

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

**37th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 19th of January 2021**

**German Recommendations and advance questions to**

**Mauritania**

Madam President,

Germany welcomes the delegation of Mauritania. Germany welcomes the increased openness towards an inclusive dialogue of government and civil society stakeholders during the preparation of this UPR.

Germany remains concerned about the rights of vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

Germany recommends to:

1. Ensure accountability for human rights violations, especially for reported cases of violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation.
2. Improve access to education and school enrolment rates of all children, especially for the most vulnerable ones, like children living with disabilities, children living on the street and children living in rural areas.
3. Continue the efforts undertaken to reinforce the protection of women’s rights, especially by taking all necessary measures to ensure the adoption in Parliament of a law combatting violence against women and girls.
4. Continue the moratorium on the death penalty while working towards a complete abolition of the death penalty for all crimes and to ratify the second optional protocol to the ICCPR.

Thank you, Madam President.

**GERMAN ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MAURITANIA:**

* Germany welcomes the establishment of a national observatory for the rights of women and girls and would like inquire to what extent the observatory has improved the situation of women and girls, especially with regard to the still widespread practice of female genital mutilation?
* Germany welcomes the efforts to adopt a law combatting violence against women and girls. What is the government’s approach to ensure that negotiations continue and that the new law is adopted swiftly?
* What measures are envisaged to improve social cohesion between the different communities (taking into account the grave human rights violations that happened between 1989 and 1991) and to eliminate all forms of discrimination?