



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND  
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) – [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org)

REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/Mauritania/65

6 December 2016

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the combined second and third periodic reports of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, at the Committee's fifty-eight session, held in July 2014. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 53 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 25 and 45 of the concluding observations, namely:

“25. The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To expedite the adoption of legislation criminalizing female genital mutilation and to address its harmful consequences for the lives of women;
- (b) To raise the awareness of health practitioners regarding female genital mutilation and the remedies and assistance available to victims, including psychological counselling;
- (c) To amend its legislation on the judicial protection of children in order to prosecute practitioners whenever female genital mutilation occurs;
- (d) To strengthen efforts to raise awareness of the negative impact of female genital mutilation on the lives of women and recognize it as a human rights violation;
- (e) To provide alternative means of livelihood for practitioners of female genital mutilation as a source of alternative income.”

Her Excellency  
Ms. Salka Mint Bilal Yamar  
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
Avenue de France 23  
1202 Geneva

Email: [mission.mauritania@ties.itu.int](mailto:mission.mauritania@ties.itu.int)

“45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Carry out a process to monitor the condition of Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian women in the State party and establish a procedure to identify those who remain subjected to slavery and release them from any relation with current or former masters;
- (b) Establish specific programmes aimed at providing income for Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian women who are former slaves and a special social security scheme with non-contributory benefits for Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian women in the form of a temporary special measure;
- (c) Accelerate the process of adopting and implementing a national plan of action against racial discrimination, bearing in mind the importance of such a plan to preventing ethnic conflicts in the State party;
- (d) Monitor the situation of refugee women, in partnership with relevant international organizations, with a view to identifying their protection needs and promoting their participation in society.”

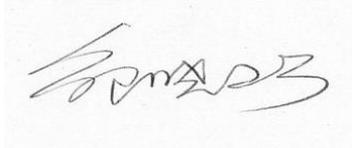
Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2016, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **4000 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. Please also send a Word electronic version of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). For ease of reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Xiaoqiao Zou  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women