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UPR of Mauritania
Statement by the Republic of Poland

November , 2015

Mr. President,

The delegation of Poland would like to thank the delegation of Mauritania for the presentation of their national report. We acknowledge the Mauritanian government's engagement in the UPR process and support for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Yet Poland would like to express its deep concern about Mauritania not defining rape as a criminal offence in the Criminal Code, as well as the concern that for Muslim Mauritians a change of religion is classified as apostasy, punishable by the death penalty.

Despite the adoption of law criminalizing slavery and the creation of a special tribunal for slavery cases, Poland is seriously concerned about the constantly repeated cases of particularly women and children being held in slavery in Mauritania. Poland urges Mauritania to include a provision in the Criminal Code that defines and specifically criminalizes racial or ethnic discrimination, including slavery-like practices.

Therefore, Poland recommends Mauritania to:

- **to ensure the effective implementation of the legislation criminalizing slavery and guarantee effective remedies to victims of slavery;**
- **to remove the crime of apostasy from its legislation.**

I thank you.