

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MAURITANIA – Add.3

NORWAY

- Could Mauritania please provide information on the extent to which civil society was involved in the preparation of the national report?
- What efforts have been made to strengthen the capacity and work of the Mauritanian Human Rights Commission, established in 2009?
- Norway notes with satisfaction that Mauritania is considering to withdrawing its general reservations made on accession to the CEDAW. What is the status for the completion of this process?
- What are the measures taken to raise awareness amongst senior officials, the judiciary, the clergy and the public of the provisions of the CEDAW?
- Norway welcomes the establishment of the Gender Equality Office within the department of Social Affairs, Children and Family and the establishment of a national Commission to combat gender-based violence. What results have been achieved through the work of these bodies?
- And what will Mauritania do to strengthen the institutions and capacities needed to secure advancement of children and women rights?
- A national strategy and a plan of action against the practice of female genital mutilation were adopted in 2007. To what extent has these efforts had an impact on the scale of this harmful traditional practice?
- In further addressing the rights of the children, what are the measures taken to reduce widespread child labor and trafficking? And what is being done to raise the age of criminal responsibility and to eradicate corporal punishment of children?
- With respect to freedom of expression, reports from different sources claim that the security forces regularly used excessive force in 2009 to prevent demonstrators from protesting against the electoral timetable. What have been done to investigate these allegations?
- Norway acknowledges the efforts made by the government and civil society to fight slavery, including the adoption in 2007 of a law criminalizing and punishing slavery and slavery-like practices and the set up of a national Programme to Eradicate the Legacy of Slavery in 2009. Could Mauritania please inform us about what measures have been taken so far under this programme, and what measures are taken to ensure that complaints regarding slavery and slavery-like practices are being brought before the domestic courts?
- Mauritania has ratified the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment. Does the government have the intention to adopt the optional protocol to this Convention? Does the government have plans to incorporate the crime of torture into domestic law as

defined by the article 1 of the Convention against Torture and impose appropriate penalties and punish offenders?

- Given the facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty during recent years, what plans does the government have to abolish the death penalty?
- What steps will the Mauritanian government take to follow up and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council, and how will the civil society be involved in the process?