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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Mauritania

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-seventh session from 18 January to 8 February 2021. The review of Mauritania was held at the 3rd meeting, on 19 January 2021. The delegation of Mauritania was headed by the Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society, Mohamed El Hassen Boukhreiss. At its 10th meeting, held on 22 January 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Mauritania.

2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Mauritania: China, Libya and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Mauritania:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America was transmitted to Mauritania through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Mauritanian delegation emphasized that the country had amended its Constitution in 2017 and organized, under the supervision of the Independent National Electoral Commission, local, legislative and presidential elections in 2019. The presidential election had led to the first peaceful transfer of power between two democratically elected presidents.

6. In implementing his programme, the President had taken an inclusive approach towards all actors, irrespective of their political affiliation, with a view to achieving social harmony. The commitment of Mauritania to the protection and promotion of human rights was based on the values of tolerance and openness, which were the bedrock of the national culture. These values were embodied in the political will of the President, who considered the protection of human rights as the cornerstone of his political programme.

7. The Government had translated this political will into an action plan on the implementation of the recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review. The institutional and legal framework to promote human rights had been considerably improved. The country had acceded to the Arab Charter on Human Rights and ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), and the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144). Many laws had been adopted in accordance with the international instruments ratified by Mauritania. A number of bills were under consideration, including one on combating violence against women and girls and another on associations, foundations and networks.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/37/MRT/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/37/MRT/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/37/MRT/3.

8. The country had improved the effectiveness of institutions working in the area of human rights and had established new institutions, such as the Office for National Solidarity and the Fight against Exclusion, the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the National Council for Children and the National Observatory on the Rights of Women and Girls. Several other entities were being established, including the National Agency on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.

9. Regarding cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, Mauritania had submitted the reports required by the treaty bodies and had agreed to visits by special rapporteurs, including on the issues of torture, extreme poverty and contemporary forms of slavery, and by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

10. Concerning trafficking in persons, the Government had adopted Act No. 2020-017 of 6 August 2020 on the prevention and punishment of trafficking in persons and the protection of victims. In addition, the capacity of the courts specialized in combating slavery-related practices had been strengthened through a considerable increase in financial allocations and human resource support. Judicial activity in that domain had intensified: the courts had begun to hear pending cases and had issued decisions at all levels of procedure, involving sentences ranging from 1 to 20 years' imprisonment, together with reparations for the victims.

11. As for anti-discrimination efforts, the Constitution prohibited all forms of discrimination and established the principle of equality for all, while protecting civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In that regard, the Government had adopted and applied legislation that criminalized all forms and manifestations of discrimination.

12. The participation of women in politics had improved, with their representation reaching 19.6 per cent in the National Assembly, 35 per cent in municipal councils and 35.5 per cent in regional councils. Women accounted for 34.6 per cent of all public servants.

13. In order to address new challenges related to the economic and social situation arising from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Government had reconsidered its priorities and had launched three major programmes: the Pastoral Programme, the National Solidarity and COVID-19 Pandemic Response Plan and the Economic Take-off Programme.

14. With regard to access to health-care services, significant progress had been made, in particular in terms of achieving universal coverage. Disease prevention and control and the management of public health emergencies had also improved.

15. With the aim of advancing the health and education sectors, the President had announced 10 key decisions to boost the standard of living of teachers, health-care workers and certain vulnerable groups, such as retirees, widows of retirees, patients with kidney failure, persons with special needs and children with disabilities.

16. A ministerial committee on human rights, headed by the Prime Minister, had been set up, as had a technical committee responsible for preparing reports on the implementation of agreements and for monitoring the implementation of recommendations emanating from treaty bodies and the universal periodic review.

17. However, numerous challenges remained, the most significant being the scarcity of human and financial resources and the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the challenges of terrorism and climate change. Nevertheless, the Government was cooperating with technical and financial partners to carry out ambitious poverty reduction programmes in its effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 98 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Burundi commended Mauritania for its peaceful presidential elections in 2019. It welcomed the measures taken to address female genital mutilation and early marriage and the adoption of a COVID-19 response plan.

20. Cameroon congratulated Mauritania for the measures it had taken to ensure freedom of opinion, expression and association, including a good legal and institutional framework.
21. Canada welcomed the measures Mauritania had taken to promote reproductive rights. It urged Mauritania to impose a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.
22. Chad commended Mauritania for accepting many of the recommendations that had been made at its second review. Chad welcomed the legislative measures Mauritania had taken and the institutional reforms it had undertaken.
23. China welcomed the formulation and implementation of the strategy for accelerated growth and shared prosperity and the measures Mauritania was taking to promote economic and social development, combat extremism and terrorism, develop education and health, safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups and fight COVID-19.
24. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Mauritania on accepting many of the recommendations received at its second review and on ratifying the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143) and the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144).
25. Chile encouraged Mauritania to adopt a human rights-based approach to deal with the sanitary and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
26. Cuba acknowledged the efforts of Mauritania to improve people's living standards and reduce poverty, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
27. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other regional human rights instruments.
28. Denmark welcomed the adoption of the Reproductive Health Act, which prohibited all forms of gender-based violence. It was concerned about detention conditions and the restrictive framework regarding the rights of women.
29. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended the efforts and progress Mauritania had made in the promotion and protection of human rights by strengthening the national human rights institutions.
30. Egypt appreciated the efforts Mauritania had made to uphold human rights, including the ratification of international conventions and measures taken to combat contemporary forms of slavery, achieve sustainable development and deal with COVID-19.
31. Ethiopia welcomed the increase in the budget for education, the provision of school buses for female students in rural areas and the enrolment of children with disabilities in special education.
32. Fiji commended Mauritania for its First Priorities social programme, which aimed to meet the most pressing needs of its people.
33. Finland appreciated the engagement of Mauritania in the universal periodic review process.
34. France, while noting improvements in human rights, remained concerned at violations of fundamental freedoms and the rights of women.
35. Gabon noted the progress Mauritania had made in addressing economic and social challenges through programmes aimed at improving people's living conditions, including the COVID-19 pandemic response plan.
36. Georgia noted the support of Mauritania for the full implementation of the OHCHR country office mandate and its cooperation with United Nations agencies in assisting refugee and migrant children.
37. Germany welcomed the increased openness of Mauritania to a dialogue that included both government and civil society stakeholders during the review preparations. Nevertheless, it remained concerned about the rights of vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

38. Ghana acknowledged the progress Mauritania had made in enhancing the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights through the adoption of the National Police Regulations Act.

39. The Holy See acknowledged the establishment of several new judicial institutions, including three criminal courts specializing in the fight against slavery and one focused on addressing corruption.

40. Honduras commended Mauritania for its progress and the results obtained in the implementation of recommendations received in previous reviews. Honduras particularly welcomed the ratification by Mauritania of the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143).

41. Iceland made recommendations.

42. India appreciated the continued efforts of Mauritania to promote and protect human rights by enacting various pieces of human rights-related legislation and adopting relevant policies and programmes, and its cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

43. Indonesia welcomed the progress Mauritania had made in implementing the recommendations it had accepted during the previous review cycle, particularly the adoption of legislative and institutional frameworks for the promotion of women's rights and its efforts to eliminate slavery.

44. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated the action Mauritania had taken to combat contemporary forms of slavery, particularly the establishment of special courts and the provision of legal and judicial assistance to victims.

45. Iraq welcomed the developments Mauritania had achieved in the institutional framework for human rights, especially the steps taken to reform the work of State institutions.

46. Ireland acknowledged the efforts Mauritania had made to draft legislation to combat sexual and gender-based violence. It called for the eradication of female genital mutilation and the abolition of the death penalty, and was concerned about arbitrary detention, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders.

47. Japan commended Mauritania for the measures it had taken to increase the representation of women in politics and in decision-making entities, and to guarantee freedom of association, including the bill on associations, networks and foundations.

48. Jordan appreciated the implementation in Mauritania of the road map to combat contemporary forms of slavery, and the establishment of a programme for the creation of microenterprises to assist 6,000 women in the context of better representation of women in decision-making bodies.

49. Kazakhstan noted the reforms Mauritania had undertaken to implement the recommendations made during the previous review cycle. It welcomed the adoption in 2017 of the Reproductive Health Act, which recognized reproductive health as a universal right.

50. Kenya applauded the Government's efforts to promote and protect human rights.

51. Kuwait appreciated the steps Mauritania had taken to implement the recommendations it had accepted during the previous review cycle, especially on the legal and institutional framework for human rights and the implementation of the road map on contemporary forms of slavery.

52. In response to questions from various States, the Mauritanian delegation stated that the country would examine its position on accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in the light of its national interests. Mauritania would maintain its *de facto* moratorium on capital punishment, regardless of the nature of the offence or the method of execution. No death penalty had been carried out since 1987.

53. The legal framework to prevent and combat slavery had been complemented by Act No. 2020-017, which covered all possible forms of exploitation of persons. It provided for the establishment of a national authority to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. The decree setting out the authority's composition and organization was being

drafted. The National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons had been adopted and mainly centred on prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships. The operational budget of the anti-slavery courts had been doubled to strengthen their ability to process cases.

54. An amendment to the Mauritanian Nationality Code was being considered to allow individuals to hold multiple nationalities. The amendment would consequently safeguard the right of both parents, men and women alike, to transmit their nationality to their descendants.

55. Latvia made recommendations.

56. Lebanon commended Mauritania for its efforts to advance human rights through the adoption of legislation, its adherence to many international human rights instruments and its reform of State institutions.

57. Lesotho applauded Mauritania for having ratified the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143) and the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144). It welcomed the steps taken to address overcrowding in prisons.

58. Libya appreciated the efforts Mauritania had made to prepare its national report and commended the Government for respecting its commitments in the field of human rights, despite the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

59. Liechtenstein made recommendations.

60. Malaysia noted the consultations with civil society to prepare the national report and the numerous legislative reforms undertaken, including a review of the law to combat violence against women and girls.

61. Maldives welcomed the efforts Mauritania had made to advance human rights in the domestic sphere and its progress since the previous review cycle, including the constitutional reform to increase the number of elected representatives.

62. Mali noted the preparation of reports to the treaty bodies by an interministerial technical committee, the establishment of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the adoption of measures to improve the representation of women in elected bodies.

63. The Marshall Islands welcomed the national adaptation plan of Mauritania to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change. It was concerned that gender-based violence continued not to be prosecuted and that female genital mutilation persisted.

64. Mauritius welcomed the progress Mauritania had made in strengthening laws to protect children and penalize early marriage and female genital mutilation. It invited Mauritania to invest more in its education system and to consider those living in rural areas.

65. Mexico made recommendations.

66. Montenegro commended Mauritania for its cooperation with the OHCHR country office and encouraged it to strengthen its engagement with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and with the treaty bodies. It called on Mauritania to limit the death penalty to the most serious crimes.

67. Morocco welcomed the renewal of the mandate of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the programmes to address the economic and social challenges relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

68. Mozambique recognized that Mauritania had drawn up its national report in difficult circumstances owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and praised the progress it had made on implementing the recommendations from the second review cycle.

69. Myanmar recognized the Government's endeavours in the promotion and protection of human rights and the development of the legal and institutional frameworks.

70. Namibia commended Mauritania for the positive human rights-based measures it had taken, including the adoption of the Act on the Prevention and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons and the Protection of Victims.

71. Nepal praised Mauritania for implementing a minimum quota for women on electoral lists for legislative, regional and municipal elections. It recognized the General Child Protection Code, which criminalized child marriage and female genital mutilation.
72. The Netherlands commended Mauritania for adopting legislation to combat slavery and to strengthen the rights of women and girls. It strongly regretted the persistence of widespread discrimination, especially against the Haratin and Afro-Mauritanian communities.
73. New Zealand made recommendations.
74. Nigeria commended Mauritania for its efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks on the protection of human rights and the measures it had taken to fight against human trafficking and to protect persons in vulnerable situations.
75. Norway commended Mauritania for its first democratic transition in June 2019 and recognized the Government's increased efforts to combat corruption.
76. Oman noted the efforts of Mauritania to promote and protect human rights, especially its qualitative and quantitative progress in the adoption of laws.
77. Pakistan appreciated the fact that Mauritania had developed a national action plan for the implementation of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review and noted the steps it had taken to increase women's empowerment and to address gender-based violence.
78. The Philippines commended Mauritania for its adoption of laws on reproductive health, child protection, discrimination and prevention of trafficking. It welcomed the ratification of the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143) and the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144).
79. Poland acknowledged the efforts of Mauritania to eradicate slavery, combat female genital mutilation and prevent women from being denied the right to own or inherit land. It noted the pressure put on the health and social systems by the COVID-19 pandemic.
80. Portugal welcomed the efforts of Mauritania to implement the review recommendations and the pledges it had made at the Global Refugee Forum. It called on Mauritania to implement them swiftly.
81. The Russian Federation welcomed the changes Mauritania had made in the area of law enforcement after the second review cycle, especially its accession to international human rights instruments and their effective incorporation into the national legal system.
82. Rwanda noted with appreciation the establishment by Mauritania of a mechanism for implementing the National Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming, composed of a committee chaired by the Prime Minister and a gender monitoring group.
83. Saudi Arabia welcomed the great efforts made by Mauritania to protect and promote human rights and to ensure positive interaction with international human rights mechanisms.
84. Serbia commended Mauritania for its efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle and welcomed the measures aimed at the inclusion of women in public and political life.
85. Slovenia welcomed the adoption of the Act on the Criminalization and Punishment of Slavery and urged the Government to enforce it consistently.
86. Somalia welcomed the Government's efforts to align the national legislation of Mauritania with its international human rights obligations, with the aim of providing legal guidance to the country's judiciary and enhancing citizens' rights.
87. Spain congratulated Mauritania on the efforts made by the National Human Rights Commission to promote significant participation by civil society in the preparation of the review.
88. Sri Lanka welcomed the adoption of the bill to combat violence against women and girls and the establishment of legal procedures to protect victims.

89. In reply to the questions raised, the Mauritanian delegation stated that the country had undertaken a number of reforms in recent years, including in the legal, institutional and socioeconomic spheres, to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

90. The Government was taking steps to accelerate voluntary abandonment of the practice of female genital mutilation, which was now considered as a public health issue. Health-care professionals, including gynecologists, midwives, chief nurses and assistant midwives, had been part of efforts to raise awareness in health-care facilities and to prevent the medicalization of female genital mutilation.

91. As for child marriage, the Government had set up a multisectoral committee to design and coordinate actions against child marriage made up of representatives of the relevant ministries, civil society, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund. The committee had formulated an action plan in conjunction with the African Union campaign to end child marriage.

92. Censorship had been abolished in 2006 through Ordinance No. 017-2006 of 12 July 2006 on freedom of the press. Act No. 2011-025 of 8 March 2011 took into account digital media, the liberalization of the broadcasting sector and financial support for private media and abolished custodial sentences for violations of press laws. It also abolished the censorship of opinions. Lastly, Act No. 2010-045 of 26 July 2010 on audiovisual communications provided for the opening up of the broadcasting sector, which until then had been a State monopoly. Pursuant to the Act, five private radio stations and five private television channels had been authorized.

93. The State of Palestine welcomed the educational achievements made by Mauritania and its efforts to improve the quality of education for women and to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

94. The Sudan commended Mauritania for its constitutional reforms of 2017 and the peaceful democratic transition of power resulting from the 2019 presidential elections.

95. Switzerland welcomed the efforts made by the Government since the 2019 presidential elections to improve the human rights situation in the country.

96. Togo noted the significant progress achieved by Mauritania in the area of human rights over the past several years.

97. Tunisia welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144) and the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

98. Uganda congratulated Mauritania on its successful constitutional reform in 2017 and the subsequent political elections. It noted the challenges Mauritania faced in terms of inadequate resources for human rights institutions, which had been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

99. Ukraine noted the efforts of Mauritania to eradicate female genital mutilation, forced marriage and child marriage, and its adoption of legislation criminalizing discrimination. Ukraine stressed that making the death penalty mandatory in cases of apostasy and blasphemy raised serious concerns.

100. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the establishment of three new courts to combat slavery and slavery-like practices and three district courts to combat corruption, in addition to reforms regarding key institutions.

101. The United Kingdom recognized the commitment of Mauritania to improving access to primary and secondary education and urged the Government to prioritize girls' access to 12 years of quality education to put them on an equal footing with boys.

102. The United States commended Mauritania for its efforts to tackle human trafficking, hereditary slavery and other human rights abuses, while noting that further action was necessary. The United States expressed concern about child labour.

103. Uruguay welcomed the ratification of the ILO Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143) and the ILO Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144). Uruguay commended Mauritania for its criminalization of torture and its establishment of a national torture preventive mechanism.

104. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recognized the important steps Mauritania had taken to ensure the enjoyment of rights by the most vulnerable sectors of society, including the rights to free education and land ownership, and its efforts to combat malnutrition among women and children through cash transfers and free food distribution.

105. Yemen highlighted the progress Mauritania had made in promoting human rights, including strengthening the institutional framework and protecting civil and political rights and freedoms.

106. Zambia made recommendations.

107. Algeria noted that the national report of Mauritania and other relevant information it had provided reflected the scope of the authorities' efforts to promote and protect human rights.

108. Angola welcomed the commitment of the national authorities to promote and protect human rights.

109. Argentina made recommendations.

110. Armenia welcomed the increase in women's participation in the public sphere and the commitment Mauritania had made to signing the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

111. Australia welcomed the collaboration of Mauritania with international partners to combat extremism, radicalization and terrorism. It urged Mauritania to enforce its General Child Protection Code, which criminalized female genital mutilation, and to respect religious freedom.

112. Bahrain commended Mauritania for its progress in promoting women's economic empowerment, protecting children's rights and implementing the national poverty reduction strategy.

113. Bangladesh commended Mauritania for its efforts to strengthen human rights institutions and its commitment to peace and security through participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Central Africa.

114. Barbados noted that Mauritania had expanded the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and had made progress in terms of the number and quality of laws adopted.

115. Belarus noted that Mauritania had increased its cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, continued its constitutional reform, strengthened its regulatory framework for human rights and reformed State institutions.

116. Belgium welcomed the efforts Mauritania had made since the previous review, while highlighting that further progress remained to be made.

117. Botswana welcomed the implementation by Mauritania of many recommendations from the second review cycle, such as its recommendation to adopt comprehensive legislation to address trafficking in persons. It commended Mauritania for setting up new institutions, including specialized courts.

118. Brazil welcomed the establishment of the OHCHR country office in Mauritania. It expressed concern about alleged violations of freedom of religion and of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

119. Bulgaria commended Mauritania for the progress made on children's rights and the update of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children. It urged Mauritania to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and children with disabilities.

120. Burkina Faso welcomed the implementation of the national strategy to combat female genital mutilation, which had led many communities in the regions where the practice was most prevalent to publicly declare their commitment to abandoning it.

121. Italy appreciated the efforts Mauritania had made since the previous review, particularly to eradicate slavery, fight against torture, prevent female genital mutilation and criminalize discrimination.

122. Senegal welcomed the efforts Mauritania had made to implement the road map to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery, in consultation with the public and civil society organizations.

123. Djibouti welcomed the measures Mauritania had taken to implement the recommendations received during the previous review, particularly the reform of the Constitution of 2017 aimed at improving democracy and rule of law.

124. In its concluding remarks, the Mauritanian delegation stressed that foreign nationals and non-Muslims were free to practise their religion in accordance with national laws and moral values. It was a criminal offence for Mauritanian nationals to change religion on pain of the penalties provided for in that regard.

125. Mauritania had focused its response to the COVID-19 pandemic on providing care to vulnerable groups. The Government had formulated operational guidelines aimed at incorporating human rights into the pandemic response. Considerable sums had been allocated to the ministry responsible for human rights. These steps had not affected the funding initially allocated to the socioeconomic programme to promote and protect human rights.

126. The Government had set up a new agency for solidarity and the fight against exclusion. The agency had funded 29 primary and 6 other schools and the construction of 20 health clinics and 6 water supply systems for rural populations. The agency had launched a large-scale programme to increase household income. In that connection, it had distributed food supplies to 20,200 households, 200 of which included foreign nationals.

127. The Government had also disbursed a first round of cash assistance to 187,000 households, followed by a second round to 210,000 households, in both urban and rural areas.

128. The definition of terrorism in Mauritania was in line with the definition used by the regional organizations of which Mauritania was a member. Acts of terrorism were clearly defined, in keeping with the definitions in universal instruments, and counter-terrorism efforts were carried out with due regard for human rights. The National Counter-Terrorism Committee was up and running, and the cooperation mechanisms were restructured and operational. Act No. 2005-048 of 27 July 2005 on combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism had been revised in 2016.

129. The Mauritanian delegation reaffirmed the country's commitment to redouble its efforts to promote and protect human rights and stated that it was counting on the international community's support to that end.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

130. **The following recommendations will be examined by Mauritania, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:**

130.1 **Expedite the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which Mauritania is not yet party, as previously recommended (Uruguay);**

130.2 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Rwanda);**

130.3 **Sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as previously recommended (Armenia);**

- 130.4 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);
- 130.5 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Poland);
- 130.6 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);
- 130.7 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Kazakhstan);
- 130.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Norway);
- 130.9 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Argentina);
- 130.10 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal);
- 130.11 Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);
- 130.12 Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);
- 130.13 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 130.14 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein);
- 130.15 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and initiate a political and legislative process to abolish the death penalty (Finland);
- 130.16 Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);
- 130.17 Abolish the death penalty from its legal system and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Poland);
- 130.18 Continue the moratorium on the death penalty while working towards a complete abolition of the death penalty for all crimes and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Germany);
- 130.19 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);
- 130.20 Take further steps towards the formal abolition of the death penalty, including through legislative changes to remove capital punishment from its penal code and ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand);

130.21 Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Honduras);

130.22 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Honduras);

130.23 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict to effectively protect the rights of children (Japan);

130.24 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to which Mauritania is not yet a party (Ukraine);

130.25 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as well as to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Togo);

130.26 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Honduras);

130.27 Work towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Indonesia);

130.28 Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);

130.29 Accede to and implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Poland);

130.30 Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia);

130.31 Ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version as well as the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);

130.32 Commit to the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes (Liechtenstein);

130.33 Ratify the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (Rwanda);

130.34 Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Somalia);

130.35 Consider acceding to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Senegal);

130.36 Ratify the International Labour Organization Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (Namibia);

130.37 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Zambia);

130.38 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

- 130.39 Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as previously recommended (Latvia);
- 130.40 Accelerate the full implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in consultation with the communities concerned (Finland);
- 130.41 Strengthen cooperation with international and regional human rights protection mechanisms (Lesotho);
- 130.42 Continue to cooperate with international and regional human rights mechanisms (Egypt);
- 130.43 Amend the Constitution to abolish the death penalty (Marshall Islands);
- 130.44 Enshrine in the Constitution the right of all persons to education, including access to education free of charge for all children, in particular young girls from ethnic groups such as the Haratin and black African groups (Mexico);
- 130.45 Decriminalize apostasy and amend the Constitution to protect freedom of religion and allow people of a non-Muslim faith to remain citizens (Australia);
- 130.46 Continue efforts to fulfil its international obligations by further developing and implementing comprehensive national plans and programmes (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 130.47 Continue to bring its national legislation into line with its international human rights obligations (Russian Federation);
- 130.48 Amend the Penal Code and legislation on information and communication in order to bring them into line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);
- 130.49 Harmonize its national human rights framework with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 130.50 Criminalize discrimination, in keeping with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Mexico);
- 130.51 Promote the approval of the bill on gender violence and accelerate the adoption of a new national action plan on this form of violence, and criminalize rape in accordance with international human rights standards (Chile);
- 130.52 Adopt a comprehensive legislative framework on sexual and gender-based violence which includes a definition of rape that is consistent with international human rights standards (Ireland);
- 130.53 Swiftly adopt the draft legislation aimed at prohibiting the worst forms of child labour, ensuring that it is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Montenegro);
- 130.54 Finalize the adoption of a framework law to fight violence against women, following the action plan for the implementation of the road map for the eradication of contemporary forms of slavery (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 130.55 Adopt the draft law prohibiting the worst forms of child labour to bring it into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Chad);
- 130.56 Adopt a law on violence against women and girls in order to effectively protect victims of violence (Canada);
- 130.57 Take further steps towards ensuring the effective implementation of the national strategy for strengthening social cohesion (Georgia);

- 130.58 Step up efforts to develop the national strategy for the promotion and protection of human rights in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to strengthen national human rights institutions (Russian Federation);
- 130.59 Take the necessary measures in order to bring the national human rights commission into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Togo);
- 130.60 Further strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission to fulfil its role (Bangladesh);
- 130.61 Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission's scope of action, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);
- 130.62 Continue efforts to eradicate discriminatory practices, including slavery (Uganda);
- 130.63 Pursue progress in promoting the rights of women and girls, in particular through the amended law to combat discrimination against women (Saudi Arabia);
- 130.64 Address the discriminatory impact on women of its existing laws on divorce, child custody and inheritance (New Zealand);
- 130.65 Modify legislation in order to ensure equality of rights of women and men in relation to transfer of nationality to children, marriage, family relations, access to property and inheritance, as previously recommended (Spain);
- 130.66 Incorporate into national legislation a definition of discrimination in order to align it with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ensuring effective remedies for any discrimination (Brazil);
- 130.67 Take additional measures for the effective implementation of laws on gender-based discrimination, in line with Mauritania's obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Switzerland);
- 130.68 Intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against girls and against children from disadvantaged or vulnerable groups (Bulgaria);
- 130.69 Prevent discrimination against persons belonging to minorities, including by removing obstacles to civil registration (Italy);
- 130.70 Implement a national plan to end discriminatory practices and to increase inclusion and social diversity (Angola);
- 130.71 Persist in improving the legal framework on the sanction system for all forms of discrimination in a manner that would prevent any selective interpretation and manipulation of laws covering this segment of human rights (Serbia);
- 130.72 Strengthen the special measures concerning racial and ethnic minorities in order to encourage their full integration into society (Togo);
- 130.73 Carry out an information and public awareness campaign, including in the education system, in order to combat the sociocultural prejudices that undermine the efforts of the Mauritanian Government in the area of fighting racial and ethnic discrimination (Spain);
- 130.74 Increase its efforts to end all forms of slavery and discrimination, especially based on caste or ethnicity, and investigate and prosecute traffickers and those holding people in slavery (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 130.75 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relationships (Italy);

- 130.76 Decriminalize consensual same sex-relations between adults (Norway);
- 130.77 Repeal the criminalization of same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults (Belgium);
- 130.78 Decriminalize homosexuality and ensure the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons against any form of harassment and against arbitrary detention (France);
- 130.79 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);
- 130.80 Fully recognize and protect the human rights of all Mauritians, particularly women and girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Netherlands);
- 130.81 Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change adaptation and mitigation frameworks, and ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous and local communities are meaningfully engaged in their implementation (Fiji);
- 130.82 Take steps towards a human rights-based approach to addressing climate change, with due attention given to the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups such as women and children (Philippines);
- 130.83 More actively engage with other countries in order to strengthen climate resilience and to fight climate change (Georgia);
- 130.84 Continue to strengthen efforts to integrate vulnerable groups in the development process (Iraq);
- 130.85 Pursue efforts towards promoting women's rights and integrating vulnerable groups into the development process (Yemen);
- 130.86 Continue efforts to integrate vulnerable groups into the development process, particularly with the establishment of the "Taa'zur" agency (Lebanon);
- 130.87 Pursue efforts to integrate vulnerable groups in the development process, especially through the "Taa'zur" agency (Jordan);
- 130.88 Pursue efforts to integrate vulnerable groups in the development process, especially through the "Taa'zur" agency (Libya);
- 130.89 Pursue efforts to implement the national strategy for local development (Jordan);
- 130.90 Continue to mobilize resources and seek the necessary support to enhance its capacity to protect and promote human rights (Nigeria);
- 130.91 Revise article 3 of Law No. 2010-035 on combating terrorism to bring it into conformity with international standards (Chad);
- 130.92 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (France);
- 130.93 Abolish the death penalty in all cases and circumstances (Portugal);
- 130.94 Consider initiating processes to abolish the death penalty, to commute the sentences of prisoners currently on death row to imprisonment and to remove from national legislation all references to stoning as a method of execution (Brazil);
- 130.95 Consider adopting a de jure moratorium with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);
- 130.96 Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty and commute all death sentences to alternative penalties (Switzerland);

- 130.97 **Maintain the current de facto moratorium on the death penalty and take positive steps to abolish the death penalty (Fiji);**
- 130.98 **Keep in place the de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its formal definitive abolition (Uruguay);**
- 130.99 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**
- 130.100 **Ensure that sentences of persons who remain under sentence of death are commuted without delay (Namibia);**
- 130.101 **Ensure that people in detention are not victims of torture or ill-treatment and combat impunity (France);**
- 130.102 **Bring its prison and detention conditions into line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Denmark);**
- 130.103 **Continue efforts to train staff of detention centres on the provisions of international agreements and international standards for detention centres (United Arab Emirates);**
- 130.104 **Intensify efforts to strengthen the justice sector (Iraq);**
- 130.105 **Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict slaveholders with appropriate prison terms in accordance with the 2015 anti-slavery law and the 2020 Act on the Prevention and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons (United States of America);**
- 130.106 **Ensure that all allegations of torture are subject to independent investigation and that those responsible are brought to justice (Switzerland);**
- 130.107 **Conduct in-depth and impartial investigations into the violations suffered by human rights defenders and bring those responsible to justice (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 130.108 **Ensure accountability for human rights violations, especially for reported cases of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation (Germany);**
- 130.109 **Strengthen the measures necessary to identify and prosecute female genital mutilation as a harmful practice (Spain);**
- 130.110 **Fully and effectively implement its legislation criminalizing slavery through the prosecution of individual cases, the compensation of victims and the reintegration of former slaves in society (Netherlands);**
- 130.111 **Intensify its efforts to eliminate slavery, and strengthen the capacity of courts to ensure that all crimes of slavery are subject to prosecution (New Zealand);**
- 130.112 **Take the necessary measures to repeal Law No. 93-23 (1993) on amnesty and create an independent mechanism for justice and reconciliation with the power to conduct investigations into past crimes (Belgium);**
- 130.113 **Take further action to identify and release people in slavery, and prosecute perpetrators (Norway);**
- 130.114 **Strengthen the justice system by increasing funding for anti-slavery courts and improving training and resourcing for judges, prosecutors and police, ensuring that authorities also respect and support victims throughout the judicial process (United States of America);**
- 130.115 **Intensify efforts to build the capacity of judges, lawyers and court officials in the promotion and protection of human rights (Uganda);**

- 130.116 Reinforce training and capacity-building in human rights for judiciary staff members, particularly judges, lawyers and court officials (Mozambique);
- 130.117 Amend its bill on associations, foundations and networks to bring it into line with international standards relating to fundamental freedoms (Canada);
- 130.118 Release all human rights defenders currently arbitrarily detained (Ireland);
- 130.119 Take concrete steps to prevent the arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defenders (Ireland);
- 130.120 Provide a constructive and safe environment for peaceful assembly and freedom of expression to enable civil society, non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders to conduct their activities (New Zealand);
- 130.121 Continue its efforts to enhance the role of civil society in light of the recent law aiming at improving the legal framework for associations and protecting human rights defenders (Oman);
- 130.122 Promote freedom of association by passing and implementing the law on associations, strengthening non-governmental organizations' and civil society's capacity to combat human trafficking (United States of America);
- 130.123 Enable Mauritians to fully enjoy the right to freedom of religion or belief and decriminalize apostasy (Italy);
- 130.124 Ensure the freedom of expression of all religious groups and cease the practice of rescinding citizenship from Christian converts (Holy See);
- 130.125 Ensure that national legislation is in line with international human rights standards, including by removing the crime of apostasy from national legislation and respecting the right to change religion (Latvia);
- 130.126 Remove from legislation any identification of blasphemy and apostasy as a crime and enable Mauritians to fully enjoy their right to freedom of religion or belief, including the right to change religion and the right not to believe (Netherlands);
- 130.127 Assess the amendment of legislative provisions infringing on freedom of thought, conscience and religion and freedom of expression, in line with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Argentina);
- 130.128 Ensure that the fundamental right to religious freedom is exercised freely (Ukraine);
- 130.129 Take effective steps to combat all forms of slavery and slavery-like practices, including sexual and labour exploitation, sale, abduction of and trafficking in children and other vulnerable groups, and to provide justice to the survivors (Liechtenstein);
- 130.130 Step up efforts to gather data on the scope of situations of slavery or slavery-like practices which may still exist and intensify the fight against them with a view to eradicating such practices, in particular by ensuring effective implementation of Act No. 2015-031 on the prohibition of slavery and slavery-like practices (Argentina);
- 130.131 Step up the efforts aimed at fighting against slavery in all its forms and reinforce protection mechanisms for persons who were subjected to slavery, especially children (Armenia);
- 130.132 Take action to identify, account for and release people in slavery, support victims, and strictly enforce anti-slavery laws (Australia);

- 130.133 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery (Bahrain);
- 130.134 Continue to take adequate measures to eradicate all contemporary forms of slavery (India);
- 130.135 Increase efforts to fully eliminate practices related to the legacy of slavery (Burundi);
- 130.136 Take all steps to combat slavery-like practices and to end child exploitation (France);
- 130.137 Speed up the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Sudan);
- 130.138 Continue efforts to protect women and children against human trafficking (Lesotho);
- 130.139 Invest additional efforts in fighting human trafficking by improving the legal framework, relying on international standards on the rights of the child (Serbia);
- 130.140 Incorporate a comprehensive child-rights perspective into the action plan on combating trafficking in persons to further combat the sexual and labour exploitation, sale, abduction of and trafficking in children (Malaysia);
- 130.141 Intensify efforts to prohibit all forms of slavery, including the provision of adequate financial and human resources for the specialized courts to ensure that investigated cases lead to convictions (Botswana);
- 130.142 Take the necessary measures to eradicate human trafficking and forced labour, including child labour (Italy);
- 130.143 Take further measures to eradicate slavery, including by improving enforcement practices to combat this crime and providing support and rehabilitation for victims of slavery (Belarus);
- 130.144 Mobilize adequate resources that cater for effective implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Ethiopia);
- 130.145 Ensure the effective implementation of the trafficking in persons Act, including by promoting the reporting of child trafficking incidents (Malaysia);
- 130.146 Strengthen implementation of its anti-human trafficking efforts, particularly through its National Action Plan (Philippines);
- 130.147 Improve and strengthen the legal and institutional framework with a view to eliminating forced labour, child forced labour and human trafficking (Mozambique);
- 130.148 Combat trafficking in persons by raising awareness of it, documenting the phenomenon and improving the legal framework, as well as by ensuring that all offenders are prosecuted in court, while protecting and assisting victims through social reintegration and voluntary return (Holy See);
- 130.149 Scale up efforts to combat human trafficking and protect the rights of victims as well as the rights of migrants and persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);
- 130.150 Fight against human trafficking in coordination with other countries in the region (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 130.151 Cooperate with all international activists in the fight against trafficking in persons (Somalia);
- 130.152 Redouble its efforts in operationalizing the national employment promotion strategy, which prioritizes the creation of sustainable employment (Ethiopia);

- 130.153 Pursue the implementation of programmes aimed at promoting economic and social rights, notably combating youth unemployment (Egypt);
- 130.154 Maintain and broaden actions on social and economic welfare, within the framework of the “My commitments” and “First Priorities” programmes established by the Government (Cuba);
- 130.155 Continue efforts to implement the economic development programme and community initiative (Kuwait);
- 130.156 Continue its good progress aimed at strengthening work in the field of civil status (Kuwait);
- 130.157 Further strengthen its efforts to fight against poverty, and promote access to health and education in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and other partners’ programmes (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);
- 130.158 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development to overcome the effect of COVID-19 and to reduce the number of people living in poverty (China);
- 130.159 Continue to implement and consolidate its successful national programmes to combat poverty, extreme poverty and social exclusion (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 130.160 Continue its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the country (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 130.161 Prioritize the promotion of food security and the intensification of the fight against malnutrition, especially among women and children (Holy See);
- 130.162 Reinforce efforts aimed at improving the quality of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, particularly in schools (Barbados);
- 130.163 Pursue efforts to implement the national “Rafah” programme for the family (Jordan);
- 130.164 Pursue efforts to implement the national “Rafah” programme for the family (Libya);
- 130.165 Carry on its efforts aimed at implementing the national “Rafah” programme for the advancement and stability of the family (Oman);
- 130.166 Continue efforts aimed at implementing the national “Rafah” programme for the family (Saudi Arabia);
- 130.167 Promote ongoing progress towards economic, social and cultural rights for all Mauritians (Tunisia);
- 130.168 Continue to implement the National Solidarity and Pandemic Response Plan to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the vulnerable population (Maldives);
- 130.169 Strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons, particularly in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Argentina);
- 130.170 Intensify efforts to provide health-care services in the context of the pandemic (Bahrain);
- 130.171 Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information (Fiji);
- 130.172 Amend its legislation in order to legalize the termination of pregnancies, in cases of risk to the life of the pregnant woman, rape, incest and severe impairment of the fetus (Denmark);

130.173 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development to introduce a module on sexual and reproductive health in school curricula for middle and high school and modules on adolescent sexual and reproductive health in the curriculum of health and medical schools (Iceland);

130.174 Act to enforce its 2017 law recognizing reproductive health as a universal right as well as the country's criminalization of female genital mutilation and fully implement its general code on children's protection (New Zealand);

130.175 Implement effectively the law on reproductive health of November 2017, in particular the eradication of the practice of female genital mutilation (Belgium);

130.176 Continue its efforts to increase access to education with the aim of educating all people over 15 years of age (Islamic Republic of Iran);

130.177 Strengthen human rights education in its national curriculum as well as in training for public officials and law enforcement officers (Indonesia);

130.178 Implement specific programmes to extend the education of young girls and reduce their dropout rates (Angola);

130.179 Maintain its commitment to improving enrolment and attendance of children at the primary school level (Barbados);

130.180 Consider extending the current periods for compulsory education and free education, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Sri Lanka);

130.181 Take steps to build national capacities, including through human rights education, to comply with Mauritania's international human rights obligations (Pakistan);

130.182 Extend human rights education and awareness-raising programmes to civil servants (Algeria);

130.183 Ensure equal access to education for all children, including children with disabilities (Kazakhstan);

130.184 Continue efforts to ensure access to education for all, including through enhancing investment in education to prevent school dropouts (Bangladesh);

130.185 Intensify its efforts in the field of education to ensure access to quality education for all, with particular emphasis on literacy for women and girls (Djibouti);

130.186 Enhance efforts to increase the quality of education, including by providing continuous training to teachers and strengthening vocational education programmes (Sri Lanka);

130.187 Enhance efforts to increase the quality of education, including by providing training to teachers, constructing and improving educational facilities and schools, particularly in rural areas (Malaysia);

130.188 Continue cooperation in training and capacity-building for the government coordination team for human rights, which has represented ministries, institutions and official bodies (governmental and security) since 2014 (United Arab Emirates);

130.189 Pursue efforts to improve the quality of education by providing training for teachers and improving schools in rural areas (State of Palestine);

130.190 Continue its measures, which guarantee for all children a complete and quality education (Myanmar);

- 130.191 **Step up policies for access for girls and women to education at all levels (Algeria);**
- 130.192 **Continue the efforts undertaken to reinforce the protection of women's rights, especially by taking all necessary measures to ensure the adoption in Parliament of a law combating violence against women and girls (Germany);**
- 130.193 **Complete the bill on violence against women and strengthen protection mechanisms in the context of the pandemic (Gabon);**
- 130.194 **Elaborate effective instruments to implement the law on combating violence against women (Switzerland);**
- 130.195 **Promote legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation (Argentina);**
- 130.196 **Swiftly adopt a law to combat violence against women and girls and put an end to the impunity of the perpetrators of such violence (France);**
- 130.197 **Continue and strengthen all laws and measures aimed at combating all forms of violence against women (Djibouti);**
- 130.198 **Investigate cases of violence against women and girls, in the private and public spheres, and prosecute those responsible (Maldives);**
- 130.199 **Investigate cases of violence against women, in the private and public spheres alike, and prosecute and punish those responsible (Montenegro);**
- 130.200 **Define rape as a criminal offence in accordance with international human rights standards and ensure that cases of violence against women and girls are adequately investigated, prosecuted, and punished (Marshall Islands);**
- 130.201 **Criminalize female genital mutilation to expedite the definitive eradication of this harmful practice by 2025 (Uruguay);**
- 130.202 **Provide measures to put an end to the practice of female genital mutilation (Senegal);**
- 130.203 **Put an end to harmful customary practices that prevent women and girls from fully enjoying their rights, particularly the right to own and inherit land (Zambia);**
- 130.204 **Take further action to criminalize gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, including the strengthening and enforcement of the legal framework (Norway);**
- 130.205 **Take effective steps to eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including by introducing a definition of the offence of rape that is consistent with international human rights standards, and to ensure justice for survivors (Liechtenstein);**
- 130.206 **Combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, in law and in practice, and make further efforts to prevent female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage (Italy);**
- 130.207 **Pursue efforts to combat violence against women and girls (Morocco);**
- 130.208 **Adopt the bill to combat violence against women and girls (Myanmar);**
- 130.209 **Expedite enacting a national law on violence against women and girls (Kenya);**
- 130.210 **Continue efforts towards the ratification by the National Assembly of the law to combat gender-based violence, particularly against women and girls (Mozambique);**
- 130.211 **Adopt a comprehensive and multisectoral approach to combat female genital mutilation, including its criminalization, and the conducting of training and awareness-raising campaigns (Botswana);**

- 130.212 Adopt a law criminalizing female genital mutilation which takes into consideration a multisectoral approach, the change of social norms, human rights, gender equality and the training of service providers (Iceland);
- 130.213 Adopt a law criminalizing female genital mutilation and take measures to increase support to service providers who ensure the medical and psychosocial care of survivors (Canada);
- 130.214 Adopt and implement a national law criminalizing gender-based violence and female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);
- 130.215 End all forms of violence against women and girls, inter alia, by eradicating the persistent practice of female genital mutilation, and by adopting the draft law and a new national action plan to combat violence against women and girls (Finland);
- 130.216 Intensify actions aimed at combating the persistence of the clandestine practice of female genital mutilation, by punishing the perpetrators, including parents and members of the family (Gabon);
- 130.217 Implement actions aimed at combating the practice of female genital mutilation, in particular by adopting severe penalties for those involved, including parents and members of the family (Kenya);
- 130.218 Intensify efforts to end forced marriages and female genital mutilation (Philippines);
- 130.219 Continue the progress made in the protection of the rights of women and girls, in particular the adoption of the amended law to combat violence against women and girls (Lebanon);
- 130.220 Repeal the criminalization of *zina*, which not only discourages rape victims from filing a complaint but can also lead to their punishment for adultery (Portugal);
- 130.221 Continue to take measures regarding women's empowerment (Pakistan);
- 130.222 Continue the progress made in the promotion of women's rights and girls' rights (Cameroon);
- 130.223 Continue to implement the national strategy for gender mainstreaming, so as to promote gender equality and to better protect women's rights (China);
- 130.224 Strengthen efforts to further promote the rights of women, including through actions for improving literacy rates and reducing dropout rates among women and girls (Japan);
- 130.225 Continue the advancement of women's empowerment in political and economic sectors (Myanmar);
- 130.226 Continue to advance the enjoyment of human rights by addressing discrimination and violence against women and girls, in keeping with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Barbados);
- 130.227 Encourage the promotion of female entrepreneurship and strengthen the capacities and leadership of businesswomen (Morocco);
- 130.228 Create an encouraging environment to facilitate women's access to formal work (Indonesia);
- 130.229 Continue to provide support for programmes and small projects for women, and to highlight their decision-making skills (Libya);
- 130.230 Pursue efforts to promote the political and public participation and economic empowerment of women (Tunisia);

- 130.231 Continue measures to increase the representation of women and other marginalized communities in political and public life (Nepal);
- 130.232 Continue efforts to increase the representation of women in executive and legislative bodies at all levels of decision-making (Sudan);
- 130.233 Continue working for the empowerment and active participation of women, including their representation in decision-making bodies (Cuba);
- 130.234 Improve the quota of women's representation in legislative and decision-making bodies (Somalia);
- 130.235 Make additional efforts to increase the representation of women in public and political life (Bangladesh);
- 130.236 Continue to reinforce international and domestic laws to ensure equal rights between men and women, in particular with regard to the transfer of nationality to children and spouses as well as the right to own and inherit land (Ghana);
- 130.237 Revise its Nationality Code to ensure equality between men and women in granting nationality and the civil registration of children (Canada);
- 130.238 Continue to make efforts to provide educational facilities for girl children and advance equal access to vocational training facilities (India);
- 130.239 Explicitly prohibit any form of corporal punishment of boys and girls in all settings, including at home (Chile);
- 130.240 Draft and enact legislation as a matter of priority to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home and as a sentence for a crime (Zambia);
- 130.241 Amend legislation, including the Personal Status Code, with a view to prohibiting child marriage (Mexico);
- 130.242 Move forward to end child marriage, with the goal of ending all child marriage by 2030 as per the Sustainable Development Goals (Kazakhstan);
- 130.243 Continue efforts to eliminate forced marriage and child marriage and put an end to forced child labour with an aim of guaranteeing access to complete and quality education for all children in Mauritania (Holy See);
- 130.244 Pursue its efforts to combat child marriage, in particular by carrying out awareness-raising campaigns among traditional and religious leaders (Gabon);
- 130.245 Intensify efforts to combat sexual and labour exploitation of children (Belarus);
- 130.246 Continue the progress made in the field of the advancement and protection of children and the defence of their rights (Tunisia);
- 130.247 Take measures to ensure the systematic registration and issuance of birth certificates to all children born on national territory regardless of their status (Kenya);
- 130.248 Take the necessary steps to implement the action plan to combat child labour (Kenya);
- 130.249 Take specific measures to combat child labour (Angola);
- 130.250 Intensify the efforts to eliminate child labour (Ukraine);
- 130.251 Take further action to fulfil children's right to education, including children without civil registration documents and children with disabilities (Norway);
- 130.252 Improve access to education and the school enrolment rates of all children, especially for the most vulnerable ones, like children living with

disabilities, children living on the street and children living in rural areas (Germany);

130.253 Ensure universal access to civil registration and documentation (Portugal);

130.254 Continue to implement strategies in order to provide public services to persons with disabilities and further integrate them in social and economic life (State of Palestine);

130.255 Redouble efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, integrate them and provide health care to them (Sudan);

130.256 Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to adequate health care and guarantee all children with disabilities the right to inclusive education (Bulgaria);

130.257 Take further steps to guarantee all children with disabilities the right to inclusive education in schools (India);

130.258 Continue efforts to protect persons with disabilities, particularly their integration in schools (Algeria);

130.259 Strengthen efforts to remove barriers preventing access by children with disabilities to social protection, health-care services and an inclusive, quality education system (Fiji);

130.260 Consider adopting a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all forms of discrimination against vulnerable populations, including children from minority groups and children with disabilities (Ghana);

130.261 Adhere to existing international frameworks to protect migrants and refugees, including those attempting to travel to the Canary Islands who land in Mauritania (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

130.262 Intensify efforts to fully implement legislation that seeks to protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families (Ghana);

130.263 Ensure the protection of the human rights of migrants, particularly with regard to the situation of migrant women irregularly employed as domestic workers, who are particularly susceptible to exploitation and to prostitution (Holy See);

130.264 Further strengthen protection of labour rights of all migrant workers living in the country (Sri Lanka);

130.265 Continue to allocate funds for the development of inclusive education, including for the children of irregular migrants (Lesotho);

130.266 Promote the rights of refugees and migrants by providing legal advice and integration support (Somalia).

131. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition de la délégation

La délégation de la Mauritanie était présidée par SEM Mohamed El Hassen BOUKHREISS, Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme, à l'Action Humanitaire et aux Relations avec la Société Civile et composée des membres suivants:

- SEM BAL Mohamed El Habib, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent;
 - Mr Harouna TRAORE, Chargé de mission à la Présidence de la République;
 - Mr Isselmou MEINOUEH, Conseiller au Premier Ministère;
 - Mr Moulaye Abdallah MOULAYE ABDALLAH, Directeur des Affaires Pénales et de l'Administration Pénitentiaire au Ministère de la Justice;
 - Mr Sid'Ahmed Lebatt AMAR, Directeur des Conventions et Traités au MAECME;
 - Mr Mohamed Lemine Mohamed El Bechir, Premier Conseiller à la Mission;
 - Mr Saleck Hammah, Premier Conseiller à la Mission;
 - Mr Sidi Mohamed Ahmed JIDOU, Directeur Général du Centre d'Accueil et d'Insertion des Enfants en Conflit avec la loi;
 - Mr Khaled CHEIKHNA, Conseiller Juridique au Ministère de la Fonction Publique, du Travail et de la Modernisation de l'Administration;
 - Mr Abdallahi DIAKITE, Conseiller Juridique au Ministère des Affaires Sociales, de l'Enfance et de la Famille;
 - Mr Sidi Mohamed LIMAM, Directeur de la Protection des Droits de l'Homme et du Suivi des Engagements Internationaux au Commissariat;
 - Mr Mohameden Horma BABANA, Directeur des Relations avec la Société Civile au Commissariat;
 - Mr Isselmou SALIHI, Coordinateur du Centre d'Information, de sensibilisation et de Documentation au CDHAHRSC;
 - Madame Warda Mohamed Khouye, Conseillère à la Mission;
 - Toutou Yargue AMBOUHA, Cadre au Centre d'Information, de Sensibilisation et de Documentation au CDHAHRSC.
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