

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MAURITANIA – Add.2

NETHERLANDS

Slavery

- In paragraph 114, under b, of the national report, the government of Mauritania states that the measure to implement the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been taken to criminalise slavery and penalise slavery-like practices. In this light, when will Mauritania take concrete steps to implement the anti-slavery law of 2007 to guarantee that offenders of this law will be prosecuted and sentenced?

Refugees

- In paragraphs 130 – 132 of the national report and in paragraph 114, under a, of the national report, the government states that the measure to implement the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been taken to repatriate of Mauritians who sought refuge in Senegal following the events of 1989. In this light, when will the government of Mauritania offer a possibility to all Mauritanian refugees to voluntarily return to their home country?

Prison life

- In paragraph 108 of the national report as submitted by the government of Mauritania, it states that the National Commission for Human Rights held training sessions for prison staff on the theme of torture and mistreatment in prison. Could the government of Mauritania elaborate on additional measures to actively improve prison conditions, control of prison life and treatment of prisoners?

Women's rights/ FGM

- The Netherlands welcomes the adoption of the National Strategy to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) in 2007 as mentioned in paragraph 103 of the national report. In that light, could the government elaborate further on the concrete steps that will be undertaken to end female genital mutilation (FGM)? Furthermore, could the government provide more details on the campaigns to disseminate the Personal Status Code as part of the combat against early marriage?

Civil Society

- In reference to paragraph 31 and 32 of the national report, which refers to the Commission on Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society (CDHAHRSC), could the government of Mauritania elaborate on its commitment to the implementation of human rights policies that have been proposed by Mauritanian human rights organisations?

SLOVENIA

- When does Mauritania intend to complete the process of withdrawal of its reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as it was by the opinion of the CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/1, paras 9 and 10, drawn so widely, that it is contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention?
- When will Mauritania further develop a comprehensive operational plan for the promotion of gender equality and advancement of women, containing clear goals and timetables, as well as mechanisms for monitoring?

SWEDEN

- Sweden notes that Mauritania maintains criminal sanctions in its Code of Criminal Procedure, including the use of death penalty by stoning, against same-sex activity between consenting adults. The General Assembly has stated that the death penalty may not be applied for consensual same-sex conduct, and the Secretary-General has recently called for the repeal of laws criminalising same-sex activities between consenting adults. Furthermore, the Human Rights Committee has concluded that laws criminalising such conduct run counter to the rights to privacy and non-discrimination, as provided for in articles 17(1) and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Could the Government of Mauritania elaborate on any initiatives to repeal the law that forbids sexual activity between consenting individuals of the same sex, and to promote tolerance and non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or identity in line with the Yogyakarta Principles?

- Sweden is concerned by credible reports by human rights organisations, such as Amnesty International, of regular use of torture by the security forces against individuals detained for political reasons or for ordinary crimes. According to stakeholders, those arrested for political reasons are often tortured in unofficial places of detention, with no possibility of contact with the outside world. Sweden is also concerned about the apparent lack of investigations and accountability for those responsible for using or ordering excessive force in the line of duty, as well as the fact that the police have launched preliminary investigations on the basis of confessions extracted through coercion.

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

SWITZERLAND

- Does the government of Mauritania intend to declare a moratorium on executions with a view to abolish death penalty in future?
- What measures has the government planned to ensure a complete eradication of slavery?
- Will the government of Mauritania look into the improvements of its detention facilities and ensure that the conditions meet international standards?
- Will the government of Mauritania plan to investigate all allegations of torture in the future and bring the perpetrators to justice? Does the government intend to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?