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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 23rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Mauritania

Statement by Australia

Australia notes the progress made since Mauritania’s first review appearance.

In particular, Australia commends Mauritania’s acceptance of the 2010 recommendation to end torture and prosecute any allegations. Further to this, **Australia recommends that Mauritania incorporate a definition of torture in domestic law in line with Article 1 of the *Convention against Torture*.** Australia further recommends **that the recently established national prevention mechanism receives the necessary resources to conduct its work.**

Australia welcomes the roadmap to eradicate slavery adopted by Mauritania in March 2014, notably the recommendation that the 2007 law against slavery should be amended to reflect different forms of slavery and slavery-like practices, such as hereditary slavery, debt bondage or forced marriage. In this respect Australia commends the legislation adopted unanimously by the Mauritanian parliament in August 2015 to strengthen its response to slavery and slavery-like practices.

Australia recommends Mauritania continue to implement the national programme to eradicate the legacy of slavery, with a focus on impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of slavery and slavery-like practices.

While noting that Mauritania has not applied the death penalty since 1987, it nonetheless remains legal. **Australia recommends that Mauritania establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.**