

Universal Periodic Review working group – 23rd session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Mauritania

3 November 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Mauritania and thanks it for the presentation of its report.

Ireland welcomes positive steps taken by Mauritania since the first cycle of the UPR. To support its efforts, we strongly encourage Mauritania to issue a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedure mandate holders.

We note positively the adoption of a new anti-slavery law in August this year. However, we share the view of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery that this development needs to be followed by its full implementation. Ireland **recommends** that Mauritania provide all necessary means for the implementation of the 2015 anti-slavery law, as well as the 2014 road map on the eradication of the consequences of slavery, including specific measures for the protection of victims and effective access to justice, as well as mandatory training on anti-slavery laws for police, administrative and judicial officials.

Ireland is concerned by reports of harassment, intimidation and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders, including anti-slavery activists. Ireland **recommends** that Mauritania take concrete steps to prevent the arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defenders and to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment, in which human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 22/6.