Madam President,

The Kingdom of the Netherlands would like to thank Mauritania for its introduction of the national report on the human rights situation.

The Netherlands commends Mauritania for having adapted its legislation following its previous UPR in 2015, particularly in the field of anti-slavery and the rights of women and girls. However, the Netherlands strongly regrets that discrimination in Mauritania remains widespread, especially affecting the human rights of members of Haratine and Afro-Mauritanian communities.

The Netherlands recommends Mauritania:

1. To fully recognize and protect the human rights of all Mauritanians, particularly women and girls, and LGBTI people.
2. To remove from legislation any identification of blasphemy and apostasy as a crime and enable Mauritanians to fully enjoy their right to freedom of religion or belief, including the right to change religion and the right not to believe.
3. To fully and effectively implement its legislation criminalizing slavery through the prosecution of individual cases, the compensation of victims and the reintegration of former slaves in society.

The Netherlands wishes Mauritania success with the implementation of the recommendations it receives during the third UPR cycle.

Thank you, Madam President.