

**Check against delivery**

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
23<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UPR  
REVIEW OF MAURITANIA  
3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015  
STATEMENT BY NIGERIA

Mr. President,

The Nigerian delegation welcomes the delegation of Mauritania for the presentation of their national UPR report and wishes to express its solidarity with them for their cooperation and continued engagement with the UPR process.

2. My delegation commends the effort made by the Mauritanian government for effective Implementation of the Strategic Framework for Poverty Eradication (phase III) which led to the achievement of a growth rate of 6.7 per cent, and for the significant improvements in their regulatory and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly the formal recognition of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the country.

3. Recognising that slavery has been abolished over a long period of time, we welcome the adoption by the Mauritanian Council of Ministers of a bill repealing and replacing Act no. 048/2007 criminalizing slavery and providing penalties for slavery-like practices which grant NGOs the right to intervene as a third party in court proceedings.

4. We also commend Mauritania for allowing the regular participation of civil society organizations in national, regional and international meetings in the field of human rights and their effective cooperation with the various international human rights mechanisms by ratifying many important legal instruments.

Mr President,

4. My delegation urges the government of Mauritania:
- i. to ensure a sustainable implementation of the education priority it has introduced without discrimination.
  - ii. to ensure that the children of refugees and asylum seekers are registered at birth in line with the international standard.
  - iii. to ensure that the Anti-Slavery Court created by the Supreme Council of Justice in May 2015 is promptly approved by the Parliament.
5. My delegation wishes the delegation of Mauritania success in their UPR process.

I thank you.

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