



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the Office of the United Nations and  
to the other International Organizations  
Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council  
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**German questions and recommendations to  
Mauritania**

**German National Statement**

Mr. President,

Germany thanks the delegation of Mauretania for its statement and the national report.

We commend the Government of Mauretania for establishing a system of asylum, including provisions to protect refugees.

Germany has, however, some remaining concerns about the human rights situation and therefore wishes to offer the following:

1. Follow the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to abolish all remaining forms of slavery or slavery-related practices, and provide victims of such practices with the possibility to initiate criminal proceedings and obtain compensation.
2. Improve access to education for marginalized groups in order to improve social and economic conditions for them. One group that may benefit from this are the *Harratin*.
3. Provide space for civil society organizations, including NGOs, in line with international standards and best-practices, and in this respect release from prison those human rights defenders who called for the full abolition of slavery.
4. Increase efforts to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking and economic and sexual exploitation, particularly of women and children.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Question Submitted in Advance:**

1. Does the Government of Mauritania plan to conduct an evaluation of the measures and strategies adopted in order to end the practice of female genital mutilation, and in which areas does the Government identify the need for further steps?