights Commission, particularly in raising awareness about and promoting education on human rights. Morocco praised the legal framework for ending slavery, addressing its after-effects and creating support funds for slavery victims. Morocco welcomed Government efforts to ensure the voluntary return of refugees and guarantee their economic and social reintegration. It supported efforts to combat poverty and youth unemployment. Morocco made recommendations.

31. Pakistan welcomed Mauritania's frank acknowledgement of the challenges faced and was encouraged to note its determination to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens, particularly their economic and social rights. It was concerned by the persistent extreme poverty in Mauritania and stressed that the issue required immediate action. It made recommendations.

32. Egypt congratulated Mauritania on the progress made in the harmonization of domestic laws with international standards in the area of human rights, including laws that had been effective. It paid tribute to Mauritania for improving the human rights situation by allowing the 30 per cent quota for women in the electoral list, as well as with regard to civil society. It also welcomed the positive developments in poverty reduction with a focus on health care and children. It made a recommendation.

33. Poland appreciated the progress made in aligning national legislation with international human rights standards. It noted concerns about violence against children. It asked the steps intended to be taken to end the corporal punishment of children in the public and private spheres. Poland made recommendations.

34. Canada welcomed the positive steps taken by Mauritania in 2007 by creating a framework for criminalizing slavery, underscored the return of Mauritians in 2008 in

cooperation with the High Commissioner for Refugees, and was encouraged by its initiatives to combat discrimination. Canada, however, recalled that only a holistic approach addressing all forms of slavery and discrimination would enable a country to better comply with its international obligations in the area of human rights. It made recommendations.

35. Chad welcomed Mauritania's legal framework for respect for human rights, and asked a question about the current situation of the survivors of slavery.

36. Israel looked forward to the day when constitutional order and democracy would serve as the cornerstone for building a comprehensive human rights framework, both in law and in practice, to ensure adherence to international human rights norms and standards. Israel made recommendations.

37. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya acknowledged the great efforts made by Mauritania in the areas of education, health care and other areas related to human rights, and thanked the country for its efforts in relation to the national strategy for social matters and protection of the elderly and women. It made recommendations.

38. Yemen noted that Mauritania had succeeded in resolving political problems through peaceful means and had held democratic elections in 2009. In addition, Mauritania, being aware of the human rights challenges, had established a number of ministerial agencies to address them. Yemen made a recommendation.

39. La Mauritanie a indiqué que les organisations de la société civile ont été impliquées dans le processus d'élaboration du rapport national conformément aux procédures de l'EPU. Cela s'est traduit par leur participation effective au lancement de la concertation nationale organisée dans le cadre d'un atelier national auquel avaient pris part en juin 2010 toutes les parties prenantes, et dont les conclusions sont reflétées dans le rapport national et qui tiennent compte à la fois des progrès réalisés mais aussi des contraintes et insuffisances constatées.

40. En ce qui concerne la question de l'invitation permanente des procédures spéciales du Conseil des droits de l'homme, la Mauritanie a souligné que le pays a répondu positivement à toutes les demandes de visites des titulaires de mandats et reste attentive à toute demande dans ce sens.

41. A la question de savoir si la Mauritanie envisageait de retirer sa réserve générale à la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discriminations à l'égard des femmes, la délégation a rappelé qu'au moment de son adhésion à cette convention en 2000, la Mauritanie a émis une réserve de portée générale par rapport aux dispositions de la Convention contraires à la Sharia qui est la base du droit national. Suite aux recommandations du Comité en 2007 lors de l'examen du rapport initial de la Mauritanie, il a été décidé d'examiner les dispositions de la Convention en contradiction avec la Sharia. C'est ainsi qu'une concertation très large avec les Oulema a été engagée par le gouvernement. Actuellement, le gouvernement s'attèle à parachever la procédure de la levée de la réserve générale et son remplacement par des réserves bien spécifiées.

42. La délégation a souligné que tous les réfugiés mauritaniens en exil peuvent rentrer librement en Mauritanie, rien ne les empêchant de vivre dans leur pays et de participer à son développement. Après les événements de 1989, plus de 20 000 réfugiés sont rentrés dans le cadre de l'Accord tripartite signé en 2007 entre la Mauritanie, le Sénégal et le HCR. 2400 autres réfugiés sont enregistrés et leur retour est prévu d'ici à la fin du mois de décembre 2010, date à laquelle la Mauritanie entend clore cette opération. Des dispositions sont prises pour que tous les réfugiés obtiennent des certificats de nationalité dès leur retour. Une Agence, dotée de moyens financiers substantiels, chargée de la réinsertion de ces réfugiés a été mise en place.

43. La délégation a indiqué que le 25 mars est célébré chaque année comme journée de la réconciliation nationale à la suite du lancement du règlement du passif humanitaire à Kaedi par Son Excellence le Président de la République. Dans le cadre de ce processus, l'Etat a indemnisé matériellement les victimes et la délégation a salué la solidarité de la communauté internationale et du Haut Commissariat aux droits de l'homme pour l'appui apporté.

44. Concernant l'adhésion de la Mauritanie au Protocole facultatif à la Convention contre la torture (OP-CAT), la délégation a indiqué que la priorité actuelle du pays est de s'acquitter des engagements souscrits lors de l'adhésion en 2004 à la Convention contre la torture, notamment en présentant son rapport initial et en engageant avec le Comité contre la torture un dialogue constructif. La délégation a aussi affirmé que le gouvernement est fermement décidé à mener des enquêtes sur les allégations de torture portées à sa connaissance et à traduire en justice les coupables de tels actes.

45. Plusieurs autres mesures reflètent l'engagement de la Mauritanie à remplir ses obligations conformément à la Convention contre la torture. Il s'agit notamment de la sensibilisation des agents chargés de la sécurité publique, du refus par les juges de considérer les aveux obtenus sous la torture, de l'application par les autorités de mesures disciplinaires en cas de torture avérée, sans préjudice de la responsabilité pénale des auteurs, et de la possibilité pour les prévenus de requérir une expertise médicale au juge qui va établir le degré de responsabilité pénale des auteurs de ces actes. La délégation a aussi indiqué que la CNDH a la possibilité et l'opportunité de faire des visites inopinées dans tous les lieux de détention à travers le pays.

46. La délégation a aussi indiqué que toutes les mesures ont été prises pour l'installation imminente du Bureau du Haut Commissariat aux droits de l'homme à Nouakchott qui de sources dignes de foi pourrait ouvrir ses portes à partir du lundi 15 novembre 2010.

47. Concernant la peine de mort, la délégation a attiré l'attention sur le fait qu'il y avait une commutation de fait de cette peine, admise par la loi d'inspiration qu'est la loi musulmane et aussi par les dispositions pénales. Elle a mentionné le fait que la peine de mort n'a pas été appliquée depuis 23 ans. Ce moratoire sera analysé dans le cadre des réformes en cours qui étudieront les modalités d'adoption d'éventuelles mesures alternatives et de substitutions possibles et rendront les conclusions conformes à la politique pénale du pays.

48. S'agissant de l'égalité entre hommes et femmes, la délégation a indiqué que le droit national ne contient pas de dispositions inégalitaires ou discriminatoires et pour assurer l'égalité, le gouvernement a pris des mesures institutionnelles, élaboré des politiques et stratégies sectorielles, mis en place des groupes de suivi et adopté de nombreux textes législatifs. Par ailleurs, la discrimination en général est interdite et sanctionnée par la nouvelle loi N° 042/2007 relative à la prévention, la prise en charge et le contrôle du VIH/SIDA.

49. En ce qui concerne l'impunité des violences sexistes et domestiques, la délégation a rappelé que la Mauritanie est un pays musulman et dispose à ce titre d'un système de valeurs et une éducation qui représentent la première barrière contre ce type de violences. De plus, dans le cadre de la lutte contre l'impunité des violences sexistes, le gouvernement a pris d'importantes mesures, y compris l'élaboration de procédures opérationnelles standards pour les violences basées sur le genre, une politique de lutte contre les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF), l'adoption d'une Fatwa pour l'abandon des pratiques de MGF en 2010 et l'élaboration en cours d'une politique nationale de lutte contre les violences basées sur le genre.

50. Concernant la question de l'esclavage, la délégation a rappelé qu'il y a une loi qui interdit systématiquement les pratiques esclavagistes, permet aux victimes de porter plainte

et de bénéficier d'une assistance et qui prévoit des sanctions contre les autorités administratives coupables d'inaction dans ce domaine. La dénonciation de pratiques esclavagistes suffit pour déclencher l'action des autorités administratives ou les poursuites judiciaires. La loi sauvegarde aussi les intérêts de l'enfant esclave et punit toute forme de discrimination ou de violence à son égard. Elle prévoit également des mesures pour la réinsertion de l'enfant victime d'esclavagisme. Cette loi a permis de manière générale de réaliser de grandes avancées dans la lutte contre ce phénomène et la délégation a invité les ONG à coopérer et à porter à la connaissance des autorités tous les cas avérés. Pour éradiquer les séquelles et les survivances du phénomène d'esclavagisme, la Mauritanie s'attèle à mettre en place des mesures d'accompagnement, en particulier grâce au programme d'éradication des séquelles de l'esclavage. Un plan d'action pour lutter contre la traite, y compris la traite des femmes et des enfants, sera également mis en œuvre. La délégation a réfuté l'idée selon laquelle il y aurait une persistance des pratiques esclavagistes et a souligné que la lutte contre les séquelles de l'esclavagisme était une action transversale dans le cadre de toutes les politiques mises en œuvre par le gouvernement.

51. Slovakia praised the opening of an OHCHR office in 2009. Slovakia stated that a more holistic approach at all levels of society was required to combat slavery. Slovakia expressed concerns about prison overcrowding, lack of food and health care for detainees, and routine abuse. Slovakia noted the de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 1987. Slovakia acknowledged the improvement in media freedom since the August 2005 coup, which had ended censorship and bureaucratic obstacles to the printing of publications. Slovakia made recommendations.

52. The United States of America commended Mauritania for progress in aligning its national legislation with international human rights standards. Noting the steps taken by the Government and civil society organizations to combat slavery, it expressed concern over the fact that, although Mauritania had banned slavery, no one had ever been convicted of the crime of slaveholding. It inquired whether Mauritania planned to develop a national strategy on slavery. It also expressed concern about the prevalence of human trafficking in Mauritania. It made recommendations.

53. The United Arab Emirates expressed appreciation for the importance attached to human rights, as reflected in the national report and institutions created such as national human rights institutions and the ministry of humanitarian affairs. It made a recommendation.

54. Italy encouraged efforts to address, in collaboration with the relevant international organizations, the challenges related to children's rights, particularly child labour. Italy welcomed the steps taken to withdraw general reservations to CEDAW. Italy noted the adoption of a national strategy and plan of action in 2007 to fight against female genital mutilation. Italy noted reports about the deteriorated situation of the Christian minority, encouraging Mauritania to undertake initiatives to create a better climate for religious tolerance. Italy noted the de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 1987. It made a recommendation.

55. Sri Lanka commended Mauritania for initiating procedures aimed at the withdrawal of its general reservation to CEDAW and welcomed its cooperation with the special procedures, as well as its accession in 2003 to ICRMW. It also commended Mauritania for having made education compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 14. It made a recommendation.

56. France was concerned over information about the persistent use of torture by law enforcement personnel, particularly in detention facilities. It asked for clarity regarding measures taken or envisaged to address this issue and punish the perpetrators of torture.

France noted that the death penalty had not been used de facto since 1987, although it still existed in the penal code and was applicable for homosexuality. France made recommendations.

57. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the progress made in combating discrimination, particularly the law criminalizing slavery and slavery-like practices, while noting concern about the effective implementation of the anti-slavery legislation and the continued existence of caste-based slavery. Welcoming efforts to mainstream gender equality and the national strategy for eliminating female genital mutilation, it expressed concern about violence against women and gender-based discrimination, including reported trafficking in women and girls; the continued practice of early marriage and forced feeding (gavage); and trafficking in children and the prevalence of child labour. It called on Mauritania to ensure access for detainees to independent and effective legal remedies. It made recommendations.

58. Turkey praised the initiation of procedures to withdraw the general reservation to CEDAW. Noting the efforts of Mauritania to organize the voluntary and dignified return of Mauritanians refugees, it stated that accelerating the process of issuing identity cards would benefit the process. It also positively noted Mauritania's various efforts to improve the situation of children. It made recommendations.

59. Spain noted the commitment of Mauritania to human rights since 2005 and encouraged further efforts for consolidation to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. It made recommendations.

60. Norway welcomed the establishment of a national commission to combat gender-based violence. It expressed concern about the human rights situation of children. Norway noted the adoption of a national strategy and plan of action in 2007 against the practice of female genital mutilation. Norway appreciated the efforts made to combat slavery, including the adoption of a law criminalizing it and the establishment of a national programme to eradicate it. Norway emphasized the importance of civil society participation as essential to a meaningful universal periodic review process. Norway made recommendations.

61. Germany commended Mauritania on the agreement it had signed with OHCHR authorizing the establishment of a country office in Mauritania. In the light of the overall female genital mutilation rate in Mauritania, which had remained at approximately 72 per cent for the past few years, it inquired about steps that the Government was taking to persuade its citizens to abandon the practice. It also asked for information about a national strategy focusing on combating slavery and alleviating its impacts. It made recommendations.

62. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Mauritania on its efforts in ending the crisis that had affected its stability, and noted the recent initiatives taken to follow up on the recommendations of several Special Rapporteurs. It made recommendations.

63. Azerbaijan noted that desertification and drought constituted a serious threat to economic and social development and that extreme poverty remained a major problem, affecting almost half the population. It welcomed structural reforms to improve access for children to education. Azerbaijan welcomed the steps taken to improve the status of women and to promote their participation in politics. Azerbaijan expressed appreciation for increased cooperation with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. Azerbaijan made recommendations.

64. Argentina paid tribute to the achievements of Mauritania with regard to the mainstreaming of childhood issues into its poverty reduction strategies and best practices in the areas of cooperation, defence of children's rights and community dialogue. It inquired

about the incorporation of norms aimed at preventing racial and ethnic discrimination into Mauritania's domestic laws and about measures adopted to put an end to the practice of corporal punishment. It made recommendations.

65. Slovenia commended Mauritania for the progress made in aligning its national legislation with international human rights standards. It made recommendations.

66. The Holy See noted the adoption of compulsory education and the implementation of the 2003–2010 national strategy for education, as well as the highest primary school enrolment rate in Africa. It also noted the law permitting the National Human Rights Commission to carry out unannounced visits to detention facilities to monitor the living conditions of prisoners. It noted the significant steps taken to combat slavery. It made recommendations.

67. Sweden, noting that Mauritania had maintained criminal sanctions against same-sex activity between consenting adults, inquired about any initiatives taken to repeal the law forbidding such sexual activity. It also expressed concern over the regular use of torture by security forces against political detainees. It asked for further information about measures taken to investigate and prosecute alleged perpetrators of torture against individuals detained for political reasons or for ordinary crimes. It made recommendations.

68. China welcomed Mauritania's withdrawal of a general reservation to CEDAW and expressed appreciation for its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms. China understood the difficulties facing Mauritania in addressing human rights owing to a lack of financial and human capacity, and called for greater technical assistance from the international community.

69. Switzerland noted the 2007 law criminalizing slavery, expressing concern that slavery still existed in practice. It also noted that new death sentences had been handed down since the most recent execution, in 1987. Switzerland made recommendations.

70. La Mauritanie a indiqué que le pays a ratifié, cette année 2010, la Convention sur les droits des personnes handicapées et les instruments de ratification sont en cours d'élaboration.

71. Concernant le retard accusé par la Mauritanie dans la présentation de rapports aux organes de traités, la délégation a indiqué que cela est dû à la situation particulière qu'a connu le pays à un moment donné et que le gouvernement s'attèle actuellement à combler ce retard. Dans ce cadre, il présentera prochainement son rapport initial devant le Comité des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels.

72. S'agissant de la loi sur le terrorisme, la délégation a précisé que la nouvelle loi donne une définition plus large mais plus précise de l'infraction, et que les procédures de poursuite et d'instruction sont confiées pour l'essentiel à des formations collégiales pour plus d'efficacité. Ces autorités disposent de pouvoirs élargis sans pour autant porter atteinte aux droits de la défense. On observe un renforcement des peines encourues et une meilleure prise en compte des réparations des victimes et parties civiles. En tant que « loi d'Etat », elle est applicable dès son adoption.

73. La délégation a indiqué que si le Code pénal contient des peines à l'encontre des personnes de même sexe ayant des relations sexuelles entre elles, il s'inspire de la loi musulmane Sharia, de l'éthique personnelle et de la spécificité du pays. Ces dispositions seront minutieusement étudiées afin de les conformer aux standards internationaux.

74. La Mauritanie a indiqué qu'à l'instar de la peine de mort, les châtiments corporels n'ont jamais été pratiqués et exécutés. Des dispositions de la loi musulmane et des lois pénales spéciales permettent des peines alternatives ou de substitution.

75. Indonesia highlighted the recent establishment of a gender equality office and noted the Government's endeavour to address some discriminatory social and cultural practices. It encouraged Mauritania to continue the dialogue with special procedures. It made recommendations.

76. Ghana noted the declaration of a fatwa against the practice of female genital mutilation, the adoption of alternatives to custody for children in conflict with the law, the improvement of living conditions in detention centres, the criminalization of slavery, and other ongoing progress. Ghana welcomed the efforts to promote the status of women. It made recommendations.

77. Angola welcomed the first free and transparent election held since 2005. It expressed appreciation for the adoption of the 2009 strategy for the protection of children, requesting further information. Angola welcomed the efforts made to improve maternal mortality, requesting further information about the situation in that area since 2001. Angola noted the high school enrolment rate in rural and semi-rural areas. It encouraged Mauritania to deepen its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms. Angola made recommendations.

78. The Syrian Arab Republic commended Mauritania for its excellent relations with its neighbours and its efforts regarding the protection of public freedoms and in the areas of education and health care. It praised the concrete and serious steps taken, particularly through the adoption in 2008 of a programme to eliminate the remnants of slavery and assist victims. It made a recommendation.

79. Chile highlighted the signing of a multi-part agreement that had contributed to the return of constitutional law. Chile praised the process of the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the defined policies for their integration. The international community should respond to Mauritania's appeal, as indicated in the national report, for support for various high-impact development programmes to assist the country in addressing human rights challenges. Chile made recommendations.

80. Latvia noted that three special procedures mandate holders had recently visited Mauritania and that two other requests to visit the country had been agreed upon in principle. Latvia made a recommendation.

81. Burkina Faso highlighted the determination of Mauritania to comply with the principles set out in international law human rights law and encouraged it to continue its work for the ratification and internalization of international conventions regarding the promotion and protection of human rights. Burkina Faso made recommendations.

82. Having carefully studied Mauritania's report, Nigeria saluted the self-imposed moratorium on the death penalty, which demonstrated the Government's willingness to guarantee the enjoyment of human rights. It also recognized the various challenges facing Mauritania, including in the areas of health, education, the environment, external debt and poor infrastructure, in fulfilling its human rights commitments. Nigeria made recommendations.

83. Ecuador noted the progress made in the protection of the family and children, as well as the decision to open an OHCHR office. Ecuador made recommendations.

84. The Sudan inquired about measures that Mauritania intended to take to address the fact that it had high death and maternal mortality rates, despite national efforts to reduce them. The Sudan made recommendations.

85. Le Président de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (CNDH) a rappelé que la loi du 20 juillet 2010 est venue parfaire la conformité de cette institution avec les principes de Paris et indiqué que dans la réalisation de ses missions, la CNDH procède à

des visites inopinées sur les lieux de detentions ; entreprend des investigations au sujet des cas d'allégations de violation des droits de l'homme ; conduit des activités de promotion, de recherche et d'enseignement en partenariat avec les ONG, partenaires techniques et financiers et les administrations concernées ; et formule des recommandations, notamment à travers son rapport annuel remis au Président de la République.

86. Il a aussi été mentionné que bien qu'ayant participé à l'élaboration du rapport national, la CNDH a élaboré son propre rapport dans lequel elle reconnaît les évolutions institutionnelles et les efforts déployés par le gouvernement mais met également en exergue les contraintes et obstacles à lever pour une pleine réalisation des droits de l'homme.

87. Le Président de la CNDH a également énoncé les axes autour desquels devraient être définis les engagements prioritaires et les nouvelles initiatives pour l'émergence d'une véritable culture des droits de l'homme. Il a exhorté les Etats et la communauté internationale à apporter à la Mauritanie tout l'appui dont elle a besoin.

88. Un autre membre de la CNDH a relevé l'importance de la pratique du dialogue et de la concertation entre les partis de la majorité et de l'opposition sur les questions d'importance, pratique qui renforce la maturation d'une démocratie apaisée dans le pays. Il a aussi souligné le rôle déterminant du Parlement dans l'adoption des lois qui promeuvent les droits de l'homme. Il a noté qu'il n'y a dans le pays aucun détenu politique ou d'opinion.

89. Dans ses remarques finales, la délégation a réaffirmé la ferme volonté de la Mauritanie, au plus haut niveau, de défendre et de consolider les acquis et de poursuivre les efforts en matière de promotion et de défense des droits de l'homme.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

90. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Mauritania and enjoy its support:**

- 90.1. **Withdraw the reservation to CEDAW (Slovenia);**
- 90.2. **Withdraw the general reservation to CEDAW, thus facilitating the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (Chile);**
- 90.3. **Withdraw its general reservation to CEDAW (Greece);**
- 90.4. **Complete the process of withdrawing its general reservation to CEDAW (Norway);**
- 90.5. **Do even more to fully harmonize all of its domestic laws with the international conventions that are in force (Sudan);**
- 90.6. **Enhance the capacity and the independence of the national human rights institution in order to make it more effective and operational (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 90.7. **Support the National Human Rights Commission and encourage it to work in order to elevate its accreditation status from "B" to "A" (Algeria);**
- 90.8. **Further strengthen the National Human Rights Commission and the national commission to combat gender-based violence, and the capacities needed to secure advancement in the human rights field, particularly in the area of women's and children's rights (Norway);**
- 90.9. **Develop a comprehensive nationwide policy consistent with CEDAW; ensure true and genuine gender equality in the fight against gender-based**

violence, including the complete eradication of practices of female genital mutilation; and withdraw the reservation to CEDAW (Spain);

90.10. Develop a national strategy on slavery, and effectively implement all the laws relating to the abolition of slavery (Ghana);

90.11. In line with the recommendations of the CEDAW and CRC Committees, accelerate efforts in promulgating national action plans for the advancement of women and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, including violence against women, and finalize and adopt a national action plan on violence and abuse against children (Malaysia);

90.12. Explore ways and means aimed at instilling democratic norms, standards and principles in the country, including through continuous awareness-raising and education (Malaysia);

90.13. Continue the promotion of human rights, justice and law (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya);

90.14. Develop a national strategy on slavery, including ways to reinforce and expand public awareness-raising campaigns against traditional and modern forms of slavery (United States);

90.15. Further strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies by submitting overdue reports as a matter of priority, and strengthen its cooperation with the special procedures (Norway);

90.16. Continue to take steps to submit reports to treaty bodies (Azerbaijan);

90.17. Reinforce efforts to improve the situation of poverty, education, health, gender equality and advancement of women, with assistance from the international community (Bangladesh);

90.18. Make further efforts to address discrimination against women with a view to eliminating obstacles to the achievement of gender equality (France);

90.19. Cooperate fully with the Council Working Group on the elimination of discrimination against women in law and in practice (France);

90.20. Direct all programmes aimed at improving the status of women, and enhance their participation in all areas of society (Algeria);

90.21. Pursue efforts for the advancement and empowerment of women and for the integration of women's needs into development (Bahrain);

90.22. Further promote the human rights of mothers and children (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya);

90.23. Work towards further improving women's rights (Turkey);

90.24. Continue its work to promote and protect the rights of children (Burkina Faso);

90.25. Adopt a law to prohibit female genital mutilation (Senegal);

90.26. Continue its efforts to overcome the practice of female genital mutilation and other practices that affect the rights of women (Argentina);

90.27. Continue its efforts to prevent, penalize and prosecute sexual crimes perpetrated against women, girls and boys and to ensure the social rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of such crimes (Argentina);

- 90.28. Follow up on the recommendations of a number of treaty bodies in order to adopt a holistic strategy to fight against policies of female genital mutilation, early marriage and forced feeding, and also combat all forms of violence against women, including possible human rights awareness-raising campaigns in cooperation with civil society (Mexico);
- 90.29. Strengthen efforts to enforce the criminalization of female genital mutilation (Poland);
- 90.30. Adopt a comprehensive national plan to combat all forms of violence against women (United Kingdom);
- 90.31. Further scale up the work against the harmful traditional practice of female genital mutilation (Norway);
- 90.32. Accelerate measures to eliminate violence against women (Azerbaijan);
- 90.33. End torture and 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);
- 90.34. Strengthen the supervision of prisons and detention facilities by allocating sufficient resources for that purpose, and increase efforts to improve their conditions so as to comply with international standards (Slovakia);
- 90.35. Carry out an effective and independent investigation into allegations of torture and ill treatment as promptly as possible, with a view to bringing to justice those responsible for such acts (Switzerland);
- 90.36. Develop a strategy for achieving the complete eradication of the practice of slavery and all its forms and remedy its after-effects on women and children (Spain);
- 90.37. Take steps to eradicate slavery, slavery-like practices and related abuses and discrimination in the country (Nigeria);
- 90.38. Continue implementing its Programme to Eradicate the Legacy of Slavery (Pakistan);
- 90.39. Work towards strengthening law enforcement efforts to effectively implement its anti-slavery law (United States);
- 90.40. Intensify the fight against modern forms of slavery (Germany);
- 90.41. Expand the programme adopted in 2008 to eliminate the remnants of slavery, so that it covers the whole territory of Mauritania (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 90.42. Ensure that the 2007 law making slavery a criminal offence is effectively enforced and that all people suspected of slavery are properly prosecuted (Slovakia);
- 90.43. Further strengthen the national programme to eradicate slavery, and take measures to ensure that complaints regarding slavery are being brought before the domestic courts (Norway);
- 90.44. Strengthen and implement the 2007 law that criminalizes slavery through programmes existing since 2009, to eradicate the aftermath of slavery (Holy See);

- 90.45. **Bring alleged perpetrators of slavery to justice, and ensure that victims of slavery enjoy full reparations (Switzerland);**
- 90.46. **Develop and implement a plan of action to combat trafficking in persons in order to combat all forms of exploitation that may be targeting women, children and other vulnerable groups (Senegal);**
- 90.47. **Intensify its law enforcement efforts against trafficking offenders, incorporate anti-trafficking training into its standard police curriculum, and ensure that legal aid and material assistance are made available (United States);**
- 90.48. **Strengthen measures and strategies to combat trafficking in persons, particularly slavery, and the various infringements of the rights of women, and especially girls, particularly in the area of combating female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);**
- 90.49. **Combat child labour with an emphasis on its worst forms in accordance with CRC and ILO standards, and consider seeking technical assistance from ILO on this matter (Brazil);**
- 90.50. **Enforce the judicial system and the penitentiary system with a view to eliminating the deplorable conditions of prisoners and police abuse (Holy See);**
- 90.51. **Take concrete steps to ensure continued stability in terms of the food supply chain to the country, including through bilateral and other arrangements with the international donor community (Malaysia);**
- 90.52. **Intensify all programmes to eradicate poverty in order to achieve Millennium Development Goals, with technical and material assistance from partners (Algeria);**
- 90.53. **Pursue its efforts in the area of economic development, and do not hesitate to ask for technical and material assistance in this regard (Morocco);**
- 90.54. **Redouble efforts to reduce poverty and malnutrition (Azerbaijan);**
- 90.55. **Accelerate efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality (Azerbaijan);**
- 90.56. **Continue to seek technical and financial assistance from the international community to bolster national efforts in the enjoyment of all human rights, including the realization of the right to development (Bangladesh);**
- 90.57. **Consolidate its economic growth initiatives with the help of its technical and financial partners (Pakistan);**
- 90.58. **Continue the efforts made to expand education, in particular children's education, and accord greater importance to the spreading of the culture of human rights through the media and educational institutions (Saudi Arabia);**
- 90.59. **Continue to increase budgetary allocations in the area of the access of children to education (Azerbaijan);**
- 90.60. **Continue to invest in education, not only to maintain the high level of literacy, but also to educate the population in such a way that citizens can articulate and organize their age-old traditions with the requirements of modern urban society, and to train itself to prevent the emergence of new forms of poverty (Holy See);**

- 90.61. Fully involve civil society in the follow-up to this universal periodic review (United Kingdom);
- 90.62. Seek the assistance of the international community, the United Nations and its specialized agencies to provide the country with the needed support in confronting challenges towards ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights and the attainment of its Millennium Development Goals (Nigeria);
- 90.63. Request the necessary assistance from various United Nations bodies in order to take up the various challenges mentioned in its national report (Burkina Faso);
- 90.64. Seek all possible technical and financial assistance it needs from the international community as well as OHCHR (Pakistan).
91. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Mauritania, which considers that they have already been implemented or are in the process of implementation:
- 91.1. Adhere to main international human rights instruments so that it can continue to promote women's rights and develop programmes for the rights of children, and pursue the efforts to disseminate a human rights culture in the executive branches of the Government (Egypt);
- 91.2. Consider the ratification of and accession to the outstanding major international human rights instruments (Nigeria);
- 91.3. Bring domestic law into full compliance with CRC (Poland);
- 91.4. Continue the process of harmonizing domestic legislation with provisions of international instruments (Azerbaijan);
- 91.5. Celebrate 25 March every year as a National Day of Reconciliation in order to enhance reconciliation in the society (Qatar);
- 91.6. Develop a comprehensive operational plan for the promotion of gender equality and advancement of women, containing clear goals and timetables, as well as a mechanism for monitoring (Slovenia);
- 91.7. Carry out national information campaigns designed to promote a culture that values diversity, understanding and tolerance (Canada);
- 91.8. Continue its efforts to further accelerate its ongoing process of developing a comprehensive mechanism to further promote and protect human rights and freedoms (Sri Lanka);
- 91.9. Disseminate the provisions of CRC, and conduct public awareness-raising campaigns among local communities (Poland);
- 91.10. Strengthen its cooperation with treaty bodies (Senegal);
- 91.11. Continue its persistent efforts to promote mechanisms for the protection of the rights of children, particularly children with disabilities, and to secure their rights, and continue the implementation of programmes for children (Yemen);
- 91.12. Carry out an awareness-raising campaign to persuade citizens to abandon the female genital mutilation practice (Germany);
- 91.13. Ensure that the security forces receive clear guidance and, if needed, training, so that they can act at all times in conformity with international

standards in the area of respect for the rights of peoples, in particular with regard to the right to life, the prohibition of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment (Canada);

91.14. Pursue its action in the area of education, and ensure that all legal practitioners benefit from it, namely, judges, penitentiary staff and law enforcement personnel in the rule of law (United Arab Emirates);

91.15. Ensure that confessions obtained through torture have no value and that the new reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure is effectively carried out with respect to access to counsel and family and limits on the custody period (Sweden);

91.16. Strengthen or enhance efforts to put an end to corruption in public institutions (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya);

91.17. Continue its efforts to guarantee comprehensive coverage on its territory for pre-school education (Sudan);

91.18. Maintain its policy regarding the high rate of primary school attendance (Angola);

91.19. Protect the Christian and other religious minorities by fostering a climate of religious tolerance and respect in the country (Ghana);

91.20. Cooperate with countries of destination in order to return illegal refugees and migrants to their countries of origin (Oman);

91.21. Speed up the process of repatriating Mauritians who in the past had been expelled, and granting them and their families a certificate of citizenship. Those who returned to Mauritania before the introduction of the corrective measures should also have their nationality re-established (Canada);

91.22. Continue efforts to ensure the voluntary return of refugees while guaranteeing their economic and social integration, and take advantage of the financial and technical assistance available to accompany its efforts (Morocco);

91.23. Establish an inclusive process to follow up on the universal periodic review recommendations (Norway);

91.24. Request the international community to support its efforts with regard to its institutional and policy reforms in the field of national unity and social cohesion, gender equality and the protection of children's rights, by sharing best practices and by providing capacity-building and technical assistance as required (Indonesia).

92. The following recommendations will be examined by Mauritania, which will provide responses in due course, but no later than the 16th session of the Human Rights Council, in March 2011. The responses of Mauritania to these recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Council at its 16th session:

92.1. Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to CAT, and create an independent mechanism for the monitoring of detention facilities (France);

92.2. Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), and recognize the competence of the Committee on enforced disappearance under articles 31 and 32 of the Convention (France);

- 92.3. **Ratify the Optional Protocols to ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT and CEDAW, the Optional Protocol to CRC on children in armed conflict, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol thereto, and CED (Spain);**
- 92.4. **Maintain the de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to achieving its abolition, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Spain);**
- 92.5. **Ratify other important international human rights instruments, such as CRPD and the Optional Protocol thereto (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 92.6. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT (Switzerland);**
- 92.7. **Withdraw the reservation to CEDAW, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and develop a comprehensive and effective preventive strategy against harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, early marriage and *gavage* (force-feeding) (Ghana);**
- 92.8. **Withdraw its reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);**
- 92.9. **Accede to OP-CAT (Turkey);**
- 92.10. **Study the possibility of ratifying the following international instruments: the Optional Protocols to ICCPR, CRPD and the Optional Protocol thereto, and CED (Argentina);**
- 92.11. **Withdraw the general reservation to CRC and CEDAW (Brazil);**
- 92.12. **Withdraw reservations to CAT, ICCPR and CRC (Ecuador);**
- 92.13. **Withdraw reservation to CEDAW, and carry out constitutional and legal reforms in accordance with the principles of CEDAW with a view to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls that still exist in the areas of education, labour and the family, particularly adopting the measures necessary to eliminate practices such as female genital mutilation, early forced marriage, polygamy, repudiation and force-feeding (Ecuador);**
- 92.14. **Further bolster the role of the Ombudsman, and enable citizens to appeal directly to the Ombudsman without going through elected officers (Tunisia);**
- 92.15. **Set up an independent and impartial inquiry designed to monitor the progress made in the area of the eradication of the practice of discrimination and slavery, which would include civil society and non-governmental organizations that work towards fighting against discriminatory practices and slavery (Canada);**
- 92.16. **Extend open and standing invitations to the special procedures (Chile);**
- 92.17. **Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures (Brazil);**
- 92.18. **Issue a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedures (Poland);**
- 92.19. **Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**
- 92.20. **Continue its efforts to ensure that women have the fullest access to education, and to enact legislation that will effectively protect them from exclusion and violence (Indonesia);**

- 92.21. **Combat gender inequality and discriminatory practices in the areas of work, the family, social roles and personal integrity, by amending vague or non-existing legislation and rules addressing pervasive stereotypes and combating practices such as female genital mutilation and *gavage* (Brazil);**
- 92.22. **Amend provisions of the Personal Status Code that discriminate against married women, in particular with regard to property, polygamy and repudiation, and repeal all discriminatory measures against women within the Mauritanian Nationality Code, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Israel);**
- 92.23. **Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it as the final goal (France);**
- 92.24. **Reconsider the possibility of imposing a moratorium on the death penalty (Algeria);**
- 92.25. **Abolish the death penalty (Brazil);**
- 92.26. **Impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty, and commute all death sentences to imprisonment terms with a view to abolishing it entirely (Slovakia);**
- 92.27. **Adopt a de jure moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**
- 92.28. **Continue suspending capital death penalties by establishing, as a first step, a moratorium on all executions, and by subsequently abolishing the death penalty completely (Switzerland);**
- 92.29. **Impose a moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty (Greece);**
- 92.30. **Remove the death penalty and corporal punishment from Mauritanian laws, and establish special procedures for juvenile justice (Ecuador);**
- 92.31. **Adopt international human right standards to deal with the problem of female genital mutilation (Iraq);**
- 92.32. **Implement a comprehensive approach to combating all forms of violence against women, and criminalize the act of rape and other sexual crimes in the Model Penal Code, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Israel);**
- 92.33. **Clearly place sexual crimes in statute books, in accordance with international standards, and prevent discrimination against and the stigmatization of women and girls who have been the victims of such crimes and acts of violence, so that they will not be accused of adultery and be treated as criminals (Ecuador);**
- 92.34. **Reform penal legislation with a view to prohibiting torture (France);**
- 92.35. **Eradicate in law and in practice all forms of discrimination, including traditional slavery, the caste system, the racial and ethnic paradigm in State institutions and the use of ethnicity as a political tool, as noted by the Special Rapporteur on racism, and develop a national strategy on slavery, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on slavery (Israel);**
- 92.36. **Adopt a national strategy on slavery in line with the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery (United Kingdom);**

- 92.37. Base itself on the cases of certain countries, such as Brazil, in order to eradicate the vestiges of slavery (Angola);
- 92.38. Adopt the measures necessary to abolish the caste system, given that, in many cases, it is conducive to the enduring existence of various forms of slavery (Ecuador);
- 92.39. Eradicate in law and in practice corporal punishment and the amputation of limbs, child abuse and neglect, female genital mutilation, forced and early marriage, and the forced feeding of girls, as well as issues related to birth registration, and seek technical assistance from United Nations agencies in this regard, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Israel);
- 92.40. Take measures to reduce widespread child labour and trafficking in children, to raise the age of criminal responsibility and to eradicate corporal punishment of children (Norway);
- 92.41. Step up the fight against trafficking in persons and the unlawful smuggling of migrants through various modalities (Ecuador);
- 92.42. Reinforce the legal framework for the protection of children, and remove the provision in the penal code establishing the age of criminal responsibility as 7 years old, as well as the corporal punishment of children, including flagellation and amputation (France);
- 92.43. Increase, in accordance with international standards, the minimum age of criminal responsibility, as well as the harmonization of domestic legislation with international norms in the area of child labour (Mexico);
- 92.44. Take steps to make the judiciary more representative of Mauritanian society in terms of ethnic and social origin, language and gender (United Kingdom);
- 92.45. Bring the minimum criminal age of responsibility and the minimum age for marriage into line with CRC, and ban any form of corporal punishment (Spain);
- 92.46. Carry out a review of norms and practices relating to freedom of belief in order to harmonize domestic laws with international standards established under ICCPR (Mexico);
- 92.47. Further simplify the process of media registration and lower fees for broadcasting licensing (Slovakia).
93. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Mauritania:
- 93.1. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ecuador);
- 93.2. Include sexual orientation and gender identity in non-discrimination laws and programmes, and promote tolerance and non-discrimination regarding sexual orientation or identity, in line with the Yogyakarta principles (Sweden);
- 93.3. Remove the provisions of the penal code that allow the punishment of the death penalty for homosexuality, as soon as possible (France);
- 93.4. Ensure that the death penalty is not applied to consensual same-sex relations between adults, and that the Penal Code does not criminalize such activity (Sweden).

94. **The conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the positions 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 Mohamed Abdallahi Ould Khattrra, Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme, à l'Action Humanitaire et aux Relations avec la Société Civile, and was composed of the following members:

Délégation officielle

- Ahmedou Tidjane Bal : Chargé de mission (Présidence de la République)
- Cheikh Ahmed Ould Zahav : Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la Mauritanie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des organisations internationales à Genève
- Mariata Kane : Directrice des Affaires Pénales et de l'Administration Pénitentiaire (Ministère de la Justice)
- Mohamed Yahya Ould Sidi Haiba : Directeur des Affaires Juridiques et Consulaires (Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération)
- Cheikh Tourad Ould Mohamed : Directeur des Droits de l'Homme, Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme, à l'Action Humanitaire et aux Relations avec la Société Civile

Délégation représentant la CNDH

- Bamariam Baba Koita : Président de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme
- Boubacar Ahmedou Ghaddour : Sénateur, Membre de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme

Représentants des ONG

- Me Bilal Ould Abdel Barka: Avocat
 - Mme Vatma El Kory Oumrane : Présidente de l'ONG NTIC et Citoyenneté – Maurifemme
-