

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MAURITANIA

### **BELGIUM**

- La Belgique se réjouit de l'adhésion de la Mauritanie à un nombre important d'instruments internationaux en matière de droits de l'homme. Elle recommande au gouvernement de la Mauritanie de procéder à la signature et à la ratification du Protocole facultatif à la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, concernant l'implication d'enfants dans les conflits armés. La Belgique se réjouit par ailleurs du moratoire en place sur la peine de mort depuis 1987. La délégation belge félicite le Gouvernement mauritanien du maintien de ce moratoire et encourage le Gouvernement à progresser sur la voie de l'abolition. Dans ce contexte nous demandons au Gouvernement de préciser quels sont les pas envisageables pour progresser vers la signature et la ratification du Deuxième Protocole facultatif se rapportant au Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques visant à abolir la peine de mort.
- La Belgique soutient les procédures spéciales du Conseil des droits de l'Homme et a formulé une invitation permanente pour ces procédures spéciales et reçoit régulièrement des mandataires du Conseil. Elle recommande à tous les pays membres des NU y compris la Mauritanie de formuler une telle invitation permanente et prie le Gouvernement de préciser quelles sont les échéances pour l'acceptation de demandes de visites formulées par les rapporteurs compétents pour la torture et les exécutions extra-judiciaires.
- La délégation belge se réfère à la loi anti-esclavage de 2007 et aux recommandations formulées par le rapporteur spécial sur les formes contemporaines d'esclavage. Quel est le nombre d'enquêtes ouvertes suite à des accusations de pratiques d'esclavage et combien de condamnations effectives ont été obtenues pour ces crimes devant la justice de la Mauritanie ? Quelles mesures ont été prises pour réduire l'impunité autour de ces pratiques d'esclavage ?
- Finalement, la Belgique se félicite du Programme national pour l'éradication de l'esclavage adopté en mars 2014 et demande au Gouvernement de préciser quelles sont les étapes prévues pour amender la Loi anti-esclavage de 2007 et particulièrement les perspectives pour l'ajout de l'esclavage héréditaire et le mariage forcé comme des crimes punissables devant la loi ?

## GERMANY

- Does the Government of Mauritania plan to conduct an evaluation of the measures and strategies adopted in order to end the practice of female genital mutilation, and in which areas does the Government identify the need for further steps?

## NORWAY

- Mauritania approved a new anti-slavery law in August 2015. Despite the national and international legal instruments intended to eradicate slavery the practice has continued. Could the government of Mauritania elaborate on how the law and the new road map, developed by the government in cooperation with the OHCHR, will be implemented?
- What measures will the government take to ensure a safe environment for human rights activists and safeguard freedom of expression, given the reports on the arrest of several activists in the beginning of 2015.
- Could the government of Mauritania elaborate on the measures taken to ensure the rights of women, the implementation of existing legal frameworks and more specifically on the process of developing a “violence against women law”.
- Is the Government of Mauritania considering to establish a *de jure* moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and to formally commute all death sentences?

## SLOVENIA

- We note with appreciation the adoption of a national strategy for gender mainstreaming. However, we are concerned about the reports on persistence of discrimination and violence against women. What measures will the Government of Mauritania take to effectively implement the strategy and what is the timeframe for these measures?
- We also note with appreciation the adoption of the road map for eradicating the consequences of slavery. What measures will be taken to effectively implement the road map and how will the implementation be monitored?

## SWEDEN

- What is the Government of Mauritania actively doing to ensure respect for the prohibition against any violation of the physical or moral integrity of the human person, as outlined in the national legislation? What measures are taken to investigate and bring to justice alleged perpetrators of torture and other forms of ill-treatment against individuals detained for political reasons or for ordinary crimes?

- Could the Government of Mauritania elaborate on any initiatives to repeal the law that forbids sexual activity between consenting individuals of the same sex, and to promote tolerance and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or identity in line with the Yogyakarta Principles?
- What steps are currently being taken in order to ensure that the laws of criminalizing slavery become implemented?
- What measures are currently being taken by the Government of Mauritania to strengthen the institutions and capacities needed to secure the advancement of human rights of women, and in particular steps in order to end the practice of female genital mutilation?

#### **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- What steps has the Government of Mauritania taken to consider and implement the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2014?
- What steps has the Government of Mauritania taken to implement a) the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and b) the 29 recommendations of the roadmap to eradicate slavery adopted in March 2014?
- What steps has the Government of Mauritania taken to support the Tadamoun national agency in identifying the consequences of – and proposing and implementing programmes to combat – slavery and poverty?
- Could you confirm that the de facto moratorium on the death penalty will remain in place and, if so, that it will extend to cases of apostasy?