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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Mauritania

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review*

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania presents its compliments to the Chair and members of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and has the honour to refer to the review that it underwent on 20 January 2026 at the Working Group's fifty-first session, following which 271 recommendations were made to it by the reviewing States.

2. The recommendations underwent a rigorous and inclusive review, demonstrating the Government's commitment to achieving continuous progress through dialogue, transparency and accountability and reflecting a sovereign decision guided by national priorities and the country's ongoing structural reforms.

3. Of the 271 recommendations reviewed:

- A total of 229 recommendations, or 84.5%, were accepted
- A total of 39 recommendations, or 14.3%, were noted
- A total of 3 recommendations, or 1.1%, were partially accepted and partially noted

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.1; 130.2; 130.3	Noted	Mauritania reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, for ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto to take place, there must first be a broad national dialogue involving all of the nation's key stakeholders, including religious authorities and civil society, to ensure social and cultural acceptance of the mechanism. At this stage, the Government prefers to focus on the effective implementation of the Convention at the national level.
130.4	Noted	Mauritania reaffirms its full commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women. However, the reservations to the articles referred to have been maintained owing to the need to ensure that the country's international commitments remain consistent with the Constitution and the fundamental principles of sharia, which are the source of the country's personal status legislation.
130.5; 130.6	Noted	It should be noted that the country has observed a de facto moratorium on the death penalty since 1987. However, accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, cannot take place without a thorough revision of the Constitution and criminal law, as well as broad-based national consensus.
130.7; 130.8; 130.9	Accepted	
130.10	Accepted	
130.11	Accepted	
130.12	Accepted	
130.13	Accepted	

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.14	Noted	The Government is exploring practical modalities for extending an open invitation while ensuring that such visits are planned in such a way as to guarantee their full success and optimal cooperation with all relevant national institutions. It reaffirms its willingness to respond positively, as it has in the past, to specific visit requests.
130.15	Accepted	
130.16	Accepted	
130.17	Accepted	The State is working to align its national strategy for the promotion of human rights with the Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development. By improving the performance of its national mechanisms, Mauritania aims to produce better data that will enable it to measure the real impact of its international commitments on the population's well-being and efforts to meet the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals.
130.18	Accepted	
130.19; 130.20; 130.21; 130.22; 130.23	Accepted	The harmonization of the national legal framework with the international instruments to which Mauritania is a party is a dynamic and continuous process. Numerous reforms have already been implemented, particularly in the areas of child protection, the fight against torture and the fight against contemporary slavery. The State is committed to continuing these efforts to ensure the systematic harmonization of legislation with international instruments.
130.24	Accepted	
130.25	Accepted	
130.26	Accepted	
130.27; 130.28; 130.29; 130.30; 130.31; 130.32; 130.33	Accepted	By accepting this recommendation, Mauritania reaffirms its commitment to building a State governed by the rule of law where all citizens enjoy their fundamental rights. The national strategy for the period 2024–2028, which was developed with technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, serves as the country's primary road map. It is already being implemented through sectoral action plans covering civil, political, economic and social rights. The State is committed to allocating the necessary resources to achieve the established objectives within the specified time frame, under the supervision of the Commission on Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society.
130.34	Accepted	
130.35	Accepted	

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.36; 130.37; 130.38	Noted	The Government favours a gradual and consensus-based approach to reforms relating to personal status and citizenship. At this stage, there is a focus on efforts to ensure secure registration and universal access to civil registration records for all children, without distinction. Comprehensive revision of the Nationality Code remains a subject of national debate that must take into account cultural factors and social realities specific to the country.
130.39	Accepted	
130.40	Accepted/Noted	Accepted: Take additional measures to ensure effective implementation of laws addressing gender-based discrimination. Noted: Including ensuring equal rights to nationality. See comment on 130.36; 130.37; 130.38
130.41	Accepted	
130.42	Accepted	
130.43	Accepted	
130.44	Accepted	
130.45	Accepted/Noted	Noted: Repeal discriminatory laws, including <i>zina</i> provisions. Accepted: Align legislation with international non-discrimination and disability standards.
130.46	Accepted	
130.47	Accepted	
130.48	Accepted	
130.49; 130.50; 130.51	Accepted	
130.52; 130.53; 130.54; 130.55; 130.56; 130.57; 130.58; 130.59; 130.60; 130.61; 130.62; 130.63; 130.64; 130.65; 130.66; 130.67; 130.68	Noted	While the State retains the death penalty in its legal arsenal for crimes of extreme gravity, it reiterates that it has observed a de facto moratorium on executions since 1987. This moratorium reflects a balanced approach between compliance with international commitments and the requirements of the Mauritanian legal system, which is based on sharia.
130.69	Accepted	
130.70; 130.71	Noted	See comment on 130.52
130.72; 130.73; 130.74; 130.75	Accepted	
130.76	Accepted	
130.77	Accepted	See comment on 130.72

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.78	Noted	The State has opted for a comprehensive and consensus-based resolution of the humanitarian issues related to the events that took place in the country between 1989 and 1992. Such resolution prioritizes national reconciliation, the duty to preserve memory and reparation. Significant milestones have been achieved, including the return of the persons deported, the provision of compensation to the victims and the prayer said at Kaédi. The Government believes that the country's stability depends on the consolidation of these achievements and ongoing social dialogue, and that calling into question the legal framework that has made it possible to initiate the process of national healing should be avoided.
130.79; 130.80	Accepted	
130.81	Accepted	
130.82; 130.83	Accepted	See comment on 130.79
130.84	Accepted	
130.85; 130.86	Accepted	
130.87; 130.88; 130.89; 130.90; 130.91; 130.92; 130.93	Accepted	Major reforms have already been undertaken, notably with the adoption of Act No. 2021-004, relating to associations, which replaced the requirement to obtain prior authorization with a system of registration by declaration, thereby facilitating the exercise of the freedom of assembly and association. The State is committed to continuing to review its legislative framework to ensure that any potential restrictions remain strictly compliant with the principles of necessity and proportionality, with a view to strengthening civic and democratic space.
130.94	Noted	The Constitution establishes that Islam is the religion of the people and the State – a provision that forms the basis of the social contract and national identity. With regard to freedom of religion, the State notes that the law already ensures the protection of non-Muslims, who enjoy their rights as citizens in full without any discrimination. The current legal framework strikes a balance between respect for religious principles and the guarantee of freedom of worship for foreign nationals residing in the country.
130.95	Accepted	
130.96; 130.97; 130.98; 130.99; 130.100; 130.101; 130.102; 130.103; 130.104; 130.105	Accepted	The State has strengthened its framework through the enactment of Act 2020-017, relating to efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and the establishment of a National Authority for Combating Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. It is committed to scaling up the resources of that entity to ensure that victims are proactively identified and provided with multisectoral support and that the perpetrators of such crimes are rigorously prosecuted, in accordance with international standards.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.106; 130.107; 130.108; 130.109; 130.110; 130.111; 130.112; 130.113; 130.114; 130.115	Accepted	The State has made slavery a crime against humanity that is not subject to a statute of limitations and has strengthened its legal arsenal through Act No. 2015-031. To ensure effective remedies, three specialized criminal courts have been established. The Commission on Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society now has the legal capacity to bring civil actions alongside victims. Mauritania is committed to continuing awareness-raising measures for judicial officials with a view to ensuring the strict enforcement of laws against all forms of discrimination based on descent.
130.116; 130.117; 130.118; 130.119	Accepted	
130.120; 130.121; 130.122; 130.123; 130.124; 130.125; 130.126	Accepted	Through the General Delegation for National Solidarity and the Fight against Exclusion (Taazour), the State has established an adaptive social protection system under which regular cash transfers are made to the poorest households and a biometric social registry has been established for the precise targeting of measures. This integrated approach is designed to build a sustainable protection floor that can respond to economic and climate shocks while ensuring the equitable redistribution of national wealth.
130.127	Accepted	
130.128; 130.129; 130.130; 130.131	Accepted	See comment on 130.120
130.132; 130.133; 130.134; 130.135	Accepted	
130.136; 130.137; 130.138; 130.139	Accepted	
130.140; 130.141	Accepted	
130.142	Noted	National legislation establishes the sanctity of human life in accordance with the precepts of Islam and the values of Mauritanian society. However, the relevant legal framework includes specific provisions permitting therapeutic abortion when the mother's life or health is seriously endangered. The State is prioritizing efforts to improve reproductive health, expand access to family planning services and reduce maternal mortality through high-quality delivery care.
130.143; 130.144	Accepted	
130.145; 130.146; 130.147; 130.148; 130.149; 130.150; 130.151	Accepted	Mauritania accepts this recommendation. Efforts to strengthen the National Health Solidarity Fund are central to the country's strategy for achieving universal health coverage by 2030. The State has already launched successful pilot programmes and is committed to achieving widespread coverage for workers in the informal sector and their families under this scheme for a nominal contribution, with the remainder covered by the State, with a view to ensuring access to quality healthcare without financial risk to households.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.152; 130.153; 130.154; 130.155; 130.156; 130.157; 130.158; 130.159; 130.160	Accepted	In the context of the implementation of the Framework Act on the National Education System, the values of citizenship, tolerance and respect for human rights have become a focus of the new curricula. The State is committed to improving coverage of these fundamental values in school textbooks and to training teachers to be able to convey them in an educational and appropriate manner, thereby fostering a culture of mutual respect and equality.
130.161; 130.162; 130.163; 130.164; 130.165; 130.166; 130.167; 130.168; 130.169	Accepted	The protection of the right to education is a national priority established in the preamble to the Constitution, which reaffirms the country's commitment to fundamental rights. The adoption of the Framework Act on the National Education System has created a solid legal basis for compulsory education. The State is committed to continuing this process of legal consolidation to ensure that the right to quality education is protected at the highest level of the hierarchy of norms.
130.170	Accepted	
130.171	Accepted	
130.172; 130.173; 130.174; 130.175; 130.176; 130.177	Accepted	The State already has a national climate change adaptation plan that is aligned with the country's commitments under the Paris Agreement. This plan includes desertification control measures as an absolute priority for protecting the livelihoods of rural communities. Mauritania ensures, through land restoration and sustainable natural resource management projects, that the economic and social rights of vulnerable communities are protected against climate shocks.
130.178	Accepted	
130.179	Accepted	
130.180	Noted	See comment on 130.1
130.181; 130.182; 130.183; 130.184; 130.185; 130.186; 130.187	Accepted	The State has institutionalized women's participation through an Organic Act ensuring their access to elected office. Thanks to a quota system and a dedicated national list, women's representation in the National Assembly and in municipal and regional councils has reached significant levels.
130.188; 130.189; 130.190; 130.191; 130.192; 130.193; 130.194; 130.195; 130.196; 130.197; 130.198; 130.199; 130.200; 130.201; 130.202; 130.203; 130.204; 130.205; 130.206; 130.207; 130.208; 130.209; 130.210; 130.211; 130.212; 130.213	Accepted	The adoption of the bill on combating violence against women and girls is a priority for the Government. The bill is currently undergoing broad consultations involving civil society actors, ulama and members of the parliament to ensure full national ownership and effective implementation upon its enactment. The State is committed to expediting this legislative process with a view to providing a comprehensive and modern legal framework to protect all women and girls from all forms of abuse.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.214	Accepted/Noted	Accepted: Accelerate the process for adopting the law on combating violence against women and girls. Noted: While also effectively combating discrimination against Haratine women. Mauritania expresses its reservation regarding the term “Haratine women,” as there is no distinction based on sex with regard to the realization of rights.
130.215; 130.216; 130.217; 130.218; 130.219	Accepted	See comment on 130.188
130.220; 130.221; 130.222; 130.223; 130.224; 130.225	Accepted	The State is implementing a multisectoral strategy that brings together health authorities, religious leaders and civil society organizations. As a result of the national fatwa prohibiting female genital mutilation and of the community awareness-raising programmes conducted, there has been a steady decline in prevalence among younger girls. The State will continue to invest in women’s education and empowerment to transform social norms and ensure that respect for girls’ physical integrity is firmly established.
130.226; 130.227; 130.228; 130.229; 130.230; 130.231; 130.232; 130.233; 130.234; 130.235	Accepted	The State has adopted the National Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming, which is aimed at eliminating disparities in all areas of public and private life. This strategy is accompanied by legislative measures aimed at preventing and punishing domestic violence while building the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities to handle such cases with due diligence.
130.236	Accepted	
130.237; 130.238; 130.239; 130.240	Accepted	
130.241	Noted	Mauritania takes note of this recommendation. It recalls that the national legal framework establishes the principle of a minimum age for marriage while providing for a strictly regulated exception, granted in restricted circumstances and under the supervision of the competent judicial authority, in the best interests of the parties concerned. This exception continues to be granted only rarely in practice.
130.242; 130.243	Accepted	
130.244; 130.245; 130.246; 130.247; 130.248; 130.249	Accepted	
130.250	Accepted	
130.251; 130.252	Accepted	
130.253	Accepted	
130.254	Accepted	
130.255; 130.256; 130.257; 130.258; 130.259	Noted	Mauritania takes note of this recommendation. The State ensures that all citizens are equal before the law and are protected against all forms of violence or hate speech, in accordance with Act No. 2018-023.

<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>Position of Mauritania</i>	<i>Justification</i>
130.260; 130.261; 130.262; 130.263	Accepted	
130.264; 130.265; 130.266	Accepted	
130.267; 130.268; 130.269	Accepted	
130.270; 130.271	Accepted	The State took a decisive step forward by establishing the National Authority for Combating Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. This institution coordinates interministerial efforts in that area and ensures the application of the principle of victim protection, particularly through early identification, the provision of legal assistance and social rehabilitation. Mauritania is committed to strengthening the capacity of this body and ensuring that victims of trafficking are treated as subjects of law and not as perpetrators of migration offences.

4. By adopting the vast majority of these recommendations, Mauritania reaffirms its political will to expedite reforms and strengthen the effective exercise of human rights as part of an effort to consolidate achievements and address persistent challenges.

5. The noted recommendations reflect a pragmatic approach that is grounded in national realities and the need for legal and institutional consistency without precluding further dialogue or the evolution of positions taken.

6. Lastly, Mauritania reaffirms its commitment to strengthening its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and its partners with a view to ensuring the effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the accepted recommendations.