



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office  
and other International Organizations in Geneva  
Ch. Louis-Dunant, 15 - 1202 - Geneva / Switzerland  
Phone: (+41) (0)22 332 50 00 / Fax: (+41) (0)22 910 07 51 E-mail:  
delbrasgen@itamaraty.gov.br*

**Human Rights Council  
23<sup>th</sup> Session  
Universal Periodic Review  
Republic of Mauritania**

Brazil welcomes the delegation of Mauritania to the second cycle of the UPR.

Our delegation takes note with appreciation of the continuous commitment of the government to fight contemporary forms of slavery.

Brazil considers equally noteworthy the level of cooperation between Mauritania and the UN System, including the opening of a local office of the OHCHR in December 2010.

We are also appreciative of the partial fulfilment of a Brazilian recommendation on the occasion of the first cycle, concerning withdrawal of reservations to CEDAW, as well as of the adoption of a national strategy against female genital mutilation.

The willingness of the local government to receive people affected by the Syrian conflict, without any visa requirement is noteworthy as well.

In spite of such achievements, issues such as the need to promote equality by eradicating discrimination of any kind, as well as to safeguard fundamental rights of refugees, remain a cause for concern.

Brazil wishes to recommend that Mauritania:

(1) Continue its cooperation with the High Commissioner for Refugees and related agencies, in order to identify, repatriate and provide proper citizenship documents for the displaced population in the wake of tensions with Senegal and the expelling of citizens from both countries between 1989-91;

(2) Strengthen campaigns on human rights education, above all concerning the rights of ethnic minorities, children and women, with special emphasis on access to quality education and health care, including sexual and reproductive health.

I thank you, Mr. President.