



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

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PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/84/Mauritania/91

4 July 2025

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the fourth periodic report of Mauritania, at the Committee's eighty-fourth session, held in March 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/4](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Mauritania to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9, 11 (a), 25 (a) and 37 (c) of the concluding observations, namely:

“9. The Committee recalls its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/ 2-3, para. 9) that the State party lift its reservation to article 13 (a) of the Convention with a view to the withdrawal also of the reservation to article 16 and welcomes the commitment made by the State party's delegation during the constructive dialogue to consider doing so. In this regard, the State party should factor into its consideration the practices of countries with similar cultural backgrounds and legal systems that have successfully harmonized their national legislation with their international human rights obligations, in particular those under the Convention. The Committee further recommends that the State party ensure the engagement of religious and community leaders and civil society, in particular women's organizations, in that process.”

“11. While noting that the State party's legislation is derived from sharia, the Committee considers that diversity of opinion and juridical concepts exist in the jurisdictions of other Muslim States having undergone legislative reform. Recalling its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3, para. 15) and the links between articles 1 and 2 of the Convention and target 5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Urgently repeal or amend all provisions that discriminate against women, such as articles 307 and 308 of the Penal Code, articles 8, 13 and 16 of the Nationality Code (1961), articles of the Personal Status Code on guardianship, child and forced marriage, polygamy, divorce, custody and management of property”

H.E. Ms. Aicha Vall Verges
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Avenue de France 23
1202 Genève
Email: ambarimgeneve@diplomatie.gov.mr

“25. Recalling general recommendation No. 35, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Urgently submit to the parliament for adoption the draft law on combating violence against women and girls in line with the commitment made by the State party's delegation during the constructive dialogue to do so in the first half of 2023, also echoed in the third cycle of its universal periodic review,¹ and adopt targeted measures to protect Haratine women, refugee, stateless and migrant women, women with disabilities and rural women”

“37. In line with general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, as well as targets of 3.1 and 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Amend article 23 of the Penal Code and article 21 of the Reproductive Health Act to decriminalize abortion in all cases to ensure that women who attempt or undergo the procedure cannot be criminally prosecuted, and legalize abortion at least in cases of rape, incest, threats to the life or health of the pregnant woman or severe foetal impairment”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2025, 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.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Mauritania on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder within one month of the date of this correspondence.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,150 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 ohchr-cedaw@un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Jelena Pia-Comeña

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

¹ A/HRC/47/6/Add.1, paras. 130.51, 130.52, 130.54, 130.56, 130.192, 130.193 and 130.194.