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(22)

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UPR23/Mauritania
Statement by Slovakia
3 November 2015

Mr. President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of Mauritania for the presentation of the national report.

We recognize efforts to eradicate slavery, including the establishment of the national agency TADAMOUN and adoption of a road map for eradication of slavery. Despite the existing framework, more action is required to tackle this phenomenon more effectively.

While noting that Mauritania has established a de facto moratorium on the death penalty, we remain concerned that the Penal Code imposes a death penalty for crimes such as apostasy and homosexual acts and that the law allows sentencing people to death for crimes committed as minors.

We also share concerns expressed by UN experts regarding individual cases of torture and ill-treatment in prisons committed by police and security officers and call on the Government to ensure that all such cases are properly investigated.

We would like to make the following recommendations to the Government of Mauritania:

- 1. Continue to implement the national programme to eradicate the legacy of slavery adopted in March 2014 and continue raising awareness against all forms of slavery.**
- 2. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at abolition of the death penalty.**
- 3. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at national level and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.**

Thank you.