

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 23<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP  
(2<sup>ND</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015):**

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW  
OF MAURITANIA ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR. JOSEPH  
OWUSU-ANSAH, FIRST SECRETARY, ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2015**

I thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor

Ghana welcomes the distinguished delegation of Mauritania and commends them for their commitment to the UPR mechanism. My delegation notes with appreciation the establishment of various national agencies and institutions by Mauritania such as the National Human Rights Commission with the mandate to identify, criminalize and to punish various acts of slavery, the torture of persons in detention, and to combat poverty and rape.

Ghana also notes the strides made by Mauritania in ratifying various international human rights legal instruments with the support of the OHCHR Country Office.

Mr President,

While recognising Mauritania's resolve to strengthen the rule of law and further democratise, my delegation wishes to make the following recommendations:

- That Mauritania gives the Tadamoun national agency the mandate to identify any acts of slavery, propose and implement anti-slavery programmes.
- That an independent body be established with the mandate to conduct investigations into any acts of torture and the ill-treatment of all persons in detention.

In conclusion, Ghana recommends to Mauritania to continue to take measures to enhance the respect for human rights anchored on the rule of law and good governance and wish Mauritania success with the UPR.

I thank you Mr. President.