**Statement of Kenya at the review of Mauritania**

**23rd Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Tuesday, 3rd November 2015, 9.00 am, Room XX**

**Palais des Nations**

**Geneva**

**Mr. /Ms. President,**

Kenya extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Mauritania to this 2nd cycle of the UPR. We thank them for the comprehensive and thorough presentation of their national report.

We welcome the positive efforts by the Government to implement recommendations accepted in the 1st UPR cycle; in particular, we note the recent classification of the National Human Rights Commission as an A status national human rights institution. We would encourage the Government to provide the Commission with the adequate resources and facilitation to ensure its independent functioning.

We also welcome the recent efforts to address the practices of contemporary slavery and their consequences; we note among these efforts, the 2013 Act criminalizing the offences of slavery and torture, and further categorizing them as *crimes against humanity*. We would encourage the Government to expedite the remaining measures, including the review of the Anti-Slavery Act of 2007.

***We make the following recommendations to Mauritania:***

**1. To reform Mauritania’s nationality law, to provide women the capacity to acquire, retain and transfer citizenship on an equal basis with men, and to bring the law into compliance with international human rights standards, including CRC Article 7 and CEDAW Article 9; and also to ensure the effective implementation of the law.**

**2. To fully and effectively implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery in order to fully and effectively eradicate practices of slavery and ensure that all victims of crimes of slavery receive justice, truth and reparation.**

**I thank you.**