

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA
Honor Fraternity-Justice
Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family



Mauritania's Initial report on measures taken to implement the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

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Abbreviations

AACID : Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development

ACHPR: African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

ACRWC : African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

ANRPTS : National Agency of Populations Register of Secured Documents

AU : African Union

BSCM : Special Squad for Minors

CAC : Community Food Centre

CSLP : Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

CARSEC : Centre for the Care and Social Reintegration of Children in Conflict with the Law

CDMT : Medium-Term Expenditure Framework

CPISE : Centre for the Protection and Social Integration of Children

CFPE: Early Childhood Education Centre

CFPF : Training Centre for Women Empowerment

ICRC : International Committee on the Rights of the Child

CNDH: National Human Rights Commission

CNLS: National Committee for the Fight against AIDS

CNUPDTM: International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

CSA: Food Security Commission

CSO: Civil Society Organisation

CSP: Personal Status Code

DE: Children's Directorate

DPJE: Directorate of Judicial Protection of the Child

ENVEF 2011: National Survey on Violence Against Women in Mauritania 2011

EPCV: Permanent survey on the living conditions of households

EFA: Education For All

FGM: Female Genital Mutilations

GBV: Gender based violence

GSG: Gender Monitoring Group

HCR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

HR: Human Rights

ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

IHP: International Health Partnership

ILO: International Labour Organisation

MDG: Millennium Development Goals

NEPAD: New Partnership for Development in Africa

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisations

OPPE: Ordinance relating to the Penal Protection of the Child

OAU: Organisation of the African Union

ONS: National Statistical Office

PESE: Programme for the Eradication of the Aftermath of Slavery

PFTE: Worst Forms of Child Labour

PNDSE: National Programme for the Development of the Education Sector

PP: Public authorities

PTF: Technical and Financial Partners

RIM: Islamic Republic of Mauritania

SCA: Subcommittee on Accreditation

SENLS: National Executive Secretariat for the Fight against AIDS

SNIG: National Gender Institutionalisation Strategy

SNGM: National Migration Management Strategy

SNPS: National Strategy for Social Protection

SOPS: Operational System of Standard Procedures for Combating Violence

SPC: Community Child Protection Systems

UN: United Nations

UNICEF : United Nations Children's Fund

Introduction

1. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) is an inter-African legal instrument of reference for the protection of the rights of the child. It was adopted at the 26th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in July 1990. It entered into force on 29 November 1999, after being ratified by 15 states, pursuant to its article 2. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania signed and ratified this charter on 21 September 2005. It submitted its ratification instruments to the General Secretariat of the African Union (AU) on 14 December 2005. This ratification is subject to an undertaking by each State to draw up an initial report; in accordance with the provisions of Article 43 (1) of the Charter which provides that "Every State Party to the present Charter shall undertake to submit to the Committee through the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, reports on the measures they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of this Charter and on the progress made in the enjoyment of these rights:

- a) Within two years of the entry into force of the Charter for the State Party concerned: and
- b) Thereafter, every three years '.

In addition, article 43 (2) states that "Every report made under this Article shall:

- a) Contain sufficient information on the implementation of the present Charter in the relevant country;
- b) Shall indicate factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the fulfilment of the obligations contained in the Charter. "

2. In order to comply with the commitment made by the Mauritanian Government, which has ratified the Charter, this report highlights the means used by the public authorities to ensure the survival, protection, development and participation of the Mauritanian child. However, Mauritania has already submitted its initial and first periodic report and has already sent its third, fourth and fifth combined reports to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child under the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Mauritania intends to use certain elements of these reports for the report to be submitted to the Committee in accordance with the Children's Charter. This report highlights in particular the specific rights to the Children's Charter. It also specifies the measures taken by Mauritania in the follow-up to any recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

3. The first part of the report focuses on the geographical, demographic, political and economic background of Mauritania. It also addresses the legal framework for the protection of human rights in general in Mauritania. In the second part, the analysis focuses on the situation of children, the measures taken in the framework of the implementation of this charter, the progress made in this area and in the areas of survival, protection, the development and participation of the child. The report also deals with general measures, such as the definition of the child, issues of majority, nationality, freedoms and civil rights. The general principles of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development and the participation of the child are analysed. A review of the family environment, with emphasis on alternative care and special protection measures for children in situations of emergency, those in conflict with the law and those who are victims of exploitation or from a minority group, will be highlighted in the report. Analysis of child health and well being, such as access to care, social security and the right to a decent standard of living, will highlight progress made in this area. The same applies to the situation of children with disabilities and abandoned children on the one hand and the right to education and vocational guidance, leisure and cultural activities on the other hand.

First part: Presentation of Mauritania

4. As a link between **sub-Saharan** Africa and the Arab world, Mauritania is an Islamic Republic that has opted for democracy and the rule of law.

I-Geographical Context

5. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is situated between the 15th and 27th degrees of north latitude and the 6th and 19th degrees of west longitude and covers a surface area of 1,030,700 square kilometres. The Atlantic Ocean in the West, Senegal in the South, Mali in the South and East, Algeria in the North-East and Western Sahara in the North-West border it. This geographical position makes Mauritania a link between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa and a land of mixing civilizations with a rich socio-cultural heritage. Mauritania, a multiethnic and multicultural country, includes a population of Arab majority with Peulh, Soninke and Wolof minorities estimated at 3,340. 627 inhabitants, a large part of which resides in Nouakchott, administrative capital of the country and Nouadhibou, economic capital. Foreigners account for almost 2.2% of the population and are concentrated in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou and they are active in the areas of industry, construction, services and bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

II- Human rights normative and institutional framework

6. Despite an international situation characterized by recurring phenomena such as terrorism, insecurity and transnational organized crime, as well as scarcity of financial resources due to the persistence of the global economic and financial crisis, Mauritania remained faithful to the Development plan that it has drawn up since 2009 in order to consolidate the rule of law and promote human rights (HR). Strengthened by its political commitment and convinced that stability, the rule of law and the guarantee of freedom and protection of individuals are prerequisites for economic and social development, which is the basis of sustainable human development, the Mauritanian government has established a normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights that has enabled the enjoyment of civil and political rights. The government has also facilitated the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights through a transversal "rights based" approach with a particular focus on better integration of children in the political, economic, social and cultural development process of the country.

7. Pursuant to Article 1 of the Constitution of 20 July 1991 re-established and amended by the Constitutional Laws of 2006 and 2012, Mauritania is "an Islamic, indivisible, democratic and social republic". The Republic ensures "equality before the law to all citizens regardless of origin, race, sex or social status". Article 3 of the Constitution entrenches the principle of democracy: "Sovereignty belongs to the Mauritanian people who exercise it through their representatives or by referendum". The republican form of the State is marked by a clear separation of powers, executive, legislative and judicial. The President of the Republic, elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term renewable once, defines the policy of the Nation, which is implemented by a government headed by a Prime Minister. The Legislative

power is exercised by the parliament, which enacts the laws and controls the policy of the government. The parliament is composed of a lower chamber called the National Assembly and an upper chamber, the Senate. Mauritania has a decentralised and delegated administrative structure. The territorial organisation comprises several administrative levels, wilayas (13), moughataas (56) and communes (218). The division of responsibilities between the different levels of government is organised in such a way that the communities and the administration together contribute to political, economic and social development. The allocation of competences to the municipalities by Law n ° 2001-27 of 07th February 2001 has helped to strengthen the capacities of the local elected representatives, in solving issues related to development and to compensate the deficit of local governance. The judicial system is based on the principle of two degree of jurisdiction: there are first instance courts at the level of moughataas and wilayas and second-level courts (three courts of appeal in Nouakchott, Nouadhibou and Kiffa). The Supreme Court is the highest jurisdiction of the country. The Government has made important efforts to improve the efficiency of the judiciary by getting closer to service users, creating a High Court of Justice to try the President of the Republic and members of the Government in cases of high treason, improvement of the living and working conditions of judges and development of courts infrastructures. These efforts have been reinforced by the implementation of several actions aimed at improving the living conditions of the prison population.

8. Faithful to its international commitments, Mauritania made its attachment to universal human values a means for the protection and promotion of human rights. Since its independence, it has taken part in the codification of international human rights standards by being involved, inter alia, in the development of the two international covenants on civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In order to give full effect to duly ratified and published international conventions and treaties, article 80 of the Constitution enshrines the supremacy of international conventions and treaties over national law. Mauritania has ratified the main instruments for the protection and promotion of human rights and their protocols, whether additional or optional, including:

- ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour 1930;
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women 1953;
- Convention on Slavery, as amended by the Protocol of 7 December 1953;
- Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Similar Institutions and Practices 1956;
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1981;
- 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;
- Protocol Relating to the Statutes of Refugees 1967;
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- International Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989;
- ILO Convention No. 105 concerning the abolition of forced labour 1957;
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979;

- Convention No. 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining 1949;
- Convention No. 100 on Minimum Equal Remuneration (Agriculture) 1951;
- Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999; -Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography 2000;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict 2000;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966;
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966;
- Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment 1984;
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families 2004;
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990;
- Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance 2006;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture 2002;
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006.
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; -Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, 2005;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 17 November 2004;
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
- Convention No. 138 (1973) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning the minimum age for admission to employment;
- ILO Convention No. 182 (1999) concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour;
- Protocol relating to the ACHPR, establishing an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, on 19 May 2005.

9. On the basis of its international and regional commitments, Mauritania has distinguished itself in human rights bodies, particularly the Human Rights Council, in which it acted as Vice-Chairperson on behalf of the group African.

III- Constitutional dimension of human rights

10. The Mauritanian constitutional system enshrines values of human rights in its preamble and in the Constitution itself. In this regard, in its preamble the Constitution states the country's accession "to the principles of democracy as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948 and by the African Charter of Human Rights and Peoples of 28 June 1981, as well as in other international conventions to which Mauritania has subscribed".

IV- Judicial protection of human rights

11. The Constitutional Council and national courts provide judicial protection of human rights. The Mauritanian constitution designers provided for a referral procedure to the Constitutional Council for the protection of human rights. Thus, the Constitution gives the

President of the Republic, 1 / 10th of the members of the National Assembly, or the Senate and any individual, the power to appeal to the Constitutional Council for to determine the constitutionality of national laws. As regards to ensuring the right to a fair trial, any accused person enjoys the following rights:

- Presumption of innocence;
- Principle of the legality of offenses and penalties;
- Respect for the rights of their defence
- Presence of the lawyer starting from police custody and the accused person's right to contact their family.

Article 138 of the Code of Criminal Procedure regulates the system of pre-trial detention. It provides that the pre-trial detention shall only be ordered by the investigating judge and when it is justified by:

- The gravity of the facts;
- The need to prevent the disappearance of evidence of the offense;
- The escape of the accused or the commission of new offenses.

12. The investigating judge is required to accelerate the flow of information. He is liable for any negligence, which would have unnecessarily delayed the investigation and prolonged the custody. The promotion of human rights values, through the international trial advocacy competition, has contributed to raising public awareness of fair trial. Mauritania's second international human rights trial advocacy competition was held in April 2014. It was conducted under the patronage of the Minister of Justice and brought together six lawyers from Mauritania, Syria, Lebanon and France, all of whom have dealt with concrete and recent cases of human rights violations. They have thus put their oratorical talent at the service of the promotion of fundamental rights and freedoms. The objectives of this second edition were to: - to sensitise public opinion on the main principles and fair trial requirements, to recall that compliance with the rights of the defence is at the heart of strengthening the rule of law,

- Reaffirm the commitment of the human rights defenders, who are involved in the universal nature of the rights invoked,
- Strengthen the rights of the defence of anyone who has been charged and the role of the lawyer by highlighting the art of convincing in support of a cause pre determined by each of the candidates,
- Reporting and denouncing cases where violations are unacceptable and in violation of human rights.

13. This competition has made it possible to place legal aspects in the public arena in relation to major current issues, thus encouraging public reflection. It was also an opportunity to reaffirm the Government's commitment to the universality of human rights.

V-Institutional dimension of human rights

14. Mauritania's interest in the promotion and protection of human rights has resulted in the reinforcement of the establishment of several ministerial departments and national institutions:

V- Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society

15. The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Action is the ministerial department in charge of human rights. Its mandate entails:

- Formulation and implementation of the national policy for the promotion, safeguard, protection of human rights;
- Coordination of the national human rights policy;
- Education and awareness raising on human rights;
- Preparation of periodic reports based on ratified international and regional human rights instruments and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR);
- Harmonisation of national legislation with the international and regional human rights conventions ratified;
- Development and translation of action plans and programs for vulnerable social groups, with a view to strengthen the promotion and protection of their rights.

-Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family

16. Under Decree No. 189-2008, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family (MASEF) is responsible for:

- The submission of projects and programs to ensure the promotion of the family, the integration of women in the development process and the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Participation in the evaluation of the impact of programs and projects on the situation of women, families and children;
- Contributing to the development and monitoring of the implementation of national policies, strategies and programs, as well as development projects that may have an impact on women, families and children;
- Promoting measures to comply with women's rights in society in order to ensure equal opportunities in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;
- Raising awareness on the rights of women, children and families;
- Monitoring the implementation of ratified international conventions on the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

-Ombudsman of the Republic

17. The Ombudsman of the Republic is an independent administrative authority established by Act No. 93-27 of 27 July 1993. In addition to its traditional prerogatives contained in the 1993 law, the Ombudsman is seized by individuals through elected representatives and may be seized by the President of the Republic. It plays an essential role in intermediation between the Administration and citizens who consider that their rights or interests have been violated.

- National Human Rights Commission

18. Established in 2006, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) is regulated by Act No. 2010-031 of 20 July 2010. The CNDH became a constitutional institution following the amendment of the Constitution in 2012. The CNDH is an independent institution whose mandate is to:

- Give an advisory opinion on general or specific questions relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, and compliance with individual and collective liberties, at the request of the Government, Parliament or on its own initiative;

- Review and provide advisory opinions on national human rights legislation and draft legislation in this area;
- Contribute, by all appropriate means, to the dissemination and entrenchment of the culture of human rights;
- Promote human rights research, education and teaching at all training levels and in socio-professional circles;
- Raise awareness on human rights and combat all forms of discrimination and violation of human dignity, including racial discrimination, slavery and discrimination against women, by raising public awareness through information, communication and education, and by involving all media outlets;
- Promote the implementation of national legislation and ensure its harmonisation with ratified international legal instruments.

VI-Cooperation and engagement with international human rights institutions and mechanisms

19. Mauritania has developed a policy of openness, dialogue and consultation with all actors involved in the field of human rights. In accordance with its international commitments, Mauritania regularly submits reports to UN treaty bodies: it has submitted its reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on Human Rights Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Committee against Torture (CAT), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee. Following the example of UN member states, in November 2010 Mauritania's human rights performance was examined through the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council (UPR), after which it accepted the majority of the recommendations made by the UPR working group and towards which the country is working. This openness to monitoring mechanisms has also been reflected in the acceptance of all visits requests made by the various UN special rapporteurs and international non-governmental organisations. For example, Mauritania has welcomed several special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council:

- The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in 2008 and 2014;
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in 2009;
- The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, its causes and consequences in 2009-2011 and 2014;

20. As regards international non-governmental organisations, all visits requests have been approved since 2009, as evidenced by Amnesty International's regular visits, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and other organisations (Advisory Council of Black Organisations of France CRAN, etc.). The signing of a headquarters agreement which led to the opening in 2010 of an Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, followed by the unprecedented visit of Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, are clear evidence the commitment of the highest authorities towards the promotion and protection of human rights.

Part Two: Measures taken to implement of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

21. Measures taken to harmonize legislation and policy with the provisions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

I-General measures of implementation

1) Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

22. In addition to the international legal framework on the protection of children, Mauritania has adopted several instruments of various sizes to improve the situation of the child in accordance with the provisions of the ACRWC. Indeed, in its concluding observations on the second periodic report of Mauritania on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Committee on the Rights Of the Child (CRC) welcomed the adoption of Law No. 2007-042 of 3 September 2007 on the criminalisation of slavery, Ordinance No. 2005-015 of 5 December 2005, on the criminal protection of the child (OPPE), Law No. 2003/025 of 17 July 2003 on the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons.

23. The legislative framework provides a solid basis for the protection of children from abuse and all forms of exploitation. The Constitution and the OPPE contain relevant provisions in this area. In addition to the ratification of the ACRWC, which has given new impetus to all the programs implemented for children, Mauritania has acceded to several international and regional instruments, which demonstrate its determination to fulfil and enforce child rights. The Government, with the support of its development partners, UNICEF in particular, is committed to ensuring and implementing the content of these legal instruments and to bringing them into the public domain and to give girls and boys the same attention, as they must enjoy all legal provisions on an equal footing. In addition to this legal arsenal, it is necessary to add: (i) the process of development of a draft Children's Code whose main purpose is to put an end to the scattered nature of the existing texts on children which can be found in the codes (Penal Code, Civil Code, Labour Code, Social Security Code, etc.) as well as in administrative or regulatory documents. Hence, the new code will bring together in a single document these texts, thus facilitating the judicious use and effective enforcement of all the texts, (ii) the creation of a follow-up committee on CRC, ACRWC and CEDAW reports whose main purpose is the monitoring of the implementation of the CRC; and (iii) the progressive dissemination of national and international instruments to prison and judiciary staff. The public authorities and their partners are working to improve the conditions of detention of detainees in general but especially for women and children. The main lines of action are: (i) The popularization of Human Rights (HR) at the level of prison and judiciary structures; (ii) protecting children in conflict with the law and street children, (iii) rehabilitating children, (iv) contributing to the improvement of the conditions of detention (hygiene, food and medicine) of minors; (v) and advocacy for community service as an alternative to imprisonment of children.

24. In accordance with the spirit of protection which characterised its action, Mauritania has continued to promote the status of the child through the adoption on 6 October 2011 of a law repealing and replacing certain provisions of Law 61-016 Of 30 January 1961 which sets

the civil pensions scheme of the pension fund. This law ends discrimination against women and children in order to ensure the right to be granted a pension for the surviving spouse and children. The same concern also applies with the enactment of Act No. 2007.042 of 03 September 2007 on the prevention, care and control of HIV / AIDS. Indeed, issues relating to screening, confidentiality, medical care, family obligations, professional activity, medical insurance, among others, have been taken into account by the law, which makes special provisions for child protection. Its provisions, which are part of the fight against this pandemic while preserving the religious and social values of the country, take into account the child dimension in the context of society's response to this pandemic. For example, articles 25 and 26 punish respectively the abandonment of children or persons incapacitated by AIDS and the abandonment of families because of AIDS.

25. In a similar vein, the adoption of Order No. 797 of 18 August 2011 repealing and replacing Order No. 362 of 25 August 1953, as amended by Order No. 10.289 of 2 June 1965, determining the general conditions of domestic employment regulates the employment of domestic servants of both sexes and incriminates forms that violate labour laws, including the various Conventions ratified by Mauritania and the Mauritanian Labour Code and protects children against such kind of work. The order requires a formalised individual employment document. The Labour Inspectorate makes available to employees and employers some forms of standard contracts for domestic work established by the Ministry in charge of Labour, the signature and registration of which are a condition of the validity of the domestic labour relationship. The employer is required, at his own expense, to have the domestic worker medically examined beforehand. Minimum wages corresponding to the categories of domestic workers are equal to or higher than the minimum wage and set freely by the parties.

Housing and food are benefits in kind that are not mandatory for both the employer and the employee. When they are granted in kind, their value can be deducted from wages. It shall be fixed by agreement of the parties. A domestic worker recruited outside the place of employment or moved from that place by the employer during the performance of the contract shall be entitled to the payment of his travel expenses. The domestic worker shall be paid monthly and on a fixed date on the last day of the month. However, at the request of the employee, the salary may be paid every fortnight. A pay slip, made available to employers by the labour inspectorate, shall be issued to the employee including the particulars. The Labour inspectorate shall issue to young workers from the age of 14 years an authorisation to work which is necessary for their employment in domestic work, based on their physical capacities and health condition, after having obtained a prior agreement from their guardians and ensuring their compliance with other obligations imposed by the existing legislation and regulations. Moreover, Decree no. 247. 2010 of 8 November 2010 establishing the location and determining the jurisdiction of children's criminal courts, and its implementing decree have tightened legislation to punish illegal child labour.

26. The promulgation of a fatwa in 2011 by the imams prohibiting female genital mutilation (FGM), preceded by an anthropo-sociological study on the issue, contributed to the acceleration of the eradication process. Indeed, Thirty authoritative religious figures in Mauritania signed a fatwa (legal opinion that has the force of law), on 12 January 2010, condemning FGM. This fatwa states that female circumcision "have been proven harmful by experts. Such a practice is therefore prohibited in view of the damage it entails ". FGM is not related to religion, contrary to what many families tend to believe. The ulemas and imams

together declared that female circumcision is an anti-Islamic practice, as religion condemns any act that has negative repercussions on health. This fatwa will have a big impact on mentalities. Female excision, which was a taboo, is now seen as a crime against the human race. This fatwa reinforces the provisions of article 12 of the Ordinance on the criminal protection of the child, which punishes this practice. For its part, the Network of Imams of Mauritania has carried out a study to assess whether corporal punishment is allowed in Islam. The study found that violence has no place in the Koran. Therefore, the network called to eliminate this practice from the country's customs. On 31st January 2013, health professionals also declared that early marriage was detrimental to the health of the girl and that necessary steps had to be taken to combat it. All these positions resulted in the elaboration of an Islamic guide on the rights of the child, developed by the association of imams and ulemas of Mauritania, recalling the need to protect children in accordance with the precepts of Islam.

27. Faced with some problems affecting the child, the public authorities have adopted solutions that reveal the political will to protect the child. The Personal Status Code (CSP) (2001), the Child Protection Ordinance of 2005 (OPPE), the Decree on Alternative Measures to Minors' detention (2009), Decree No. 126.2009 of 19 April 2009 establishing a Parliament for Children, are some evidences of this desire, as well as the existence of institutions for the protection of certain very vulnerable categories of children. The readiness of Mauritania to ratify the CRC, the ACRWC and several other international human rights instruments in general and the existence of several constitutional provisions protecting human rights, also highlight the importance of the child in the culture and social policy of Mauritania. The CRC recommendations have influenced this dynamic of child protection. In order to ensure that the child's protective instruments are available in a single harmonised document, the PP has started the process of drafting the child's code in accordance with the recommendation of the CRC. It is not limited to a compilation of the various documents on the rights of the child currently in force. Its development is part of a holistic approach ensuring the harmonisation of the various provisions of the CRC and the ACRWC. It will take into account the different principles set out in the ACRWC and will serve as a benchmark for all policies and actions in favour of the child. To this end, its terms of reference were developed and a call for consultation was launched. Its development will take the form of actions to identify all aspects of child protection (legal, civil, criminal, administrative, social) and to harmonise national laws with international and regional child-related instruments ratified by Mauritania. Then its content will be validated in a workshop before being submitted to the government and the Parliament for its adoption.

28. Child protection measures have corroborated normative efforts. These include the organisation of a congress on Education in February 2013 to reform the education system with a view to improving its quality, its accessibility at all levels and to address its shortcomings so that it is adapted to its context. This way, alignment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is in the process of being reached through Goals 2, which aims to ensure primary education for all children. By 2015, all children, boys and girls, will have the means to complete a full course of primary schooling. This goal is potentially achieved. Goal 3 on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2015, through the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education at all levels of education, is also making similar progress

29. Combating violence against women and girls has resulted in a qualitative and quantitative study that has enabled us to identify the existing trends in order to define appropriate measures to counter them. That is the National Survey on Violence Against Women

in Mauritania 2011 (ENVEF2011). With regard to the prevalence of violence against women and girls, five forms stand out: (i) physical, (ii) sexual, (iii) psychological, (iv) economic (v) and those related to the non-implementation of the law. In addition, five types of settings have been identified. These contexts are (i) marital (including extra-marital), (ii) family, (iii) public, (iv) work (v) and school. The form of so-called psychological violence is the most prevalent. While the four other forms of violence, respectively have a relatively low prevalence rate. Only 6.1 per cent of women victims of violence in public settings have reported the violence to a relevant authority. The overwhelming majority of women victims of violence in the workplace (95.8%) have not filed complaints with a relevant authority. Only 4.2% complained to an authority (5.3% in urban areas compared with 1.7% in rural areas). In the family environment, only 3.4% of women reportedly complained to a relevant authority. In the marital context, victims of violence complained by only 4.6% (5.8% in urban areas and 3.6% in rural areas). On the whole, the use of a relevant authority to make a complaint against perpetrators of sexual violence is not very common. Only 4.9% of victims of sexual violence filed a complaint with a relevant authority (5% in urban areas and 4.8% in rural areas). Child rights coordination and advocacy have been strengthened by the improvement of child-care institutions, the consultation with judicial authorities and the development of judicial tools dealing with juvenile cases.

30. Several advocacy, training and consultation seminars have been organised for law enforcement staff (court chairpersons, solicitors, chief police officers, gendarmes, commissioners, social workers and police officers) to inform them about the development of the legal framework adopted by Mauritania within the framework of child protection. These trainings included the human rights framework and made it possible to set up a pool of trainers with a permanent mandate. Actions in the context of behavioural and attitudinal change are part of the implementation of the provisions of the ACRWC and also respond to the implementation of the recommendations made by the CRC. Actions against GBV were intensified through (i) the implementation of a national strategy to promote the elimination of FGM in the seven high-prevalence Wilayas among 700 imams (religious leaders) (ii), A national survey on GBV and (iii) Mauritania's accession to the United Nations Secretary General's campaign to end such violence. Secondly, (iv) implementation of a voluntary FGM program in the seven high-prevalence wilayas has helped to fight against this practice, (v) the annual celebration of zero tolerance FGM across the territory on 6 February (vi) and the organisation of campaigns to promote the elimination of FGM in the most affected regions, (vii) the establishment of the commission to follow up the recommendations of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) emphasizes the scope of measures taken to protect women and girls from all forms of discrimination and promote their rights enshrined in the CRC and CEDAW.

31. In order to monitor the situation of children, it is first and foremost useful to ensure the collection of reliable information in this area. In order to address the recommendation of the CRC and to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the ACRWC, the administrative services of the MASEF have mobilised means to ensure the regular collection of pre-school indicators and a comprehensive review of any information collected on childcare. The functioning of early childhood care and support structures and the transition from pre-school to basic education. Indeed, since 2010, the Children's Directorate (DE) has data processing software, computer units and a team of personnel trained in data collection and processing. The positive impact of this system is evidence through: (i) the collection of reliable and / or concerted and coherent data on children and childcare facilities; (ii) The ED publishes a

directory including all recommended outputs and indicators to be implemented. The following documents and activities were carried out by the DE: (i) a national early childhood database is functional. (ii) Regular maintenance on the local ED network, (iii) updating, processing and disseminating data. (iv) Executives of the Child Information Management Unit are trained in the operation of the database. (v) Two complete semi-annual extracts of the database are saved on CD-ROM and published for dissemination. In addition to this system, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development (MAED) has put in place a system for analysing the situation of women and children. The Ministry of Justice has developed a database on children in conflict with the law. The Ministry of Education has implemented a system of management and information of children's education, which makes it possible to know the number of children attending school, the trends and available resources.

32. In order to give importance to the protection and promotion of the rights of the child as much as possible, as prescribed by the ACRWC, the PP adopted Decree No. 189-2008 of 19 October 2008 establishing the powers of the Ministry of Social, Children and Family Affairs (MASEF) and the organisation of the central administration of its department. Its mission is to ensure national solidarity and social protection for vulnerable groups, safeguarding the family and the welfare of the child, and the promotion of women and their full participation in decision-making and economic and social development, in accordance with the Islamic values of the country and taking into account its cultural and civilizational realities and the demands of modern life. The MASEF is headed by a minister whose Cabinet consists of two permanent secretaries and four Technical Advisers. The persons in charge are responsible for any reform, study or mission entrusted to them by the Minister. The technical advisors develop studies, opinion papers and proposals on the matters entrusted to them by the Minister. One of the Technical Advisers takes charge of legal affairs, the other three are specialised in (i) Social Affairs, Children and Family; (ii) Gender and Women's Development; (iii) and Communication. The Training Centre for the Advancement of Women (CFPF), the Training Centre for Early Childhood (CFPE) and the Centre for the Protection and Integration of Children (CPISE) are under the technical supervision of MASEF as well as any other body that is created or entrusted by a legislative or regulatory instrument and which deals with the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. The children's directorate, the CPISE and the CFPE, which are under its authority, have the following budgets:

Year 2009

Institution	DE	CFPE	CPISE
Operations	9.4 Millions	12 millions	4 Millions
BCI	00 Million	83 millions	19 millions

2010

Institution	DE	CFPE	CPISE
Operations	5.5 Millions	79.8 millions	34 Millions
BCI	34 Millions	10 Millions	00

Year 2011

Institution	DE	CFPE	CPISE
Operations	4 Millions	79.8 millions	60Millions
BCI	10 Millions	10 Millions	15 Millions

Year 2012

Institution	DE	CFPE	CPISE
Operations	4 Millions	90 millions	65 Millions

BCI	10 Millions	10 Millions	30 Millions
Year 2013			
Institution	DE	CFPE	CPISE
Operations	4 Millions	100 millions	70 Millions
BCI	10 Millions	15 Millions	35 Millions

33. MASEF has developed a **national strategy** and a plan of action on child protection in 2009. The SNPE and its plan of action aimed at protecting children against VEDAN. It concerns the following issues: (i) children with disabilities, (ii) children exploited at work or victims of trafficking, (iii) children partially or totally deprived of parental care (street children, orphans, abandoned children (iv) children victims of harmful cultural practices (FGM, force-feeding, early marriage), (v) orphaned children and other vulnerable children in the context of HIV / AIDS, (vi)) Children who are victims of sexual violence and exploitation; and (vii) children in conflict with the law. A Child Protection System has been set up in 32 community protection services and 9 Wilayas in the country. The child protection action plan is based on a legal framework that includes both domestic and international child protection provisions. Issues relating to the protection of the most vulnerable groups were at the centre of the PRSP I, which resulted in the institutional strengthening of the department responsible for the promotion of children and the development of different sectoral policies. The crosscutting nature of children issues has been taken into account in the PRSP II. It provides for (i) the establishment of a structure to centralise all issues relating to children, (ii) the development of a process for identifying the needs of children, especially children In difficulty and strategies that can respond effectively and efficiently to these needs; (iii) improving the qualification of judicial and social personnel working in juvenile justice, and (iv) accelerating the process of harmonising national legislation with the international corpus.

34. The institutional child protection system includes a public and para-public component and a civil society (CS) component. Several public and para-public structures work for children. Among them, the following structures are directly involved in child protection: (i) MASEF, created in 2008, it gathers and re-organises pre-existing structures / directorates (Directorate for Children, Directorate for the Advancement of Women and Gender, Directorate for Social Action and National Solidarity, Directorate for Disabled Persons, CPISE and the Centre for Training and Promotion of Children with Disabilities and Deaf-mutes, as well as CFPE, CFPF, MASEF Regional Coordinations, the Mauritanian Children's Parliament, municipal children's councils, regional movements for the promotion of rights, regional child protection boards, (ii) the Ministry of Justice through the Directorate of Judicial Protection of Children (DPJE) and the Centre for Care and Social Reintegration of Children in Conflict with the Law (CARSEC), (iii) the Interior Ministry through a special squad for minors (BSCM); (iv) the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports through the Directorate of Youth Promotion. Other sectoral or specialised structures, such as the Food Security Commission (CSA), the Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Civil Society Relations (CDHAHSC), the National Agency for Support and Insertion of Refugees;

TADAMOUN the Ministries in charge of Health and Education; The National Office of the Awqaf and the municipalities as well as the structures that are part of the social security system, in particular the National Social Security Fund (CNSS) or the health insurance scheme, in particular the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) all play an important role in support of a wider social protection, including that of the child. MASEF is developing initiatives to make its actions known to children in national languages. They are also supported by radio and

television programmes in the same languages, and rural radio broadcasts increase the scope of the national plan of action for the promotion and protection of children through programs in national languages. All child protection actors have been working to achieve the goals of the Plan of Action for "*A World Fit for Children*". This has resulted in actions aimed at the legal protection of children, the promotion of a better living condition of children, improvement of education, ending child abuse and combating child labour and children exploitation. This report reflects all the actions carried out within the framework of the Declaration and Plan of Action of a World Fit for Children.

35. The Ministry of Health has developed specific programs to end common pathologies (malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, intestinal parasites), epidemic-prone diseases (cholera, measles and yellow fever) and other diseases such as tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and meningitis. An important component of health action is directed towards maternal and child health through the prevention and integrated management of mother-child illnesses and the initial and continuing training of the different categories of health personnel with a view to meet the needs of the new extension of health facilities. A program for the vaccination of children against epidemiological diseases, funded by the State budget, has been set up; A school-based HIV / AIDS training module for primary and secondary teachers was developed and tested in a few pilot schools; and a program of medical visits to schools is implemented. The creation of the mother and child hospital also contributes to the improvement of the quality of the care given to this duo, which is essential for the protection of society.

36. Education is the public authorities' top priority (19% of the 2014 budget for formal education, 510000 pupils in basic education), especially in terms of social advancement, access to basic services and human resources development. Basic education is compulsory and free. The number of pupils is 510,000; of which 100,000 are enrolled in secondary education and 14,000 in higher education, the remaining pupils are in primary school. The number of primary schools is 3768 and secondary schools are 231 and there are 3 public universities. 15,000 primary school teachers are registered, 5,000 are in secondary schools and 300 are in higher education, while 310 education inspector work in primary schools. National education policy is implemented through a ten-year program called the National Program for the Development of the Education Sector (PNDSE), which covers all components of the sector (pre-school, primary education and literacy, basic and secondary education, technical and vocational education and higher education). The objectives of the PNDSE are aligned with the international principles of Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The public authorities have adopted a program approach which brings together the main partners, including the World Bank, the French Development Agency, the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations system and bilateral partners as well as NGOs, around national priorities which concern the expansion of the system in order to increase the coverage and improve the quality of the services provided. The rate of access to pre-school education is 9%, in the basic education, the indicators are (i) gross enrolment rate is 99%, (ii) 50.4% for girls, (iii) retention rate is 61%; and (iv) examination pass rate for access to secondary education is 33%.

37. The establishment of a minors' squad within the police force for the investigation of child prostitution, child trafficking and child abuse has improved the capacity of investigating such crimes. Since its creation, there have been more cases of abuse and trafficking identified and brought to justice. MASEF has initiated an important work of awareness through various means of communication: theatre, posters, radio and television. Corporal punishment and other

forms of physical violence against children are prohibited at school and at home in accordance with the article. NGOs are working on child protection, with financial support from international donors. They provide a public service to vulnerable children. Various agencies are implementing programs on women's rights in order to strengthen the social position of women and girls and to prevent violence against women. They are responsible for reporting cases of violence against women, providing assistance to women in prisons and organise awareness-raising activities on early marriages and other issues affecting girls. Others develop programs that provide rapid response services, social assistance, and rehabilitation services for victims of sexual abuse as well as health care. Some have opened shelters for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence. MASEF has developed a training program for social workers and medical personnel, on psychological assistance to victims of trauma. Health Centres and hospital staff, and NGOs that have worked to register and handle cases of victims of rape and other sexual abuse.

38. The protection of the child against the consequences of disputes arising out of family relations is ensured by the family dispute service, which contributes to the stability of the family or lessen the consequences of divorce on the child's future. The Family Litigation and Social Mediation Service is responsible for: (i) defending the interests of family members in the case of family disputes; (ii) the social treatment of domestic violence; (iii) the legal and judicial assistance of couples, women and men in the implementation of the Personal Status Code provisions; (iv) contributing to the recovery of the Nafagha by women and children by; (v) contributing to the development and monitoring of the implementation of law and convention relating to the family; and (vi) managing a family database. These missions are divided between the Division of Legal and Judicial Assistance and the Division of the Database.

Trend of disputes dealt with by MASEF

Year	Child maintenance	Divorce application	Violence	Custody	Husband absence	Polygamy	Others	Total
1999	49	00	07	00	00	00	00	56
2000	64	0	20	0	0	0	0	84
2001	100	0	26	0	0	0	0	126
2002	241	0	55	0	0	0	0	296
2004	337	30	60	20	15	18	6	486
2005	300	20	68	10	10	03	00	411
2006	225	15	50	08	07	03	00	308
2007	295	30	63	20	15	06	00	429
2008	338	25	71	25	10	07	03	479
2010	684	99	144	42	65	28	06	1088
2011	671	109	144	25	63	39	00	1051
2012	575	107	136	20	30	16	07	891
2013	631	124	153	22	66	68	10	1088
Total	5342	639	1138	228	340	225	42	7954
%	67,16	8,03	14,31	2,87	4,27	2,83	0,53	100

39. Civil society organisations are also involved in the protection and promotion of children's rights; they are often supported by development agencies. According to the census done in the context of the development of the National Child Protection Strategy (SNPE), there are approximately 123 organisations directly involved in the child sector. These organisations

are based across the whole territory with a high concentration in Nouakchott. These organisations have accumulated experiences in child protection, education and health, and are considered to be privileged partners of the Government. This experience is currently being used in government and non-governmental child protection platforms, which are based at central and regional levels under the joint leadership of MASEF with another public and / or non-governmental institution. International organisations such as World Vision International, Caritas, Save the Children (Spain), Terre des Hommes (Italy and Switzerland), the Lutheran World Federation and Tostan International also support child-centered programs. UNICEF supports the public authorities and their partners in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of child protection activities and programs, as well as in other areas most directly related to rights and welfare of the child (Health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, social policy). The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supports, inter alia, activities for the empowerment of women and against FGM, while GIZ (German Cooperation) aims to strengthen the gender approach within a good governance Programme. Focusing on sustainable achievements, the National Action Plan confirms the orientations and choices made to place the child at the centre of national priorities and the development strategy. It directly aims at the protection and promotion of the child.

40. Mauritania has drawn up a PRSP for the period 2001-2015 which was adopted by the Poverty Reduction Guideline Law No 050/2001 of 25 July 2001. It is based on a largely participatory process and constitutes a reference in the development of economic and social policies. It is the medium- and long-term development plan of the country whose strategic scope is aimed at eradicating poverty as a national imperative, a priority in all national policies for the benefit of the child. The results of the Permanent Living Conditions Survey (EPCV) 2008 highlighted progresses that reinforced the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. They revealed that the incidence of poverty is 42%. This proportion is lower than in 2004 (46.7%). Moreover, the pace of poverty reduction accelerated over the period 2004-2008 by more than 1 point per year. Over the period 2006-2010, economic growth averaged 3.7% excluding oil and 4% including oil, or about half of the forecast, which planned a growth of 9.4%. A large number of achievements have recently been made on the state's own resources, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and basic services for the poorest populations. In the social area, the development of human resources and the widespread access of the poor to basic services was one of the Government's priorities during the period 2006-2010. In this context, the review of the PRSP II reveals some progress particularly in the areas of education, water supply, urban development, gender equity and universal access to basic services. In the area of governance, progress has been made in: (i) strengthening the rule of law; (ii) separation of the executive, legislative and judicial branches; and (iii) ensuring individual and collective fundamental liberties. Furthermore, the promotion of human rights has progressed through the settlement of certain humanitarian issues, the solution of which contributes to the lasting consolidation of national unity, in particular: (i) the organised return of returnees and their enjoyment of their full rights; (ii) criminalisation of the practices of slavery; and (iii) the settlement of humanitarian litigations through the official recognition of the facts and the compensation of the victims. Finally, positive developments have also been recorded in terms of: (i) aligning sectoral policies and strategies with the PRSP's strategic axes and objectives through the development of three-year action plans; (ii) development of the overall Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) as a programming tool to ensure consistency between the PRSP and the budget; (iii) coordination of official development assistance in accordance with the Paris Declaration; and (iv) adopting a participatory and

interactive approach in the process of preparing and monitoring the implementation of the PRSP.

41. The vision that Mauritania wishes to promote is that of a modern country, administratively and economically healthy and decentralised, politically stable and well integrated in the concert of nations. While adhering to the principles of sustainable development, the country must allow each Mauritanian in general and each child in particular to have access to: (i) individual and political security linked to the promotion of the principles of the rule of law, accountability, participation, effectiveness and transparency, (ii) education, vocational training and gainful employment; (iii) preventive and curative quality healthcare; (iii) basic food including drinking water; and (v) a healthy natural environment. The total cost of the PRSP III action plan that marks this step is estimated at 2,544,212.84 million ouguiyas, or USD 9,242.98 million. It is supported by a relevant monitoring-evaluation system, building on the achievements.

42. Mauritania has resolutely committed itself to the implementation of a comprehensive social, economic, political and cultural development policy based on the consolidation of democracy, the promotion of social justice, the fight against corruption, the development of economic growth initiatives in areas related to the poor and the strengthening of national unity and social cohesion, which is a guarantee of any child friendly development. As regards economic, social and cultural rights, Mauritania has made significant progress since 2009, when its report was examined by the CRC. For example, poverty reduction spending reached 107.9 billion Ouguiya in 2011, thus achieving the 10.3% of GDP target for pro-poor spending. In the education sector, the gross enrolment rate at the basic level reached 99% in 2011 and an increase in enrolment, number of schools, retention and girls attendance rate was recorded. In the health sector, health coverage within a 5-km radius reached 79% in 2011. Mauritania has ratified the majority of the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions that protect children, and it has submitted periodic reports to the ILO on the implementation of these Conventions at the national level. Mauritania is in the process of developing an action plan against child labour in partnership with the International Labour Office. It also has a legal arsenal designed to guarantee the right to work and freedom of association, the main source of which is the Labour Code of 2005, which also protects children. In terms of employment, the objectives pursued by the national strategy are, as a matter of priority, to take account the "job creation" dimension in budgetary planning; To strengthen vocational skills of jobseekers through job training and to promote employment through partnership with the private sector and the use of innovative approaches and initiatives. In addition, in recent years, Mauritania has strengthened its commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities by acceding to the relevant international conventions and adopting certain implementation instruments from Ordinance N 2006 - 43 on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities. It also adopted the decrees defining disability and its prevention measures on the one hand, and those setting up the multisectoral committee for the promotion of persons with disabilities. Concerning cultural rights, the Constitution guarantees cultural diversity and the State has put in place a legal arsenal designed to guarantee cultural rights for all. This has resulted, inter alia, in the ratification of the African Youth Charter in April 2010.

The National Sports and Recreation Youth Policy and its implementation and enforcement strategy since July 2011, in addition to the safeguarding of the ancient cities (Oualata,

Chinguitti, Tichitt and Ouadane), listed as a cultural heritage can be seen as evidence. Finally, Mauritania is committed to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights by (i) setting up a programme to encourage girls to pursue branches of science through the allocation of prizes (from primary to higher education), granting of scholarships for laureates, etc. (ii) strengthening of the vocational training programme, in particular through the women's promotion training centre and the training centre for early childhood which aims to train kindergarten teachers; and (iii) adapting the content of vocational training to the needs of the market by creating new modules (computer maintenance, programming, etc.);

43. The budgetary resources allocated to children's programmes for have increased, reflecting the commitment of the State to fulfilling its commitments towards children. The envelope allocated to the operation of MASEF amounts to 2,215,534,063 ouguiyas. The investment budget is 335,000,000 ouguiyas. This budget has mainly been used for the creation of new institutions, the improvement of infrastructures and the procurement of educational, recreational and protective equipment and the optimisation of the skills of those involved in the education and children sectors. The budget of the Ministry in charge of education amounts to 49,812,055,759 Ouguiyas, with an operation budget of 3,000,000,000 ouguiyas. Culture, youth and sports account for 1,810,686,875 ouguiya for operation and 745,220.00 ouguiya for investment. These two budgets are reinforced by the allocation of 1% of customs revenue annually allocated to the actions planned by this department.

The Ministry of Health's investment budget is at 12,529,296,688 ouguiya and its investment budget is at 4,800,000,000 ouguiya. The Ministry of Islamic Affairs and basic Education has an operation budget of 3,587,771,179 ouguiya and an investment budget of 110,000,000 ouguiya. These various departments intervene in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and each devotes an important part of their budget, which is difficult to detect considering the general nature of the targets of their actions, which encompass other populations than children. In addition, the State allocates family allowances to social security beneficiaries for every minor child. The envelope reserved for this allowance is growing steadily. Between 2009 and 2013, the budget allocated to social protection institutions almost doubled. Among the institutions benefiting from this envelope is the Centre for the Integration and Social Protection of Children, the Early Childhood Training Centre and the Care and Social Rehabilitation Centre for Children in Conflict with the Law. Development partners who support the different strategies developed by the public authorities in this field also support the social protection of the child.

44. Since the ratification of the ACRWC, the public authorities have carried out several communication activities to publicise the provisions of this fundamental instrument for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. These activities are linked to the dissemination of other conventions on the rights of the child, including the CRC. This has helped in disseminating the culture of children's rights to the target groups. These activities have been facilitated by the liberalisation of the audiovisual space, which has allowed the emergence of television and radio stations, which contribute to the popularisation of the Charter. The existence of the high-level audiovisual public authority, coupled with the financial support to the media and its organisation through a relevant law, have enabled the information and communication channels to devote programmes to the popularisation of the charter. **In addition, since 2000, children have benefited from the financing of essential social services in Mauritania under the 20/20 Initiative. This initiative was launched at the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995. The 20/20 Initiative recommends that developing countries devote 20 per cent of their budgets and donor countries give 20**

per cent of their official development assistance, to the promotion of basic social services. These services include early childhood care, basic education, health, access to safe drinking water, sanitation and nutrition. One of the major concerns of the initiative is to ensure a more effective and equitable use of the financial resources allocated to these sectors.

45. A MASEF technical adviser in charge of communication heads the Information, Education and Communication Unit. The task of this unit, in collaboration with the directorates and other relevant structures of the ministry, is to design and coordinate the Information Education Communication policy in the areas of action of the Ministry. In particular, it shall be responsible for: (i) upon a study, determining, in liaison with the relevant structures of the Ministry, appropriate sensitisation themes and channels for advocacy and information education communication, with a view to ensure the success of the Ministry's implementation, popularisation of and sensitisation on the ACRWC; (ii) contribute to the development of human capital through actions of Information Education Communication; (iii) develop and coordinate the Information Education Communication's strategies and policies relating to the activity of the Ministry; (iv) support social mobilisation actions that promote the implementation of the ministry's programmes and ensure the visibility of these actions; (v) manage media relations and information issues that are of the ministry's interest; (vi) organising documentation relevant to the ministry's activities; (vii) coordinating and producing liaison and information bulletins within the ministry; and (viii) contribute to the enhancement of human capital through the dissemination of information technology.

This unit has contributed to several activities that aimed at publicising the provisions of the ACRWC, including: (i) several advocacy and consultation seminars on the ACRWC for judiciary authorities (courts chairpersons, lawyers, chief police officers, gendarmes, commissioners and police officers); (ii) training of male trainers and female trainers on the ACRWC; (iii) developing and disseminating a guide on the legal procedures of the ACRWC, (iv) promulgating the fatwa prohibiting FGM preceded by an anthropo-sociological study (v) carrying out a study on gender-specific stereotypes ; (vi) development and implementation of a guide on standard operational procedures to end violence in 6 wilayas of the country; Development of a module to end FGM; (vii) carrying out an FGM campaign with 700 imams (religious leaders); (viii) conducting a national survey on GBV (ix) preparation of Mauritania's accession to the United Nations Secretary-General's campaign on violence against children; (ix) production of a film on GBV; (x) implementation of a programme of voluntary abandonment of FGM in 7 wilayas with high prevalence; (xi) Celebration of FGM Zero Tolerance Day throughout the country; and (xii) Launch of FGM Zero Tolerance Campaign in 11 Moughataa (Departments) of the three most affected regions (Assaba, Hodh Charghi and Guidimagha).

46. MASEF with other departments organised several awareness-raising seminars targeting primary and secondary teachers on the ACRWC provisions. The series of seminars reached all levels of the country's basic and secondary education. In addition to raising awareness among teachers, an effort is being made to provide ongoing training on the provisions of the ACRWC to civil servants and professionals working in child-related sectors, as well as prison officials, security forces, judges, lawyers, health workers and social workers. Since 2010 an annual seminar has brought together all MASEF regional coordinators in Nouakchott to undergo training on the provisions of the Convention to enable them to be informed of the measures and policies that should be implemented while dealing with children in accordance with the commitments made by Mauritania. The National School of

Administration, Journalism and Judiciary has reinforced its curriculum by integrating human rights and children's rights education for magistrates and judicial officers (clerks). This theoretical and practical teaching is intended to enrich the knowledge of clerks with regard to international conventions and treaties; It aims to reinforce the human dimension of the relations that they maintain with the litigants. The Ministry of Health organised a series of seminars to sensitise medical and paramedical staff on the provisions of the ACRWC. The seminars reached health workers in the 13 regional capitals of the country. They contributed to the promotion of the rights of the child in the health sector.

47. Regularly, sections of about 20 weekly newspapers deal with issues pertaining to children. They deal with the principles of the CADBE, their implementation and the challenges they pose. In addition, the national daily newspapers *Horizons* and *Chaab* publish articles devoted to the youth and they often review of the implementation of the ACRWC on the occasion of the celebration of children related events. The proliferation of websites has boosted the popularisation and sensitisation on the ACRWC. Several illustrated and documented articles are published by various youth websites. The enthusiasm for the Internet has made it possible for the general public to know the provisions of the ACRWC and to campaign for its enforcement and compliance by the various segments of society. The network of journalists child rights defenders continuously raises awareness on the charter. Ten FM radio stations broadcast live programmes on children. The popularisation of the ACRWC takes place in other issues related to violence, labour, education and exploitation of children. Discussions arising from these programmes often lead to discussions on the implementation of the ACRWC. Seven television channels introduce the ACRWC to households through the permanent weekly programmes on family, children and the role of parents in the education of their offspring.

48. During the reporting period, national and non-governmental organisations played a leading role in the dissemination of the child rights culture. National and non-governmental organisations organised awareness-raising campaigns on the provisions of the ACRWC across the country. These included vital statistics, protection, health, education, participation, rehabilitation and reintegration. These awareness campaigns have often been organised in partnership with MASEF and technical and financial partners (TFPs). This highlights their effectiveness and complementarity with the national strategy adopted by the public authorities, to gradually change the populations' mentalities and lead them to implement the ACRWC. NGOs have also contributed to a better visibility of the provisions of the ACRWC by conducting surveys and studies on practices contrary to the CRC. This enabled the authorities to act accordingly so that the ACRWC is now recognized in the relevant sectors. MASEF has also carried out several field surveys, which enabled it to discover practices in breach of the ACRWC. These practices were stigmatized by NGOs, hence following the surveys; they went on to contribute to attitudinal change within the targeted populations. These NGOs carry out missions to monitor compliance with the ACRWC provisions and they have the right to take legal action in case of non-compliance with the rights of the child.

49. The drafting of this report was carried out through a series of information activities, technical meetings, interviews, and information gathering with and among different actors working in the children sector. The purpose of these meetings was to ensure a common understanding of the process of preparing this report. This triggered an internal dynamic of exchange of ideas and experiences on the situation of children. The shared understanding that came out of these exchanges has attracted considerable interest from the actors and served as a basis for the expression of a commitment that facilitated its preparation. The process of

preparing this report was carried out in three phases: (i) literature review, (ii) meeting with stakeholders in the children sector, and with beneficiaries, (iii) Preparation of the first Draft; (iv), followed by its presentation at a consultation workshop for inputs and amendments; drafting and tabling of the final report. The methodological approach was essentially based on dialogue, participatory action, analysis focused on a child rights approach in order to promote the strategic choice of areas of cooperation. This process, based on a dynamic and inclusive partnership, yielded this report, which analyses the current state of implementation of children's rights, with particular emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals. (MDGs) and other commitments from global, regional, sub-regional or national conferences and summits on the welfare of the child.

50. Similar to the approach adopted when preparing initial and periodic reports to UN treaty bodies, MASEF, which coordinated the process of preparing the initial report of the ACRWC at the national level, established a multisectoral committee composed of:

MASEF Permanent secretary, President;

MASEF legal adviser, member;

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Group on Children, member;

Director of Children service, member;

Representative of the Ministry of Justice, member;

Representative of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and basic Education, member; Representative of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Modernization of the Administration, member;

Representative of the Ministry of Health, member;

Representative of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, member; Representative of the Ministry of Communication and Parliamentary Relations, member;

Representative of Ministry Delegate to the Minister of State for National Education in charge of Secondary Education, member;

Representative of the Ministry Delegate to the Minister of State for National Education in charge of Primary Education, member;

Representative of UNICEF, representing partners, member.

2°)- Achievements

51. The 2013 Order establishing a multisectoral committee to prepare the two periodic reports on the measures taken by Mauritania to implement the provisions of the CRC and the ACRWC reflects on the one hand the concern for the effectiveness of the Charter and on the other hand, it allows the said Committee to ensure compliance with the periodicity, content and submission of the reports in accordance with the deadlines laid down. The Committee for the preparation of the two periodic reports on the measures taken by Mauritania to implement the provisions of the CRC and the ACRWC has the following objectives: (i) to collect data on the implementation of the provisions of CRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, (ii) prepare periodic reports, and (iii) advise and explain the information contained in the two reports. At the institutional level, the creation of a national parliament for children (with two representatives per moughataa) by Decree No. 126/2009 of 19 April 2009 and the establishment of children's municipal councils have made it easier for them to understand the mechanisms of functioning of the institutions of the Republic and to fight for their rights through appropriate advocacy.

For instance, the children municipal council of the commune of Arafat was set up in 2013 and comprises 25 members. The same applies to the children municipal councils of Zouérate and Elmina. The parliament is based on gender balance and includes representatives of children with disabilities and those in difficulty. Thus, the 108 children who make up this parliament

often carry out contact and advocacy visits across the country to meet public authorities, elected representatives and civil society (SC) in order to defend children's rights. They are actively involved in the eight regional platforms on social development consultation created in 2012. Each social development consultation platform is the ideal place to share information, implement collaborative projects and mobilise key players involved in social development in general and that of children in particular. Its mandate is to provide leadership in social development in the wilaya. To fulfil this mandate, the platform must: (i) promote social development among leaders, decision-makers and the general public; (ii) sensitise decision makers and other stakeholders to local and regional social development issues; (iii) mobilise partners to stimulate local and regional responses; and (iv) initiate and support interventions in the area of social development.

52. The National Strategy for the Institutionalisation of Gender (SNIG), developed in 2011 by MASEF, contributes to optimising the participation of women and girls in the country's development. The SNIG is based on a national legal arsenal (Islam, constitution and strategic framework to end poverty), taking into account Mauritania's international commitments on sustainable development and the promotion and fight against discrimination against Women and girls. It is based on a vision for the development of equality in law and in dignity for all citizens and the equitable sharing of resources and responsibilities between women and men. In a decade, the SNIG will ensure the successful integration of gender issues in all development sectors to promote gender equality and equity and ensure the empowerment of women and the girl child. It aims to achieve the goals of social and human development as defined in the recommendations of the various world summits namely the achievement of a sustainable and equitable development based on the principles of equity and equality of the sexes. This vision is divided into two strategic objectives: combating discrimination against women in accordance with international conventions and contributing to the effectiveness of the rights of women and girls.

The SNIG is based on two types of measures which entail, on the one hand, the mainstreaming of gender in policies, standards, development programmes, budgets, structures and the implementation of specific positive actions for women and girls in order to reduce the gaps with men on the other hand. To do this, the SNIG is based on two axes. The first one, relating to gender mainstreaming, is transversal. The actions linked to the impetus and advocacy for the reforms and dynamics of change in the leadership and coordination; the deepening of knowledge and the development of analytical tools; the control of governmental action and the monitoring as well as evaluation and the consolidation of partnerships for the implementation of the strategy play an important role. The second vertical axis is specifically dedicated to the management of certain themes related to the empowerment of women and girls and the fight against stereotypes and gender-based violence. It targets issues that sectoral departments generally do not address, such as promoting women's and girls' civil rights and empowerment, promoting women's public participation, combating gender-based violence, and fighting against gender stereotypes and the promotion of the culture of equality.

53. The SNIG system is structured around three bodies. : (i) The National Council for Gender Institutionalisation (CNIG), chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of the senior managers of the institutions concerned, representatives of civil society, the private sector and technical and financial partners (PTF), constitutes a national forum for advocacy, guidance and evaluation of gender institutionalisation. (ii). The Gender Monitoring Group (GSG), composed of heads of gender units from the main relevant ministerial departments, representatives of civil society and PTFs directly involved in the gender issue, represents the element of gender policy

design. (iii) Sectoral gender units, which include in each ministerial department, representatives of the central directorates, ensure that the gender approach is taken into account in the development and implementation of the gender policy sector. (iv) They may rely on the National Committee to Combat Gender-Based Violence, including FGM, which was established in 2008; and (v) regional and departmental GBV control committees set up in 2007. (vi) The establishment of several counselling and care centres for girls' victims of rape, managed by national NGOs, complements the work of these institutions.

54. Social protection is a key component of poverty reduction strategies. It is an important aspect in the efforts to reduce economic, social, food / nutritional vulnerability and to ensure protection against other shocks and stress. It is important for children in terms of the magnitude of their vulnerability compared to adults, and also in view of the role that social protection can play in ensuring adequate nutrition and better access to basic social services such as education, health, water and sanitation). Mauritania has made social protection one of its priorities. On the basis of the commitments in the Livingstone and Yaoundé processes, in 2011, the PP developed a national social protection strategy (SNPS). It encompasses a range of public investments and initiatives, both formal and informal that are directly likely to address risks of vulnerability and chronic poverty. The SNPS introduces a conceptual framework for social protection, which emphasizes its pluri-dimensionality and the multidisciplinary aspect of any approach or reflection referring to it, in particular in relation to social protection sensitive to the multiple vulnerabilities of children. It also reflects the interest of public authorities and civil society in social protection. This strategy is based within the PRSP. It is able to provide coherent, effective and equitable assistance to the most vulnerable populations.

All this is planned in the PRSP (2006-2010-2015), which sees social protection as both a domain and an approach to poverty reduction that should mobilize intersectoral efforts to reduce vulnerability. The beginning of its implementation has already been translated into a diagnosis of child vulnerability and the development of resilience programmes that highlight child protection. These are in addition to programmes to end food crises, actions developed by the Tadamoun agency to strengthen solidarity and the newly adopted strategy for the protection of children. The SNPE highlights the importance of social vulnerabilities especially in the area of protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. There are several types of constraints which mainly revolve around (i) institutional and human capacity; (ii) lack of coordination; (iii) weak legal framework; (iv) lack of a clear analysis and information system; (v) and insufficient financial resources. The SNPE has placed the child at the centre of the analysis and the actions to be undertaken and facilitates the integration of child protection, programmes and other elements specific to child rights. The SNPS proposes an integrated vision of social protection, a multisectoral approach to processes and mechanisms for implementing specific programmes aiming to strengthen educational efforts and expand opportunities for education of the most deprived children. To this end, it plans to use broader forms of partnership and a participatory approach embedded in a more comprehensive strategy to end poverty and eliminate social exclusion.

The SNPS identifies the persistent disparities in access to water and sanitation services as an important factor contributing to the vulnerability of populations. It examines policies based on service users' charges from the point of view of social protection. In this regard, it advocates for actions that recognise the need for measures to ensure equity. It also highlights the President of the Republic's initiative to accelerate the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5, which are essential for the success of the social protection policy. The employment sector is of paramount importance for social protection, given the high rate of unemployment, which contributes

greatly to the problems of impoverishment and precarious living conditions. The importance of creating potential links and synergies between employment and social protection strategies is highlighted by the SNPS. It examines social protection aspects included in different national programmes designed to extend universal access to basic social services (water, sanitation, electricity and housing) and to respond, through targeted programs, to the needs of specific populations identified as particularly vulnerable (e.g. refugees, disaster victims, or populations emerging from the aftermath of slavery) and also to promote decentralised approaches. The SNPS appreciates the quality of national social protection policies in the light of the budgetary effort made. It examines national budgetary trends in the social sectors and analyses tax opportunity or room for manoeuvre for larger investments in social protection. Subsequently, in view of the multidimensional and cross-sectoral aspects of social protection, the SNPS presents different institutional models that can promote, strengthen and channel intersectoral coordination that is necessary for the success of social protection, recommending the creation of a National Council or interdepartmental committee.

55. Analysis of migration flows to Mauritania reveals three successive waves over the past ten years, namely: (i) traditional migration from neighbouring countries characterised by cultural, religious and linguistic ties; (ii) migration of people fleeing conflicts of the 1990s (Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, etc.) and (iii) transit migration to Europe via North Africa and the Canary Islands. Following a stricter surveillance system and an unfavourable economic situation, from a transit country, Mauritania is gradually becoming a country of retention where regular migrants (those from ECOWAS member countries) and irregular migrants live. The Mauritanian authorities have intensified the creation of border controls with a view to controlling inflows. The quasi closure of the maritime boundary, coupled with the intensification of border controls, raises questions about the mutation of the migration problem. Migrants initially in a transit situation, mainly concentrated in Nouadhibou, find themselves in a situation of prolonged stay, becoming even permanent. It is unlikely that these foreigners will be forced to return voluntarily to their country of origin. The real challenge for the Mauritanian authorities is therefore the management of this foreign population and the border control is no longer a priority. The national migration management strategy (SNGM), adopted in 2011, therefore proposes a rebalancing of actions in favour of migration and development dimensions, improving knowledge and supervision of migratory phenomena as well as protecting migrant populations in precarious situations including children and refugees. The SNGM is based on four axes in which the child dimension is present. The first axis of the migration management framework develops projects in which the child's situation, rights and specificities are taken into consideration: (i) establishment of an institutional framework for management, monitoring and evaluation (ii) and support for actions aimed at obtaining a better knowledge and prevalence of migration. The second axis is related to migration and development, which significantly improves access of the migrant or refugee child to basic services either directly or through the improvement of the situation of his parents. It includes the following themes: (i) improved accessibility to basic services for foreigners (ii) improved compliance with the rights of migrant workers (iii) improved services provided by the public authorities to the Diaspora and (iv) enhancement of the Diaspora's actions for development. The third axis concerns the respect of the fundamental rights of returnees, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It initiates projects on: (i) asylum management, (ii)

improving information on migration in partnership with the media, (iii) sensitising the population and actors to the phenomenon of migrant children trafficking. The fourth axis on controlling migratory flows includes actions that take the child dimension into account in decision-making, in accordance with the international human rights conventions ratified by Mauritania. These include: (i) improvement of controls and management of entry and exit from Mauritania (ii), information and assistance to illegal immigrants.

56. The effectiveness of coordination and advocacy for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child has been enhanced through: (i) the establishment of regional cooperation and coordination committees for addressing and solving family disputes (iii) the establishment of the Centre for the Protection and Social Integration of Children (CPISE) with several Regional Offices (iv), and the establishment of children's courts, (v) commissariat and (vi) specific centres for children in conflict with the law. (vii) the establishment of a national AIDS committee (CNLS) and (viii) a national AIDS executive secretariat (SENLS) paved the way for the establishment of several treatment centres where antiretroviral drugs are freely distributed to all patients, including children. Several prevention and screening campaigns for women and girls have been carried out by sectoral coordination of the SENLS at the MASEF level. Malnourished children are cared for in health facilities through recovery and nutrition education centres, community food centres made available in underprivileged districts by the Commission for Food Security and the community nutrition centres of MASEF.

57. The working tools of the judiciary actors have been simplified in order to better protect and promote the rights of the child. This has resulted in the development and dissemination of a guide on judicial procedures, the development and implementation of a guide on standard operational procedures for ending violence (SOPS) in six wilayas and the development of a training module for ending FGM.

58. The priority mission of the Human Rights Commission is to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in the country by immediately informing the authorities of dysfunctions and slippages in order to take urgent decisions, which could be prevention or correction decisions, pending structural measures which should be based on more in-depth analyses. For this reason, the Human Rights Commission's activities have been focused, at national level, on consultation and exchanges with the administration in order to take human rights concerns into account with a view to address issues that are relevant to them. Another area of activity is cooperation with the technical and financial partners, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and collaboration with human rights non-governmental organisations (NGOs), in addition to missions and investigations within the country.

At external level, the national human rights commission (CNDH), by virtue of its "A" status, which it obtained in May 2011, fully participates in the meetings and activities of the networks of the Arab, African and International Institutions within the governing bodies of which it holds a leading position. The CNDH has a subcommittee on the rights of the child. After a year of evaluation of the practice and criteria of independence, autonomy, plurality and effectiveness of the CNDH, the accreditation subcommittee (SCA) of the United Nations Committee for the Co-ordination of National Institutions, which met in Geneva in May 2011, recommended that the CNDH of Mauritania be accredited with an "A" status. The SCA welcomed the efforts undertaken by the CNDH to follow up the recommendations made by the SCA during its

session in November 2009, in particular the replacement of the 2006 Ordinance creating the CNDH by a law voted by Parliament in July 2010. The Paris Principles, approved by a United Nations resolution in 1993, lay down the rules for Creation and functioning of the National Independent Institutions of Human Rights and are the benchmark for which the compliance degree determines the level of independence and effectiveness of National Human Rights Commissions, which will thus be classified into three groups: (i) category C, which includes groups of non-conforming Commissions to the Paris Principles, (ii) category B, which includes institutions whose conformity with the Principles Of Paris is incomplete, as was the case of the CNDH over the period 2007 to 2010, (iii) status A which is attributed to the Commissions fully compliant, in texts and by practice, with the Paris Principles. Such Commissions become full members of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions and are thus authorised to engage with the various international human rights bodies and mechanisms. With this new status, the CNDH, a constitutional institution since the adoption of Organic Law No. 2012.015 of 20 March 2015 revising the constitution of 20 July 1991, joins the group of Arab and African National Human Rights Institutions who, together with other committees in the world, have the capacity to participate in the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council and other international bodies by taking the floor or submitting written opinions on all Issues. It now complies with the CRC recommendation.

This new status is the result of three efforts: (i) the adoption of Law n ° 2010 .031 of 20 July 2010, which cancels and replaces the 2006 ordinance on the establishment and operation of the CNDH, (ii) independent involvement of the CNDH in the evaluation and review of compliance with human rights without interference or obstruction of any authority, particularly in the monitoring of issues related to the prevention of torture and ill-treatment and prison conditions and (iii) increase of constant and sustained efforts by the CNDH for the protection and promotion of human rights, in collaboration with representatives of the State, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and NGO members, the Commission is able to: (i) play an optimal role in the universal human rights protection system, (ii) act as a guarantor for the monitoring of international standards at national level through the monitoring of implementation (iii) and have effective relations with international organisations, the Government, parliament, the media and civil society organisations. The Commission publishes an annual report on the situation of human rights in Mauritania, which it submits to the President of the Republic.

3°)-Limits

58. The lessons learned from the implementation of the ACRWC show that Mauritania has made progress and that it will only be able to reach the full implementation of this charter if it succeeds in meeting major challenges: (i) of economic nature (In the areas of: private sector development, infrastructure and sources of growth); (ii) in relation to the priority areas of the PRSP (in the rural environment, through a growth that should be more inclusive and in the urban environment by improving the living conditions of the populations); (iii) of a social nature (access to education, health, employment, drinking water, sanitation ...); (iv) related to governance (strengthening national unity and cohesion, improving governance, protecting the environment and combating global warming); and (iv) security (security and immigration threats).

II- Definition of the child

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

59. The definition of the child in Mauritanian law complies with article 2 of the ACRWC and its related rights are similar for girls and boys. The national legislation does not make a difference between the various types of responsibilities between girls and boys: **(i) 6 to 14 years for compulsory education; (ii) 16 years of age: admission to employment; (iii) 18 years: hazardous work and electoral majority; (iv) 15 years: criminal responsibility; (v) 18 years;** age of marriage. The Law No. 2001-052 sets the age of marriage at 18 years of age and requires the consent of the wife to get married. The CPS allows a judge to dissolve a marriage celebrated without the consent of the woman. Article 41 of OPPE punishes between three and six months' imprisonment and a fine of 100,000 to 200,000 ouguiyas, parents and caregivers who request the registration of a child marriage and the authorities who do so without respecting the legal age of marriage and consent. This penalty shall also apply to any person who has inflicted a physical constraint on the child, which has resulted in harming him/her, dismemberment or permanent incapacity with a view to causing him/her to consent to the marriage. In addition, MASEF and CSOs have sensitised girls and families against the practice of early marriage. Some NGOs provide reproductive health care and counselling to married adolescents or adolescents at risk of being married. These girls also receive vocational training. Young girls at risk of dropping out of school, are supervised and supported by CSOs with a view to protect their smooth education. Religious leaders, who have a strong influence on the populations, are involved in raising awareness to eliminate early marriage.

2°)- Achievements

60. Meeting in Nouakchott on 31 January 2013, health professionals identified early marriage as a factor leading to school dropout, a threat to reproductive health, and a serious risk to the health of mothers and children. They recalled that the CRC, CEDAW, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the ACRWC; the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Cairo Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and all other relevant legislation, provide a national, regional and international framework for the elimination of early marriage. To this end, they recommended (i) to conduct a broad advocacy and awareness campaign among all actors on the harmful effects of this practice; (ii) develop and evaluate specific action plans; (iii) combine the fight against early marriage and FGM; (iv) develop and implement the implementing texts of the Personal Status Code as it relates to the marriage of girls at the age of 18; (v) invite the religious, i.e. Imam and Ulema, to take ownership of the doctors' arguments and participate effectively in the campaign.

61. Respect for human rights begins with the way in which a society treats its children. A society that cares about children will offer them freedom and dignity by creating conditions that allow them to develop their full potential and be ready to live a full and satisfying adult life. These values should undoubtedly be related to the numerous legal measures adopted in recent years in favour of children, in particular: (i) - Act No. 2001.052 of 19 July 2001 on the Code of Personal Status, (ii) Act No. 2001.054 of 19 July 2001 on the Obligation of Basic Education, (iii) Act No. 2003.025 of 17 July 2003 on the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, (iv) Act No. 2004.017 of (Vi) Law No. 2007.048 of 3 September 2007 on the criminalisation of slavery and slavery-like practices, (vi) the law of 12 January 2011 on the Civil Code, (vii) Ordinance No. 2005.015 of 5 December 2005 on the criminal protection of the child, (viii) Ordinance 2006.05 of 26 January 2006 on legal aid, (ix) Decree No. 69.2009 of 2 March 2009 on alternative measures to detention of children in conflict with the law, (x) Decree No. 061.2012 Of 28 February 2012 establishing the Centre for the Care and Social Reintegration of

Children in Conflict with the Law and (xi) the Order of 18 August 2011 amending, repealing and replacing Order No. 362 of 25 September 1953 Amended by Order No. 10.289 of 2 June 1965 determining the general conditions of domestic employment. These measures place Mauritania at the forefront of what countries can do in the legal field with a view to promoting the status of children in society in general and the family in particular. Measures and attention that do not only reveal that Mauritania is capable of compassion and humanitarian action towards its children but that it has a sense of history, it is committed to the future and wants to improve the human condition of its future generations.

3°)-Challenges

62. The ratification of the ACRWC and the CRC was undoubtedly the starting point of an orderly approach to give a new impetus to all programmes hitherto implemented in favour of children, with a view to achieve a better alignment of legislation and national policy on the rules and principles proclaimed by these two fundamental texts. However, beyond their importance and diversity, even though these laws and mechanisms, which have been adopted or implemented, represent the State's attention towards children, as at today they remain unknown. As an endeavour and a reflection of what a society can do best in terms of protecting and promoting future generations, these initiatives are based on a new ethic, according to which the child, because of his/her physical and moral vulnerability, should be the beneficiary of a protection from the whole of society. Parents, civil society, community and public and private institutions of the large network of health, education and social and judicial services are invited to join forces so that childhood should really be a period that will allow the child to eternally have confidence in humanity. These are complementary responsibilities, preventive actions and, where appropriate, appropriate forms of intervention that must be undertaken in order to find appropriate solutions in a timely manner and in the best interests of the child, with many children sometimes living in difficult situations that compromise their security and development.

63. Several years after its entry into force and the establishment of the bodies responsible for its implementation, it remains clear that this new legal protection mechanism must be constantly accompanied by measures and programmes aimed at disseminating to the public and to all actors, the values and principles enshrined in it to be fully effective and fulfil its functional purposes. This observation was made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, who recalled Mauritania's international commitments on the domestication of the provisions of the CRC and the ACRWC in the national normative and institutional system. During the presentation of the 2nd Periodic Report of the Mauritanian State at the fifty-first session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on 28 May 2009, in its concluding observations, the Committee recommended to Mauritania on 12 June 2009 ((i) to step up and accelerate measures to bring its national legislation fully into line with the CRC and the ACRWC by undertaking a comprehensive review of the legislation and its implementation, (ii) a general code on children which would incorporate the provisions of the CRC and take account of the ACRWC, and (iii) publicise domestic legislation. The main constraint in this area relates to the absence of a child code in Mauritania that encompasses all areas of protection provided for by the ACRWC and the CRC, by including them in a single document to facilitate their adaptability, and their application. In addition to being comprehensive, in, the Code needs to harmonise domestic child protection legislation with the provisions of the ACRWC, the CRC and the international instruments on children ratified by Mauritania. It must put in place more protective standards than international conventions and curb the omissions or inadequacies of national and international legislation in

the field of child protection, where appropriate, in the light of the dangers the child is exposed to. It should encompass all aspects of child protection and there should be sanction for any violation. It will highlight that the future of society depends closely on the supervision, training and education of children to the values of humanism, progress and modernity. It will also show the fragility of the child and its special protection needs vis a vis the worst forms of exploitation and ill treatment to which it may be subjected. Finally, it will codify into a single corpus that is easily accessible to all relevant stakeholders the various standards relating to the different aspects of child protection. It will thus realise the will of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to protect children in line with the international commitments ratified by the State in the area of children's rights within the framework of the United Nations, The International Labour Organization or the African Union.

64. It will show a general picture of the situation of children and will contribute to the coherence of its protection. Three basic elements will characterise the children's code: (i) the effort to adjust Mauritania's international obligations to the socio-cultural context; (ii) a more systematic organisation of the repression for infringements of the fundamental rights of the child; and (iii) the consequent improvement of its social and judicial protection, with the establishment of suitable institutions. This should first be reflected in the codification of the general protection of the child. This involves determining the basic objectives and principles of protection (best interests of the child, primacy of the family, non-discrimination ...), the entrenchment of his/her fundamental rights and addressing of his/her duties and those of his/her parents. Then, the code will deal in detail with the special protection of children at risk. In order to do so, it will list the difficult situations in which children can find themselves and which require interventions that are supported by adequate repressive measures. It will organise the social protection of children at risk by public or private institutions of supervision, and protection of children. The judicial protection of the child perpetrator in danger, child victims or witness will be considered. The judicial procedure and prison regime provisions which have as their primary objective, the fastest reintegration of the child will also be codified.

III-General principles

65. The main principles contained in the charter have been transposed into the national legal corpus and implemented in national development strategies in order to promote the interests of the child as much as possible.

A- Non-discrimination (art. 2)

66. The public authorities have started on a series of actions, which aim to end discrimination, enabling children and girls to exercise their rights and to eradicate slavery.

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

67. In the preamble to the Constitution, strongly endowed with its spiritual values and the influence of its civilization, the Mauritanian people solemnly proclaim their attachment to Islam and the principles of democracy as defined by the Universal Declaration Of Human Rights of 10 December 1948 and by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 28 June 1981, and in the other international conventions to which Mauritania has subscribed. These international legal instruments, which have been ratified by Mauritania, are entirely part of its positive law. Article 1 of the Constitution of 20 July 1991, as amended in 2006 and 2012,

enshrines the principle of equality by providing that "*the Republic ensures equality before the law to all citizens irrespective of their origin, race, sex or social status,* ".

The Constitution also guarantees, in Article 15, the right to property and inheritance to all citizens without distinction. Other laws and regulations provide for the principle of non-discrimination, in particular article 395 of the Labour Code of 2004 explicitly entrench equal access to employment and opposition to discrimination, exclusion or preference based on race, national extraction, colour, sex, religion, political opinion or social origin. The Mauritanian law, including article 1 of the Constitution, prohibits incitement to racial and ethnic discrimination and contains a set of provisions prohibiting the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, any incitement to racial discrimination and other acts of violence or provocation targeting any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin. Article 3 of Order no. 91-023 of 25 July 1991 on freedom of the press prohibits hatred, ethnic, regionalist prejudice or any other offense defined as crimes or offenses. In addition, Order No. 091-024 of 25 July 1991 on political parties states in article 4 that "*in their statutes, programmes, speeches and political activities, political parties shall refrain from any incitement to intolerance and violence, any propaganda intended to undermine the integrity of the territory or the unity of the nation* ". The provisions contained in the chapter entitled "*Crimes against persons*" in the Criminal Code enable the judge to punish any racist practice according to its gravity.

68. At institutional level, the CNDH contributes to the fight against discrimination. The Commission is an independent body responsible for advice, review, alert and mediation pertaining to the respect of human rights; it is composed of personalities from professional organisations and civil society, the Bar Association, trade union confederations and institutions. The Commission is responsible for establishing and developing policies for the promotion and protection of human rights in conjunction with other institutions with a more specific mandate such as MASEF. This institution plays an important role in the discussions that it holds on current human rights issues, on the fight against slavery, the issue of humanitarian liabilities and the importance of strengthening social and economic cohesion and national unity. The public authorities also have programmes and policies in place to ensure the development and protection of different social groups, including the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the development of a Strategic Framework against poverty. The National Plan of Action for Human Rights aims, inter alia, to (i) provide Mauritania with a framework for reference and consultation in order to coordinate programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights; (ii) to promote the rule of law and constitutional system that is conducive to the entrenchment of human rights; (iii) and to strengthen national capacities and partnership between the Government and civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights. The PRSP pays specific attention to particularly vulnerable groups in society, through (i) job creation, (ii) promotion of sectors directly benefiting the poor in their concentration areas, (iii) development of the education system and training or essential care, (iv) the promotion of good governance. The focus on the development of an action plan against racial discrimination arising from the ratification of the Anti-Discrimination Convention is part of the willingness to protect children.

69. The fight against slavery practices is a priority of the action of the PP and has been translated by the adoption of the law of September 3, 2007 incriminating slavery practices. This law aims to (i) eliminate all the inherited defects of the past, (ii) promote a culture of equality, tolerance

and citizenship (iii) and create conditions for progress and the advancement of all Mauritians. Article 2 of the Act defines slavery as "*the exercise of the powers of ownership or some of them over one or more persons*" and prohibits, in article 3, "*any form of discrimination whatsoever or, against a person allegedly a slave*". The crime of slavery committed by "*anyone who reduces another person to slavery or induces the alienation of his/her liberty or dignity or that of his dependents or guardians in order to be enslaved*" is punishable by a penalty of "imprisonment for five to ten years and a fine of 500,000 to 1,000,000 ouguiyas (article 4). The Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society established a programme to eradicate the aftermath of slavery (PESE). It has enabled the creation of income-generating activities and access to health and education for former slaves.

It was allocated an annual financing of 4 million US dollars. Several wilayas of the country benefited from the socio-economic projects towards the elimination of the after-effects of slavery through the project of eradication of the after-effects of the slavery. These include accessibility projects, construction of basic infrastructure, development of arable land, combating illiteracy and the funding of income-generating activities. These projects show the interest of the Public authorities in ending slavery as a priority and a national choice. In this area, the creation of the TADMOUN National Agency is a step forward which has resulted in: (i) a broad national campaign to raise awareness and explain the reasons for the creation of the Agency; so that each household in the national territory owns the Agency, its missions and its objectives; (ii) an inventory of poverty and slavery in order to identify the areas of priority intervention, involving national and international social and political actors and civil society, in the efforts for the eradication of the after-effects of slavery and poverty; (iii) the development of emergency programmes to mitigate economic inequalities; (iv) a strong mobilisation of human and financial resources to act objectively in the fields of education, literacy, health, housing, employment, water, electricity, in other words, access to all forms of basic services; (v) a broad media campaign in which the target populations are involved in overcoming the challenges; (vi) the development of a comprehensive programme for the eradication of adwabas, leading to a progressive integration of their inhabitants into the cities' working life.

70. The fight against slavery has given rise to a triple action. Firstly, a legal and judicial action through the law incriminating slavery and the lawsuits brought against the slave owners of which ten have already been sentenced. Then the economic action through the establishment of the Solidarity Agency, which develops projects for the integration of former slaves in the same way as the refugees. Finally, a direct action through awareness raising and popularisation of the anti-slavery legal and institutional framework. Girls and boys working as domestic servants are regulated by Order No. 797 of 18 August 2011 which grants them some rights that MASEF, the labour inspectorates as well as NGOs enforce at economic, legal and psychological levels. The situation of domestic girls and boys was part of a communication during a Cabinet meeting Council, following which a decree was signed on 15 April 2011, which set out the specific conditions of domestic workers. An inter-ministerial committee was created in accordance with the instructions of the President of the Republic. This committee is composed of the ministries of the interior; of Justice; Public Service and Social Affairs, Child and Family Affairs. It aims to enact a legislation, which organises the general conditions of domestic employment. This committee studied the social situation of the country. It appeared that there was a decree implementing the labour code published in 1953, which had been amended in 1965. This decree organises the working relationship between domestic workers and their employers.

The Cabinet meeting decided to submit this decree to a technical commission of legal experts

in labour law for further examination of this text and to introduce necessary amendments, in particular as regards its application to cover in addition to housekeepers and cooks, nurses and shepherds living in the countryside, as well as all workers that could be described as servants. The decree addressed the need for a contract of employment between the two parties of fixed or permanent duration, considering that the forms of this type of employment contract should be available in the labour inspectorates of the administrative districts and in the moughataa. Similarly, pay slips must be available with all data such as basic salary, overtime, accommodation, pensions, if any, in the event that the employer agrees to grant such benefit. The pay slip must also specify the weekly and annual leave and the terms and conditions for terminating the contract. It is a comprehensive, precise and detailed contract, which will be submitted to the National Council for Labour, Employment and Social Security for approval.

71. Awareness campaigns on the criminal nature of slavery are carried out by the various ministries targeting their senior officers, other actions are carried out by civil society and a plan of action of the Ministry of Justice is systematically implemented in response to all allegations of slavery. A Bill is in preparation in order to punish slavery as a crime against humanity. Slavery means the denial of human freedom, dignity and integrity. A genuine plan of action is therefore needed to protect the victims and punish the perpetrators. In other words, justice must act to crack down on the perpetrators of an unacceptable practice. This battle concerns everyone: the judiciary, the police, but also health, social services, associations and especially every citizen. It is a shared responsibility. Thus, since 2010, the Ministry of Justice has developed a plan of action to combat slavery. It is based on the following actions (i).

Working to protect women, men and children who are victims, (ii). To indict and punish those who engage in this despicable practice; because slavery is a matter that goes well beyond national boundaries, efforts must be made to combine international, regional, national and local efforts and resources. Ensure a high level protection for the victims of slavery; it takes courage to escape from slavery, it is essential to help these victims to escape and access autonomy; (vi). We must stop ignorance and isolation. To know that one has rights is to regain one's dignity. It is essential to develop access to the law and legal information, particularly the law criminalizing slavery; A telephone number should be set up at the Ministry of Justice to allow victims to be listened to in anonymous manner, to be informed of their rights and to receive support in their actions;). Associations should be encouraged to set up stable legal surgeries (neighbourhoods or police stations), or itinerant surgeries (buses) with the help of lawyers or law students; (ix). Establish a policy to assist victims by giving associations, which work against slavery, the means to pursue their actions; (x). Create access points to the law in remote areas where people are particularly isolated. It is in these places that the need for legal information is greatest; (xi) Ensure genuine health and social care for the victims and enable them to find decent living conditions, through the provision of housing, health care, psychological support, (xii) A shelter to ensure the safety of victims, funded by the State, must be put in place (xiii). (iv) The legal framework for incriminating slavery is protective, but it is often ignored by the victims, and the Department must strive to make it better known through should seek to increase its visibility through the moughataa services, investigative services and human rights associations; (xv); (xvi). In order to avoid reprisals, victims may be accommodated at the gendarmerie brigade, at the police station, at their lawyer's office, (xvii). To avoid facing their exploiter, confrontations can be held at a distance. For this reason the courts must have adequate equipment; (xviii). The victims also have the right to be assisted by a lawyer, legal aid, which will be operational, is available to them because they also have the right to be defended. This is a fundamental guarantee; (xix). Victims of slavery must be able to be compensated as soon as possible and on

the best terms in accordance with the provisions of the law; (xx). It is useful to set up a training agency in charge of slavery such as those fighting terrorism, narcotics and economic crime to show the importance of combating it. The creation of a victims' judge will further optimise the fight against slavery.

This magistrate will be the point of referral of the victims. He will be the link between the victims, the prosecution service and the sentencing judge. Victims need to know who to turn to when they are threatened, for example, by their already convicted perpetrator; (xxii). In order to put in place a genuine anti-slavery policy, a working group, jointly led by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, must be set up. It will work to strengthen the system for the protection and care of the victims of slavery. It will draw up a national plan to combat slavery; (xxiii). In addition to these international and national actions, action must also be taken on the ground. All local actors must mobilise: hakems, local elected representatives, lawyers, magistrates, police services, teachers, health workers, the services of the National Agency for Youth Employment, MASEF regional delegates for the purpose of raising awareness, sensitisation and, if need be, sanctioning slavery-like practices.

Matrix of anti-slavery actions initiated by the Ministry of Justice

Actions	Leading agencies	Expected outcomes
1. Ensure victims protection during the entire judiciary process	Prosecution	Visibility of the judiciary's action
2. Arrest and punish those whose are involved in this despicable practice	Prosecution	Eradication of this practice
3. International cooperation	Justice Ministry	Efficiency of the repression
4. Ensure a high level of protection for slavery victims	Prosecution	Legal action
5. Help the victims to survive and to be empowered.	Justice Ministry and CDHAHRCS	Empowerment of former slaves
6. Develop access to law and legal information	Justice Ministry and CSOs	Judicialisation of the fight against slavery
7. Establish a helpline at the Ministry of Justice	Justice Ministry	Encourage legal action
8. Establish legal surgeries	Justice Ministry and CSOs	Better prevention of slavery
9. Set up legal access point	Justice Ministry and CSOs	Popularisation of the law prohibiting slavery
10. Ensure comprehensive socio medical care of victims	Justice Ministry and CDHAHRCS	Rehabilitation of victims of slavery
11. Put in place a care package for victims' safety	Justice and Interior Ministries	Incentive for victims to free themselves from slavery
12. Ensure a real legal status to victims of slavery	Justice Ministry	Redress for victims
Actions	Lead agencies	Expected results
13. Develop a support Policy for victims by providing associations fighting against	Justice Ministry and CDHAHRCS	Improved protection of victims

slavery with the means to carry out their actions		
14. Raise awareness on the system prohibiting slavery through moughataa services, investigation services and human rights associations	Justice Ministry and CDHAHRCS	Improved repression
15. Accommodate victims at the gendarmerie squad, the police station and at their lawyer's firm	Justice and Interior Ministries	Protection of victims against reprisals
16. Organise distant judiciary confrontations between the victim and the alleged perpetrator	Justice Ministry	Encourage the victim to complete the judiciary process
17. Provide legal aid to the victims of slavery	Justice Ministry	Reduction of obstacles to the victims' claims
18. Set up an investigating chamber in charge of slavery	Justice Ministry	Give confidence to the victims about the role of the judiciary
19. Appoint a judge dedicated to the victims	Justice Ministry	Confidence of the victims in being referred in the judiciary system.
20. Set up a task group on slavery	Justice and Interior Ministries	Strengthening of the system of protection and care for the victims of slavery
21. Field work	Justice and Interior Ministries	Sensitisation and sanctions

72. The road map of the UN rapporteur on slavery was adopted in March 2014. The government, who is resolutely committed to strengthening democracy and promoting the rule of law, has distinguished itself through several achievements, which have enabled citizens to enjoy a full range of human rights protections. In this context, it stood out by participating in the development of the provisions of the consensual road map to end slavery. In its approach to the multidimensional fight against the aftermath of slavery, the Government has adopted legal, economic and social measures that have contributed to reducing the after effects of slavery. Thus, besides the adoption of the law criminalizing slavery and slavery practices, the government set up a high-level institution specialising in the fight against slavery practices, in charge of with socio-economic integration the victims. This institution is entitled to stand as a plaintiff in cases relating to slavery. It is called the Tadamun National Agency for the Eradication of the Aftermath of Slavery, Integration and the Fight Against Poverty

73. In the same vein, it implemented awareness-raising programmes on the illegitimacy of slavery and on the popularisation of the 2007 law with the support of the impetus of the religious authorities and with the participation of society civil organisations. It has been associated with several activities carried out by the National Commission on Human Rights and civil society organisations. At the judicial level, it trained judges and prosecutors in the enforcement of the laws incriminating and punishing slavery on the one hand, and the creation

of a special jurisdiction for offenses relating to slavery on the other hand. The partnership with civil society in the fight against slavery has enabled the government to strengthen its action by contributing to the development of the road map against slavery. The roadmap was developed in a participatory manner between civil society and public departments involved in the fight against the aftermath of slavery. It was endorsed by both Mauritania's technical and financial partners and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery.

It includes 29 recommendations relating to the legal framework, the economic and social areas and the awareness needed to eradicate the after-effects of slavery. At legal level, it recommends the review of the law in order to introduce new forms of slavery and measures on discrimination. This must be accompanied by land reform facilitating access to property. At the economic level it emphasises the creation of a high-level body to combat the after-effects of slavery and provide care of slave victims by ensuring that slave owners compensate them in the event of a conviction. The prohibition of forced and child labour in businesses is a priority for the Commission. The involvement of civil society in the process of fighting the aftermath of slavery is highlighted in the road map, which also requires the setting up of a monitoring committee. The adoption of the roadmap reinforced the effectiveness of the fight against slavery practices undertaken by the government and allowed the victims of slavery to enjoy mechanisms more adapted to the protection of their rights because they involve civil society in this fight.

Matrix of the roadmap against slavery-like practices

Actions to be taken and implementing rules	Deadline	Leading agency	Actors involved
Amend Act 2007-048 to include a definition of slavery in relation to the 1956 Slavery Convention and to add other forms of hereditary slavery such as serfdom, servitude for debts, Forced labour, early marriage (or the definition contained in the law). Enriching the text with provisions relating to discrimination and civil remedies. Introduce a provision requiring offenders to compensate victims. Revise Article 3 by adding all new forms of slavery. Include in the 2007 Act provisions for reintegration programmes. Incorporate provisions for assistance to victims	12 months	The Ministry of Justice through its Directorate of Studies, Legislation and Cooperation	
Put in place conditions conducive to equal access to land ownership	24 months	State	International community, State, Legislator, Civil society
Helping to improve the legislative corpus against slavery through the adoption of texts related to law 2007-048 incriminating slavery	12 months	State	Government, Civil Society, UN System, European Union

Ensure the enforcement of judicial decisions concerning the compensation of victims		Ministry of Justice	
Gender mainstreaming for appropriate solutions towards the most vulnerable, including non-discrimination against women and children	12 months	MASEF	
Establish a high-level institution (agency, observatory or commission) specialising in the fight against the after-effects of slavery and responsible for socio-economic integration of victims, to carry out independent investigations, funded by the State and to be empowered to become plaintiffs in the issues related to slavery. This institution, which will be composed of public officials, members of human rights NGOs, with regional offices, will set up a national strategy to raise awareness and fight against slavery.	12 months	State	
Create and guarantee the follow-up of the teaching facilities of former slaves. Encourage entrepreneurship of the victims of slavery. Facilitate access to vital statistics to persons without lineage. Promote compulsory education for children and adult vocational training.	12 months	State	International Community, Government, Civil Society ;
Encourage positive discrimination in employment.	12 months		Government, Trade Unions, Civil Society
Include clauses prohibiting forced labour and child labour in agreements between the State and international enterprises. Ensure the establishment of working conditions in line with international standards set by the ILO. Require companies to develop codes of conduct.		State	
Establish and implement development projects for former slaves.	1 year	State, Human Rights Civil Society	
Assist victims of slavery from the outset of the proceedings until the end of the trial.	1 year	State, Human Rights Civil Society	

Initiate awareness-raising programmes around the delegitimation of slavery and the Law of 2007-048, carried out by spiritual authorities of the body of education and civil society networks. To popularise laws on slavery, and to raise awareness by means of posters, debates, slogans and radio and television broadcasts. Encourage the specialisation of judges and adjudicators on the enforcement of the law. Establish a Day against slavery.	1 year	State/ Civil Society	Local administrations, town halls and society to spread the message against slavery in all 13 regions of the country.
Involve civil society at all stages of the actions undertaken and programmes. Strengthening the capacity of NGOs.	Immediately		
Create a commission to monitor all planned actions and proposed activities.	Immediately	State, Human Rights Civil Society	
A periodic evaluation of the work must be carried out until the defined objectives are reached.			

74. In 2009, a new three-year United Nations joint programme on conflict prevention was agreed with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Civil society. The aim of this programme was to prevent social conflicts linked to the aftermath of slavery and to promote social cohesion. MASEF and the Ministry of the Interior coordinate their activities to deal with the issue of street children, to protect them from slavery practices. There is a specialised police unit, trained to work with children. Vocational education and training are provided to street children in the CPISE who are also accommodated. The police control Koranic schools to ensure that children are not encouraged to go begging for their religious teachers. A programme to combat begging has been developed and implemented, and a project to integrate and train child beggars has helped to combat this practice. MASEF organised the repatriation of all child jockeys from the United Arab Emirates who were handed over to their families. The families were provided with compensation and development infrastructure in their villages in order to promote access to basic services.

The Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training set up a project providing microcredit to former slaves to set up small businesses. The programme also provided advice to its beneficiaries. The CNDH played an important role in advocating for the eradication of the after-effects of slavery and in promoting the social and economic reintegration of former slaves as well as their civil rights. It is also qualified to provide legal follow-up to allegations of human rights violations by conducting independent investigations. The Public authorities have linked the Ulemas to the fight against slavery. The latter took a clear stand against slavery, rejecting the idea that it could be associated in any way with Islam. They worked with their communities to combat slavery and slavery-like practices. In conjunction with the CNDH and CSOs, the

Public authorities conducted a national awareness campaign to raise awareness on the 2007 Slavery Penalties Act. Several NGOs provide assistance to people who have escaped from slavery by providing legal advice and legal assistance in order to take legal action, provide them with temporary accommodation and, where possible, microcredit to create a small business

75. Since the adoption of the 2007 law, complaints about slavery practices have been systematically addressed. The outcome of the proceedings is determined by the gathering of evidence and the opinion of the judge who enjoys complete independence in his or her decision-making. The Public Prosecutor has received direct instructions from the Minister of Justice, who is the chief of the prosecution, to pursue all actions until the final stage of the proceedings in order to protect the rights of the victim and result in the conviction of the accused. Some cases have been dismissed or been given qualifications other than slavery (exploitation of minors). On the other hand, other cases have led to sentencing for slavery-like practices. On 20 November 2011, the criminal court of Nouakchott sentenced several individual accused of slavery practice on minors to imprisonment or suspended imprisonment coupled with fines, and acquitted one of them. At present, several cases are pending before the courts of wilayas of Nouakchott (11 of which 2 have already been convicted), Trarza (06 of which 02 have already been convicted) for which the decisions can not be prejudged and the likely outcome can not be commented because of the duty of neutrality.

2•)- Achievements

76. The constitution of 20 July 1991 is based on the principle of equality of citizens without any reference to gender. The principle of equality before the law is accompanied by the principle of equality before the law which allows the boy and the girl to take legal action and, if necessary, to benefit from the legal and judicial assistance that allows them, as the case may be, to be provided with free legal assistance or the support of a counsel or other legal assistants covered by the Public authorities in order to enforce their rights if they cannot afford it. In addition to equality before the law, both the boy and the girl enjoy the principle of a double degree of jurisdiction, which enables them to seize, with similar Public authorities' assistance, a higher judge who will consider the admissibility of their claim.

This principle is made operational, among others, by a judicial organisation based on a proximity with the litigants which allows three courts of appeal, located throughout the whole territory, to satisfy the desire of the litigants to see their case reviewed by older and more experienced judges than those of the first level. In addition to the traditional judicial system, Mauritania has developed a conciliatory justice system, the culmination of which is the conciliator, which provides a suitable framework for local justice. The CNDH is also a dispute resolution channel for children who can refer the case to their guardians in the event of a violation of their rights. The CNDH which is responsible for alerting the public authorities, and this reinforces the protection of their rights. This mission is made easier for the CNDH since it includes a subcommittee on sectoral rights, particularly those of women and children.

76. The mandate of the Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society is, inter alia, to establish a policy for the promotion and protection of human rights through a participatory approach and to monitor the implementation of Mauritania's international human rights commitments and to submit to the treaty bodies the country's

periodic reports. The creation of the Commission is primarily a matter of the interdependence between human rights, political and civil rights, economic, social and cultural rights. It also emphasises the need for a unified conception of development in which economic and political progress must go hand in hand. Among the strategies selected, particular attention is given to approaches based on the participation of women and girls, on their effective involvement and, on the full mobilisation of their human and financial capacities. The mission of the Commission is to develop and implement the national human rights policy through the implementation of all appropriate means to promote and disseminate the principles and values of human rights including those of women and girls; Strengthening dialogue and consultation with national associations concerned with human rights, in particular women and girls; the development of cooperation and exchanges with regional and international organisations and institutes concerned with the rights of women and girls.

77. In the fight against poverty, the Commission's intervention strategy is based on complementary axes, in particular the economic and social treatment of poverty, the targeting of the poor and the strengthening of the capacities of the institutions contributing to it. These issues affect women and girls who are often the poorest and most vulnerable. In addition, the update of the PRSP, which defined its objectives for 2011-2015, now includes a gender component that takes into account the specific needs of women and girls in development. Women make up to 28.4% of the labour force. They are present in the trade sector 31.6% against 63.9% (goldsmith and jewellery, clothing and veils, perfume and luxury goods) and are dominant in the sector of vegetable farming (35.8% against 64.2%, crafts and leather trade and wool work. Women account for 23.3% of the general trade sector in Mauritania (including handicrafts) half of the shops in the largest markets in Nouakchott and other major cities are held by women. A group of businesswomen runs one of the largest shopping centres in the capital (Chinguetti Market) and they are structured in an association called the Union of Mauritanian Entrepreneurs and Traders (UMAFEC). In rural areas, women have created cooperatives for vegetable farming, craft and local products and rural pharmacies. In the agri-food industry, a woman is the leader of several market segments such as packaged dairy products or the first camel cheese commanded by the media and international trade institutions. As a result of the country's opening to tourism, women have opened many inns and hotels; In the computer field, a woman has created a computer assembly plant, it offers computer services and represents Microsoft in the country. Three women joined the Office of the Mauritanian Industrial Organization (CNPEM) for the first time. Women and girls have also benefited from the development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), which is an emerging sector of the economy that promotes gender parity. Two women have successively led the State Secretariat for New Technologies. In the private sector, women run cybercafés or service companies and they have started industry and assembly companies for PCs made in Mauritania. In civil society, women are active in several NGOs that advocate the promotion of ICT or advocate for Mauritania's entry into the information society.

78. The establishment of public spaces to be accessed by all, especially Internet access for women and girls, is Public authorities' goal which has resulted in: (i) creation of exchanges platform called Cyberforum for Civil Society (NGOs, Journalists, local elected officials) which

involve women. The idea is being generalised at the level of the municipalities in the regions of the country, these are "Cybercommunes" which particularly target rural women's cooperatives; (ii) creation of Internet access centres in senior and junior secondary schools (including the Girls' College, the Nouakchott Girls' High School); (iii) Establishment of High Schools of Excellence for Girls (Girls' High School of Excellence in Nouadhibou and Aioun); (iv) establishment of a community centre for women entrepreneurs in Mauritania to promote tele-services. In the fields of science and technology, the Public authorities implement early intervention programmes for girls to increase the number of women in the ICT trades.

They reinforce the activities that favour differentiated programmes in schools or extra curricular teaching for all and that enable women and girls to improve their communication and media-use skills, in particular through: (i) development of incentives to encourage girls to pursue scientific studies: an annual prize of excellence is awarded to the first three girls in science (primary, secondary and university); (ii) boosting the training of ICT specialists, especially girls (20% of the scholarships are granted to ICTs), (iii) setting up a training-retraining-insertion programme for computer science (web site development, network system administration) for unemployed graduates, two thirds of whom are girls; (iv) establishment of a training programme for civil society target groups composed of more than 60% of women and girls. These measures are reinforced by the creation of high-quality high schools which host a significant number of girls every year taking into account their high academic performance. The field of communication of information also records a notable presence of women into the design and management positions. These include the national television directorate, which is led by a woman, and the DAVA television station which belongs to another woman while a woman holds the post of Deputy Director-General of Radio Mauritania.

79. In collaboration with all stakeholders, the Government has developed ICT policies to foster entrepreneurship, innovation and investment, especially for women and girls. This involves (i) promotion of collective spaces for women and girls, to promote ICTs immediately; (ii) care for unemployed graduates, especially girls, through cybercafés and internet access centres; (iii) providing interested women and girls with a showcase for the sale of handicrafts. Artisan women and girls (pearls) of Zouerate and the Women of the Carpet Office make use of the services of this showcase (promotion of ICT) in SMEs / SMIs and particularly those managed by women. The use of ICT in education and health for women and girls resulted in the establishment of the National Telemedicine Project, which consists in networking the public hospitals of the 13 wilayas of the country by connecting them to the Internet, in order to receive and broadcast videoconferences and install a Medical Portal online. The University of Nouakchott is developing a distance education programme in cooperation with Francophone universities in order to give more study choice to young people in general, and girls in particular. Girls' schooling has been of particular interest and a significant share of scholarships is reserved for girls every year, in addition to the 113 prizes offered each year to girls who have distinguished themselves in their studies throughout the national territory

80. The modification of sociocultural behavior patterns that are unfavorable to women and girls benefited from the contribution of the media through; National TV programmes (" Family Conflicts ", " Problems of Life ", " With the Family ", " Women and Development Radio ", 13 Rural Radios, one by wilaya " Very Important " Documentary films on the evolution of the status of women, " Periodical Bulletin on Women's Issues", Association of Women Journalists", " Mauritanian Communicators' Union "). These continuously deal with issues concerning family and motherhood and childhood, as well as the creation of conditions that enable women and girls to participate in the building of a progressive Mauritania, to lead a fulfilled life, to raise

children, to take care of their health and to have recreation. Educational programmes introducing Mauritanian legislation and international law standards relating to the family, women, girls, youth and children are broadcast by the national television channel and private channels via various news programmes presented by child rights specialists through which people ask questions and discuss women and girls rights.

Documentation on the status of women and girls in Mauritania has been compiled and distributed in international meetings, conferences and seminars. Public and private radio and television broadcasters promote girls and women, their development and their role in society. They prepare comments, interviews and reports with the participation of academics, policy-makers, sociologists, historians and social experts who, with specific examples, examine the influence of women and girls on the social, political, economic and intellectual life of the country. The “*women's corner*” programme, which is broadcast twice a month, involves psychologists and health professionals who talk, for example, about extending the working life of women and girls and the protection of a healthy psychological climate in the family. This show presents the historical role of women and girls in the Mauritanian society. The newsletters regularly feature successful businesswomen and student girls. Other programmes deal with the lives and activities of women and girls. A special programme devoted to the law features lawyers who advise listeners on the rights of women and girls. The Mauritanian Information Agency prepares a series of reports, interviews and comments on issues related to the implementation of the national strategy for the advancement of women in Mauritania and improving their role in society. A special page is devoted to the woman, the girl and the family. The media regularly disseminate the measures taken by the President of the Republic, the Government and the central and local executive bodies and the social agencies concerned with the problems of women and girls.

81. Access to the media is an important channel for popularising the rights of women and girls as well as raising awareness on their obligations in the development of a harmonious society. As a result, the presence of women and girls in the media, particularly in the public sphere, is seen as a significant asset in order to better take women's and girls' issues into account and improve their economic and social status. Radio Mauritania has the highest quota for women; Approximately 60% of employees are women and have held important positions. For television, they dominate certain segments vital to the functioning of this institution. It comprises about 70 women, the majority of whom are in the Department of Administrative Affairs. In addition to and with the liberalisation of the media sector, culminating in the establishment of a high-level audio-visual authority where women are represented, they are more likely to gain access to the different positions in this important area in order to influence decision-making. In addition, there is a growing presence of programmes dedicated to issues related to the economic and social development of women and girls. Debates and discussions are being held, notably on radio and in newspaper columns, to raise public awareness on issues related to the rights of women and girls. These efforts have been made more coherent and understandable through, inter alia, the development of an IEC strategy aimed at placing the issue of the development of women and girls at the centre of policymakers and public opinion's concerns, while ensuring synergy between the various actors involved in this process.

82. The Public authorities have developed actions aimed at eradicating poverty by applying a rights-based approach to citizens that excludes misery, intolerance, xenophobia, racism and discrimination. These are coupled with necessary and appropriate measures to put an end to slavery and contemporary practices that can be assimilated to it. This has enabled to hold a constructive dialogue between the parties concerned and take measures to correct this

issue and the resulting harms. Similarly, the Public authorities have adopted a national migration management strategy that protects the rights of migrants and refugees by integrating them into development plans. The registration, carried out by the Public authorities, involved all persons regardless of their origin in order to give them a reliable civil status. In addition to ratifying the human rights legal instruments, the Public authorities have facilitated access to universal services for all individuals in the country, they organised awareness-raising campaigns against discrimination and set up judicial mechanisms to sanction or dissuade those who are likely to do so.

3°)-Challenges

83. The main challenge in the fight against discrimination is linked to the situation of children in rural areas. In order to enable them to benefit from all the rights granted to children, in addition to national development strategies that include all Mauritanian children, the Government has implemented a plan for the development of rural women, which also benefits the children of the countryside. The action plan for the advancement of women in rural areas is structured around six objectives: (i) Promoting women's rights through: Advocacy, development of means of communication and popularisation of women's rights ; (ii) Improve the health of rural women through: combating practices experienced by rural women and that harmful are to their health and, improving access to health facilities, improving the sexual and reproductive health of rural women, fighting against epidemic diseases, promotion of personal and collective hygiene, (iii) Strengthen rural women's access to education through: the optimisation of the provision of education in rural areas, support to the education of rural girls and their literacy; (iv) Develop infrastructure to improve the living conditions of rural women through: geographical access, dam construction, dikes and bunds, water sources, extension of village electricity programmes and improving environmental conditions; (v) Promote women's employment in rural areas through: Vocational Training, income generating activities, access to credit and product marketing, and (vi) Strengthen the capacity of structures in charge of rural women through the strengthening of central management structures, support to regional women's structures and the strengthening of rural women's organisations.

84. The Action Plan has been implemented since 2009 but has not yet been through an evaluation study that can accurately determine its effects on rural women. However, it has been found that (i) challenges to access to basic social services has been reduced for women; (ii) rural women's access to productive assets (land, credit, training, time ...) has improved (iii) access to maternal delivery care (obstetric care, assisted delivery, etc.); (iv) they start participating in agricultural producer organisations collectively, through their village associations. They are represented in the decision-making bodies of these joint organisations; (v) rural women are receptive to advocacy about their rights and show interest in taking part. Several measures have been taken to improve the situation of rural women and benefit rural children. These include: (i) creation of health centres, (ii) establishment of schools, (iii) funding of 300 million for women's cooperatives (iv) training of women in the management of IGAs, (vi) promotion of rural women on 8 March, (vii) cultural festivals and fairs to showcase rural women, (viii) creation of women's IGAs (ix) Provision of solar panels (freezer, refrigeration stove supply, vulcanisation ...), (x) creation of a special fund of 500 million ouguiyas for rural women, (xi) establishment of Emel boutiques in rural areas, (xii) organisation of immunisation campaigns, (xiii) multiplication of rural radios (xiv) awareness and empowerment, (xv) extension and equipment of rural health centres, (xvi) multifunctional platform developed for rural women) Development of poultry houses in rural areas).

B-The best interests of the child (art. 4)

85. The period of childhood is a phase in which the human being is more vulnerable because they are yet to fully develop both physically and mentally. Hence, the child needs special attention and protection. To do this, the best interests of the child are consistent in the development actions.

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

86. The Public authorities agree that the principle of the best interests of the child focuses on the need to protect children. This principle implies two important rules: (i) all decisions concerning children must be made in the child's exclusive interest for the immediate and future well-being of the child; (ii) all decisions and acts must absolutely guarantee the rights of the child. The best interests of the child implies the need for child protection. To do this, the actions of the Public authorities are based on the best interests of the child and aim at its well-being. The actions presented in this report aim to promote and guarantee the well-being of all children in several areas: (i) physical well-being: ensuring the child's good health and development; (ii) mental well-being: providing the child with the opportunity to develop intellectually; (iii) social welfare: to provide the child with the opportunity to develop socially, spiritually.

In accordance with the Constitution of 20 July 1991, the protection of the child must be ensured first and foremost by the parents and the community surrounding him/her, and then by the Public authorities. To this end, the Public authorities have established an effective child protection system that includes laws, policies, procedures and practices to prevent and effectively address the various issues of abuse, violence and discrimination that can harm his/her well-being. They have ratified the main international standards for the protection of the rights of the child and have domesticated into national legislation. They also ensure appropriate care for the different categories of children (disabled, refugee, etc.) and offer them satisfactory and lasting solutions. In addition, the public authorities have fought against customary practices that lead to and encourage discrimination and abuse of children. In this regard, the constitution protects the family, which is the fundamental unit of the Muslim society.

87. Parents are continuously informed and trained on the respect to the child's interest by the MASEF parent education service. The latter is responsible for providing them with the skills, knowledge and motivation to ensure an effective protection of children, identifying and responding to possible cases of discrimination, neglect or ill-treatment. This protection is all the more useful because its effectiveness is vital for their well-being since, due to their great vulnerability, children are more exposed to the various problems of abuse, exploitation, discrimination and violence.

2°)- Achievements

88. The best interests of the child are integrated into the national legal corpus, in particular the CSP, which allows the judge in the event of a divorce to withdraw custody from the legally recognized caregiver if he/she does not fulfill the optimum conditions for the protection of the interest of the child. This is also the case for decisions relating to his guardianship, for the magistrate decides on the basis of such interest. The best interests of the child are integrated into the process of judges resolving conflicts related to marriage. In the area

of juvenile justice, there is a special regime for the child in conflict with the law, which consists in the development of new alternatives to criminal treatment giving priority to mediation, decriminalisation and reintegration of the child. OPPE and the Decree on Alternative Measures promote the mediation process, correctionalisation and non-discrimination by involving children's services and institutions in decision-making and the choice of measures compatible with the best interests of the child.

In the case of treatment, a child deprived of liberty shall be granted a periodic and limited permission during the execution of the preventive measure or sentence, based on his/her best interests. As regards the review of the decisions taken against the child, the juvenile judge may, in coordination with the relevant rehabilitation services, assess the degree of acceptability by the child against the measures taken against him / her. Otherwise, the judge may review them to make them more compatible with the best interests of the child. This practice is facilitated by the training and information seminars that judges and judicial officers undertake annually on the provisions of the CRC and the OPPE.

3°)- Limits

89. Some of the main challenges to the effective consideration of the best interests of the child include: (i) insufficient statistical data; (ii) limitations of reintegration programmes; (iii) and especially the inadequacy of means compared to the magnitude of the problem in certain child-related fields; (iii) the weak promotion of the values and content of the ACRWC among the entire population; (iv) the mobilisation of youth for the implementation of the charter is still embryonic. In addition to the above measures, the Government has taken effective action to ensure that the challenges are overcome. These include: (i) strengthening advocacy for the promotion of children's rights and support for the development of a genuine National Movement for Children of Mauritania; (ii) to engage in the fight against all forms of discrimination, exploitation and abuse of children; (iii) pay special attention to children in need of special protection measures; and (iv) support the development of national policies and legislation for an environment conducive to the protection of children, especially the most vulnerable children.

C- Right to life, survival and development (art. 6)

90. The right to life is a universally recognised right for all human beings. It is a fundamental right that governs all other existing rights. If there is no life, the other fundamental rights have no reason to exist.

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

91. For children, the right to life is the opportunity to be able to live as a child and to be able to grow, develop and become an adult. This right has two essential aspects: the right to have one's life protected from birth and the right to survive and develop properly. The right to have one's life protected from birth, the right to life is an inherent right of every person. From birth, the individual is considered a living being who must be protected. Indeed, the human character implies that the dignity of the person must be respected, which implies, above all, the protection of his right to live. So, from birth, all children have the right to have their lives protected. The right to life also means the right not to be killed. It is the formal prohibition of intentionally causing the death of a person. Public authorities do not impose death penalty on delinquent children and effectively protect their lives by combating and condemning

infanticide. The legislator is not lenient with acts that infringe the life of the child, in particular (i) infanticide (Article 278 CC); (ii) abortion (Article 293 CC); (iii) abandonment of the child (Article 326 CC); (iv) usual ill-treatment of children (Article 10 OPPE); Sexual abuse of children (Article 25 OPPE); (v) sexual abuse of children by relatives or by persons having a moral influence on them (Article 27 OPPE); (vi) sexual exploitation of children and their submission to prostitution (Article 25 OPPE); (vii) rape of children and acts of violence causing death (Article 24 OPPE); (viii) abduction and kidnapping (Article 45 OPPE). Moreover, among the measures taken to record deaths and their causes, the adoption in 2011 by the National Civil Reporting system for the analysis of all data on deaths by age and gender.

2°)- Achievements

92. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has developed a strategy on child survival, development and protection in 2011. In order to support the State's efforts, NGOs hold awareness raising sessions on the harmful consequences of certain practices that threaten the life of the child. These NGOs also carry out campaigns to combat malnutrition and promote breastfeeding. Partnership and mobilisation of all child protection actors to ensure the right to life for children is supported by the United Nations system agencies. The Government of Mauritania is committed to giving paramount importance to the health of mothers and children. The country has endorsed the MDGs in 2015, particularly those related to health, such as MDGs 4 and 5, 6 and 7.

3°)- Limits

93. The challenges in this area are: (i) the high rate of infant and child mortality, as Mauritania is one of the 60 developing countries where many children under five are still dying from causes that, for the most part, could have been avoided and controlled; (ii) the overall acute malnutrition rate is 12%; (iii) exclusive breastfeeding is performed by less than 11%; (iv) the proportion of low birth weight is estimated to be between 5 and 12%; (v) the extreme poverty of households, the dislocation of the family fabric and community solidarity contribute to the depravity of children.

D- Respect for the views of the child (art. 12)

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

94. Several measures and arrangements have been made to encourage children to express their opinions and to get professionals and stakeholders to respect these views and to take them into account in their procedures and decisions. Concerning the respect for the views of the child before the courts and their participation in any case concerning them, magistrates shall guarantee to the child the right to express freely his/her views which are taken into consideration in accordance with his/her age and degree of maturity by giving him/her the opportunity to express his/her opinions and to be heard in all legal proceedings and social and

educational measures concerning his/her situation. This occurs either directly or by being assisted by social workers who would reassure him/her and comfort him/her psychologically. These measures are applied in the social and criminal sphere.

Since their introduction, these legal provisions have had several implementations, both at the level of the MASEF's intervention and at the level of the family judge, the juvenile judge or the juvenile court. Indeed, the OPPE requires these authorities, in case of reporting, to hear from the child and to take his opinions into consideration. The promotion of child participation in all aspects of family and social life is achieved through the ongoing process of children MPs, in their new role as parliamentarian and their participation in the discussion of issues relevant to their concerns, such as child protection in legislation and at the judiciary and health levels, as well as health programmes for children and adolescents. This action was promoted by the gradual election of parliamentarians of different Moughataa of the country and municipal councils. In addition, clubs and associations in secondary schools have developed participatory activities in various fields such as culture, environment, sport, computer science, civic and religious education. The Children's Parliament has been closely involved in post-2015 consultations to ensure that the child dimension is fully integrated into the development prospects of the country.

2°)-Achievements

95. Mauritania has ratified all the Conventions that enshrine the respect for the views of the child. On the occasion of the celebration of the Day of the African Child on 16 June each year, children send messages to the public, calling on the political authorities to protect their rights. Associations and NGOs are also working towards the respect of this right. In addition, students who are about to complete their education cycle have the opportunity, through guidance forms, to choose the path they wish to pursue as they pursue their studies. The establishment of a children's parliament reinforces this right recognised to children. The ratification of international instruments on the protection of children by Mauritania has generated a momentum and a mobilisation around the World Movement for Children and the "Say Yes for Children" campaign, which has strengthened advocacy, information and communication activities towards the promotion, protection, participation and respect of children's rights. Promoting the respect for opinion throughout the entire population has become a priority.

The magnitude of this task has led the State to develop strong partnerships. Public authorities' action gave the opportunity to create strategic alliances with dynamic partners in civil society, notably through the creation of the CNE (National Council for the Child), the CME (Municipal Council for the Child), the Mauritanian Parliamentary Group for Children, and the AJDEF (Association of Journalists Defenders of Children and Women) and the launch of the IMMDE (Initiative of Mauritanian Mayors Defenders of Children). National and international NGOs are also increasingly involved. The mobilisation of youth is still embryonic but very encouraging experiences are being developed with the Association of Scouts and Guides of Mauritania (ASGM) and in the context of the Youth Programme - Associative Life. The commitment of all these CSOs is undeniable and remarkable, their mobilisation potential is still under-exploited. The continuation and strengthening of collaboration between Mauritania and UNICEF and these structures are a key element in the promotion and flourishing of the National Movement for Children.

3°)- Limits

96. The limits to the right to respect the views of the child relate to the development disparities that exist between the different regions of the country. Despite a development programme centered on all regions through the PRSP, it is clear that the children of the political and economic capitals of the country benefit from access to modern means of communication in a greater proportion than children from other regions. The orientations, the strategic axes and the action plan 2014-2015 will enable the public authorities to address these different challenges. Indeed, the four axes of the PRSP will lead to a balanced and harmonised development of the different regions of Mauritania. Which will allow a greater consideration of the opinion of the child in Mauritania regardless of his/her geographical location. The first axis is the acceleration of economic growth, which is the basis for any reduction in poverty, the improvement of the competitiveness of the economy and the reduction of its dependence on exogenous factors. The second axis aims at anchoring growth in the economic sphere of the poor through a valuation of the potential of growth and productivity of the poor. The third axis is oriented towards the development of human resources and improved access to basic services. The fourth axis emphasises the promotion of institutional development based on good governance and the full participation of all actors in the fight against poverty.

E-Informing children and promoting their participation (articles 4, 7 et 12)

1°)- Administrative, legislative and judicial measures

97. The promotion of child participation in all aspects of family and social life is achieved through the ongoing process of children parliamentarians, as in their new role of MPs and through their participation in the discussion of issues that concern them such as child protection in legislation and at the judiciary and health levels, as well as health programmes for children and adolescents. This action was promoted by the gradual election of parliamentarians of different Moughataa of the country and municipal councils. In addition, clubs and associations in secondary schools have developed participatory activities in various fields such as culture, environment, sport, computer science, civic and religious education. The Children's Parliament has been closely associated with post-2015 consultations to ensure that the child dimension is fully integrated into the development prospects of the country.

2°)- Achievements

98. The State has taken steps to ensure the effective implementation of children's right to information and the promotion of their participation. These include: (i) the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; (ii) the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; (iii) the establishment of a juvenile-specific justice system; (iv) the creation of the Children's Parliament, (v) the creation of the Municipal Councils for Children; (vi) the institutionalisation of the celebration of the Day of the African Child, the Maghreb child, the day of the girl child, ...

3°)-Limits

99. Despite the existence of all these texts and the institutions put in place, challenges persist. In society, the child is regarded as a human being who must obey and respect parents and adults; His/her point of view is not taken into account even in cases concerning him/her.

IV Civil rights and public liberties

A- Name, nationality, identity and birth registration (art.6)

100. Birth reporting and registration are set up with a view to promoting the child's official status.

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

101. Mauritania has a legal framework that guarantees the fulfillment of birth registration. This includes (i) Law No. 2011.003 of 12 January 2011 on patronymic names; (ii) Act No. 96.020 of 19 June 1996 establishing a patronymic system; (iii) Act No. 61.112 of 12 June 1961 establishing the Mauritanian Nationality Code; (iv) Law No. 2011-003 repealing and replacing Law No. 96.019 of 19 June 1996 on the Civil Status Code; (V) Act No. 2010-023 repealing and replacing certain provisions of Act No. 61.112 of 12 June 1961 as amended, establishing the Mauritanian Nationality Code, (vi) Decree No. 2011-110 / PM defining the legal framework of the " Registration in the National Population Register, (vii); Decree No. 2010-150 / PM on the establishment, organisation and functioning of the National Agency for the Register of Populations and Secure Documents (ANRPTS); (viii) Order No. 937 / MIDECE on the establishment, organisation and functioning of departmental registration authorities. From birth, every person has the right to have an identity. The identity of a person is evidence of their existence within a society.

It is also the recognition of their individuality and of what differentiates them from their neighbours. Possessing an identity is a fundamental human right that allows every person to enjoy all of these rights. The identity includes the surname, first name, date of birth, sex and nationality of the person. With this information, a person will have rights and obligations specific to his/her status (woman, man, child, disabled person, refugee, etc.). From the moment of birth, each person has the right to have a name and a first name. Parents have the duty to declare the newborn's surname, first name and date of birth to the authorities. By registering the birth, the public authorities recognise the child's existence and formalise his/her status under the law. Moreover, through this name and its registration in the civil register, a child can establish his/her lineage, that is to say the ties of kinship that unite him/her to his/her father and his/her mother. The Mauritanian legal arsenal makes it easy to preserve the identity of the child by guaranteeing such a right.

102. From birth, the child also has the right to a nationality. Nationality may be obtained in two different ways: (i) By *the right of blood*: the child shall be granted the Mauritanian nationality if his/her parents are Mauritanian; (ii) *Right of soil*: the child will have the Mauritanian nationality if he/she is born on the Mauritanian territory even if his/her parents have another nationality. Nationality is acquired when the birth is declared. It is an important aspect for the child, as it is an attribute of citizenship. Article 10 of the Act of 21 June 1960 provides that "Is Mauritanian the newborn child found in Mauritania and whose parents are unknown. However, he/she ceases to be a Mauritanian if, during his/her minority, his/her lineage is established with regard to a foreign national and if he/she is granted, according to the national law of that foreign national, his/her nationality ". It thus confers Mauritanian

nationality on newborns found in Mauritania. Identity allows each child to benefit from essential social services. The birth registration of the child and the granting of his/her nationality gives him/her a legal capacity. This means that, like anyone, he/she will be officially recognised as a member of the society and that he/she will have rights and obligations. Thus, he/she will have access to the various services he/she needs to develop and build his/her life and future. In particular, he / she will be able to access health care adapted to his or her age and health condition. The child will be able to go to school and join a grade of his level. Identity provides legal protection adapted to each child. This identity will also allow the child to benefit from legal protection through his/her parents and the State. He/she will thus be able to benefit from the system of protection of minors, which will protect him/her in particular against the various forms of abuse and exploitation.

2°)-Achievements

103. The main achievement in this area is the process of civil registration through a registration system in force since 2011. This follows the recommendation of the CRC that encompasses the concerns of the provisions of the ACRWC. The registration system is entrusted to the National Agency of the Register of Populations and Secured Documents (ANRPTS) which must establish a national civil status system and produce the Secured Documents. The mission of the ANRPTS is to create and update a biometric population register system. In consultation with the administrations concerned, the ANRPTS ensures the registration and updating of the identification information of citizens and foreigners resident or passing through Mauritania. To this end, it implements an information system guaranteeing the reliability, integrity and security of this information. The agency's mission is also to personalise and produce secure identification documents. In this context, it is responsible for meeting the needs of state administrations for secure documents. As part of its missions, the ANRPTS is also responsible for:

(i) Supervising, coordinating and monitoring the activity of the Citizen Centres; (ii) Preparing and carrying out administrative censuses of the population for the purposes of vital statistics; (iii) Organising and maintaining the civil records; (iv) Supplying Citizens' Centres with the means necessary for their operation; (v) Customising and producing secure documents through the implementation of a reliable and secure system; (vi) Establishing the cryptographic infrastructure to produce secured documents and ensuring data integrity, confidentiality and authenticity. (vii) Ensuring or get to ensure the development, maintenance and evolution of computer systems and networks for the management of the population register and the production of secured documents; (viii) Defining relevant technical standards and devices, monitor and evaluate their application, contribute to their evolution and ensure their interoperability; (ix) Acquire and make available to the relevant administrations the procedures, materials and equipment necessary for accessing the data of the National Population Register, the management and control of the authenticity and validity of the secured documents and their maintenance; (x) Implement information and communication actions in its field of activity; (xi) Promote national security technologies, systems and know-how; (xii) To carry out, on behalf of the State administrations, the procurement of secured documents; (xiii) Provide training and development for Agency staff.

104. The Agency shall carry out its tasks in accordance with the general guidelines laid down by the State with regard to civil registration and the issuance of secured documents, and in the context of international conventions. For the realisation of its mission, the Agency carries out technical, administrative, legal and financial studies. The Agency may be instructed by the Government to issue recommendations on the general state policy concerning civil registration and secured documents. The Agency may also, at the request of and on behalf of the State, local authorities, public institutions, professional associations, private companies, CSOs and any other interested partners, any function or action related to its mission. The agency has 58 centres for citizens throughout the country. It has initiated procedures for the establishment of 167 centres in the communes of the country. It has also opened e registration centre in Mebara and Bassiknou at the level of the Malian refugee camps to register them with the technical support of UNICEF and UNHCR.

3°)- limits

105. In spite of the awareness campaigns carried out by the civil registration offices as well as associations and NGOs, the rural population is unaware of the existence of the texts and the usefulness of a civil registration. The State does not have sufficient means to raise awareness. Moreover, the registration of newborns without parentage raises problems that the public authorities are trying to solve. The declaration to the civil registry of any birth of a newborn child discovered and whose identity and lineage cannot be determined is part of the mandate of the public prosecutor, in the form of a written declaration addressed to the head of the territorially competent ANRPTS centre. This declaration must be made at the discretion of the relevant MASEF services (decentralised services and delegated services), in charge of child welfare and responsible for taking care of and looking after the newborn and, if necessary, they will entrust the child to a person or a social institution who will be dedicated to him/her like a good family man.

The officer of judiciary police, who was involved in the finding of the child and requested the intervention of the relevant health institution, draws up a report including the time, day, month, year and place of discovery of the newborn, the circumstances of his/her discovery, the sex of the child and the apparent age determined by the health institutions, as well as any particulars that may contribute to his/her identification. A copy of the report shall be transmitted without delay to the relevant MASEF and ANRPTS services. Unless the parent of the newborn is identified within the statutory sixty-day period, the MASEF service shall refer the matter in writing to the public prosecutor under its jurisdiction, including all information concerning the person or the social service to which the newborn had been entrusted, and enclosing all relevant documents in its possession. The public prosecutor, referring to the request of the MASEF service, shall issue a declaration of birth to the child within the following sixty days. The declaration shall contain all the particulars of the birth certificate, chosen by the public prosecutor in accordance with the provisions of articles 19, 20, 36 and 37 of the Civil Code, Articles 2 and 4 of the Patronymic System Act, Article 10 of the Nationality Code. These include: (i) the date of birth that can not be later than the date of discovery, (ii) the place of birth that must correspond, unless the actual place of birth is identified, with the administrative or municipal district The place of discovery; (iii) the sex of the child; (iv) the child's first name upon proposal of the social services; (v) the first name, surname, date and place of birth, nationality, occupation and place of residence of the father, which can not be those of the person

to whom the child is entrusted; (v) the first name, surname, date and place of birth, nationality, occupation and place of residence of the mother, which can not be those of the person to whom the child is entrusted.

106. The Public Prosecutor submits the birth declaration together with all relevant documents to the Citizens' Centre (CAC), which immediately records the birth declaration in the central data base and ensures the physical and electronic archiving of supporting documents. The subsequent birth certificate shall be handed over directly to the relevant MASEF official or to the person to whom the child is entrusted or, where appropriate, forwarded to the public prosecutor who made the declaration. This procedure can benefit all children in a similar situation who have so far been documented and taken in charge by the MASEF services or entrusted by them to Mauritanian social services. To this end, the CPISE initiates the procedure on the basis of the objective elements at its disposal or collected for this purpose. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Improving the Registration Process for Abandoned Newborns has proposed (i) to adopt, pursuant to Article 71 of the Civil registration Code, a joint administrative act (decree or order) between the relevant ministers, which lays down the practical arrangements for the application of Article 37 of the Civil Code to be implemented by the various parties involved. (ii) the administrative act (decree or order) to intervene and define the concept of "newborn" referred to in the civil registration code, in order to specify to which age segment this term corresponds, and (iii) the adoption of a national guardianship regime.

B- La liberté d'expression (article 7)

1°) - Mesures administratives, législatives et judiciaires :

107. Article 10 of the Constitution of 20 July 1991 enshrines the freedom of opinion of the child. Progress has been made in this area. Investment in childhood is a guarantee for the preparation of a generation capable of facing its responsibilities in raising the level of society. Therefore; (i) school prepares pupils for them to express their opinions in their school environment through dialogue sessions designed to enable them to express their opinions on curricula and educational programmes in relation to school life; and (ii) the use of educational methods based on dialogue reinforces this option. The Children's Parliament and the municipal councils for children facilitate the realisation of children's right to expression. (iii) Broadcast media production for children has increased due to the liberalisation of the audiovisual sector. (iv) The involvement of children in production has been enhanced by their involvement in various radio and television broadcasts via the mobile phone. (v). Primary and secondary schools now provide a means of expression for children through the teaching of drama and the end-of-year artistic performances with teachers' supervision and parents participation. (vi) The development of cultural associations also contribute to the development of children's freedom of expression.

2°)-Achievements

108. The establishment of the Children's Parliament reflects the need for the promotion of children as an essential basis for the construction of Mauritania, in accordance with the provisions of the ACRWC which the public authorities are trying to implement through their

development plans. MASEF is working to create a culture of rights among children and to spread this culture in their family environment through ongoing awareness-raising and building infrastructures that enable society to understand that participation means first and foremost giving them an opportunity to express their views on issues of concern to them. It was in the realisation of the rights of the child that their parliament was put in place. This parliament is limited to individuals between the ages of 11 and 16 and is made up of both girls and boys in primary and secondary schools. This parliament has been enlarged to ensure representation of all the moughataas of the country while taking into account the representation of people with disabilities and vulnerable segments of society. This parliament has a legal framework that allows it to address questions to ministers and discuss all issues of interest to children. The participation of children constitutes a fundamental right guaranteed by the ACRWC and CRC, which require Mauritania to ensure that the child who is capable of discernment, enjoys the right to express his or her opinion freely on any matter of interest to him/her. The views of the child shall be duly taken into account in view of his/her age and maturity. This structure provides a forum for children to express their opinions and make their voices heard to decision-makers in order to defend their rights and raise the level of children in general.

3°)- Limits

109. The implementation of the right of expression poses difficulties related to its interpretation. It is limited by the traditional system of thought which considers that the child belongs to the family. In rural as well as urban areas, this right is perceived as an incitement to revolt against parents and a questioning of the social values that impose the silence of the child in the presence of an adult. The child can therefore only express him/herself through the ideas put forward by his/her parents. Moreover, the frequency of the children's parliament meetings is not yet regular. This institution meets only in the capital of the country.

C- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (article 3)

1°)- Administrative, legislative and judicial measures

110. Article 5 of the Constitution states that Islam is the religion of the people and the State. Freedom of thought and opinion is also guaranteed by article 10 of the Constitution. Non-Muslim foreign children benefit from the tradition of tolerance of Islam. They freely practice their religion. A guide for the Mahadras and Mosques of the country; A diagnostic study on initial education and the religious and cultural outreach and several awareness campaigns contributed to the exercise of this right in accordance with the legislation in force.

2°)-Achievements

111. In order to promote the exercise of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, public authorities have set up a department for Islamic affairs and original education. It develops a tolerant Islam by ensuring that religious education is tolerant and receptive to the rights of foreigners to worship in Mauritania.

3°)-Limits

113.The main limit in the exercise of this right is the limited resources of the institutions responsible for popularising and promoting this right on the one hand, and the archaic teaching methods used on the other.

D- Freedom of association and peaceful assembly

1°)- Administrative, legislative and judicial measures (article 8) :

114. Freedom of association and peaceful assembly is enshrined in the legal corpus. Article 10 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of association and assembly within the framework of the law. This general provision applies to both children and adults. Children have the right to meet and to join or form associations. Act No. 64,098 of 9 June 1964 on associations and its amending acts define the practical arrangements for the establishment and organisation of such structures. Children have the freedom to meet, to associate, to form clubs, associations, movements or others.

2°)-Achievements

115. The undisputed achievement in this area remains the growth of youth movements. For example, there are several youth movements (scouts, holiday camps, clubs, and even "age groups") that are appropriate frameworks for the empowerment of children and youth. At secondary school's level, there are cultural and sports associations whose main purpose is to channel and direct the efforts of each one in order to reach full potentials. Scouting comprises 3,000 Scouts, children and youth, spread over seven administrative regions. Supervised by the "Commissioners" (with many teachers), the Scouts are engaged in community development actions in the areas of health, reforestation, social welfare, and protection of the environment. In partnership with UNICEF, they manage the development of the Water Park in Nouakchott and a community development centre centered around a fountain in Nouadhibou. They are also in regular contact with the Scout movements of other countries. The youth movement is currently headed by a municipal council of children set up in Nouakchott and a parliament with a national mandate.

3°)-Limits

116. These associations are of undeniable interest. There is no solid framework to encourage them to be extended throughout the country and to improve their performance as part of human investment in the development of the country.

E- The protection of privacy (article 10)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

117. Article 13 of the Constitution guarantees the protection of the privacy of every citizen of any age. The article states: "No one may be prosecuted, arrested, detained or punished except in cases determined by law and in a manner prescribed by law. The honour and privacy of the citizen, the inviolability of the human being, their home and correspondence are guaranteed by the State ". However, the law places restrictions on this principle in exceptional cases. Thus, the Penal Code punishes any individual who has infringed the inviolability of the home and any person who undermines the secrecy of the correspondence.

This legal arsenal has been supplemented by the OPPE as its article 63 "punishes from two to six months of imprisonment and from 160,000 to 300,000 ouguiyas of fines the act of deliberately infringing the privacy of the privacy of a child, by any means whatsoever: (1) By capturing, recording or transmitting, without his/her consent and without the consent of his/her legal representative, words spoken privately or confidentially; (2) By fixing, recording or transmitting the image of a child in a private place without his/her consent and that of his legal representative. Where the acts referred to in this article have been carried out in the eyes of the child and his legal representative without their having objected to them, when they were in a position to do so, their consent will be presumed. Article 64 of the same law punishes by one year imprisonment and from 60,000 to 120,000 ouguiyas of fines the publication by any means, the editing done using the words or the image of a child without his/her consent and that of his/her guardian, if it is not obvious that it is a montage or if it is not expressly mentioned. Where the offense referred to in the preceding paragraph is committed by means of the written or audiovisual press, the special provisions of the laws governing these matters shall apply as regards the determination of the persons responsible.

2°)-Achievements

118. Like the CRC and the ACRWC, the national legislation protects the child from interference with privacy, family, home and correspondence, and any unlawful interference with his / her honour.

3°)- Limits

119. Respect for this right within the family is difficult. Indeed, parents assume that the child has no privacy. They must constantly check on the children because it is in their interest.

F- Protection of children againts abuse and ill-treatment (art. 16)

1°)- Administrative, legislative and judicial measures

120. Torture is an offense against humanity by Article 13 of Constitutional Law No. 2012-015 of 20 March 2013 revising the Constitution of 20 July 1991. The ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Penalties Or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in November 2004 and its Optional Protocol in November 2012 resulted in the inclusion of

provisions protecting the child against such practices in the OPPE. Article 10 of this instruments provides that "The act of subjecting a child to torture or acts of barbarity shall be punishable by six years' imprisonment" and Article 11 thereof provides that "the offense defined in Article 10 shall be punishable by fifteen years' imprisonment if it is committed habitually on a child or has resulted in permanent damage, mutilation or disability. It shall be punishable by imprisonment for life if it has caused the death of the child without intending to give it "

121. The commitment to preventing and combating torture was reiterated by the Government during the presentation of Mauritania's report before the Committee against Torture in 2013 and during Mauritania's session at the The Universal Periodic Review in November 2010, where no recommendations on torture were rejected. This commitment was reflected in the important measures taken, mainly the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other relevant measures including the establishment of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture and its discussions with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and many other actions aimed at the effective implementation of the obligations of Mauritania in terms of combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The agreement to visit places of detention with the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning visits to all places of detention on the one hand, and the status of the CNDH, which gives it the right to visit detention premises unexpectedly contribute to the prevention of torture. In the same vein, in 2013, the Department of Justice organised a series of awareness-raising workshops on police custody and human rights for judges and police officers, which contributed to the prevention of torture. The same exercise is organised by the CNDH and CSOs for the benefit of the general public.

2°)-Achievements

122. The main achievement is the existence of the OPPE which punishes all offenses committed against children. It therefore sanctions the offense and crime of indecent assault with or without violence committed on minor. It also punishes kidnapping, concealment, suppression, assumption and substitution of a child, failure to represent a child by the person in charge of custody, abandonment of a child or incapable person, and the defilement of minors. This order also criminalises female circumcision.

3°)-Limits

123. Corporal punishment, which is a violation of the physical integrity of the child is prohibited in schools. But this practice persists within families.

V-Family environment and alternative care

A- Parental guidance (article 20)

124. The family is the fundamental unit of Mauritanian society. To this end, several measures have been taken to strengthen it through strategies that protect the child and the woman.

1°)- Administrative, legislative and judicial measures

125. Mauritania has a legal framework that guarantees respect for parental rights and duties in terms of child supervision and for the provision of appropriate advice in the fulfillment of the rights recognised by the ACRWC in its aspects which are not contrary to Muslim law that is embodied in the current legal corpus. Thus, the preamble to the Constitution of 20 July 1991 underlines the importance of the family as a fundamental unit of society. The Constitution proclaims that the family is the basic unit of society. Article 16 states that "the State and society shall protect the family". The information contained in the previous reports of Mauritania attest to the importance of parental guidance for the future of the child. Indeed, the CSP defines parental responsibility vis-à-vis children. Article 120 provides: "the mother shall breastfeed her child and the father shall feed him during the period of breast-feeding". These provisions are supplemented by the provisions of Article 123 (1) which stipulates that "custody of the child is part of the obligations of the father and mother, as long as the latter remain united by marriage" while article 123 (3) defines the order in which such custody may be entrusted to members of the extended family. Finally, article 142 para. 2 stipulates that "in the case of maintenance granted to the child, the accommodation must meet the characteristics specified in subparagraph 8 of Article 122 ...". In this context, the State develops, through the public media, parental education programmes focusing on the roles and responsibilities of parents towards their children and a MASEF service is responsible for parent education in this domain.

2°) - Achievements

126. The adopted national action plan for the promotion and protection on human rights takes into account all aspects of human rights, including those relating to the proper development of children and the safeguarding of their well-being. Actions including extension of the CSP, support mechanisms for family dispute resolution, and implementation of parental education programmes. The SNPF facilitated campaigns to promote the status of women and children.

3°) - Limits

127. Parental action would be more effective and adaptable if they take advantage of the lessons learned from the MASEF parent education service. This service remains limited in terms of trained personnel and means of work that are suitable to its mission.

B- Parental responsibilities (article 20, 1)

1°)- Administrative, legislative and judicial measures

128. Within the framework of parental responsibility, the legislation imposes on parents a set of obligations in the educational, health and food sectors, which are all requirements for the benefit of the child, whose non-compliance is accompanied by financial penalties and deprivation of liberty Imposed by the OPPE in its second section entitled "Endangerment of the Child". These are: (i) section 35 "Notwithstanding the penalties prescribed by law for compulsory education, the fact that, without any valid cause, the parents, guardian or caregiver, do not comply with the compulsory school attendance requirement for children aged six to

sixteen, after a warning issued by the academic inspection shall be, punished with a fine of 5,000 to 10,000 Ouguiya. The following are punishable by one year's imprisonment and a fine of 200,000 ouguiyas: parents, guardians, caregivers and school officials who refuse to leave a girl under 18 continue her education because of pregnancy.

In the event of a second offense, the parents, guardian or caregiver may be sentenced to 20,000 Ouguiya and 7 days imprisonment. Where the ill-will persists on the part of the persons responsible for the child, deprivation of civic and civil rights may be pronounced for at least one year and not more than four years ". (ii) Article 37 "Failure of the parents, guardian or caregiver of the child to comply with the regulations on vaccinations shall be punished with a fine of 5,000 to 10,000 Ouguiya and in the event of recurrence, two to ten days' imprisonment. (iii) article 40 "The fact that a person exercising parental authority or authority over a child by an ascendant or any other person exercises parental authority or authority over a child, deprives the child of food or care to the extent of compromising his or her health, is punished by one to three years of imprisonment and 100,000 to 180,000 ouguiya of fines. The offense defined in the preceding paragraph is punishable by eight years' imprisonment where it has resulted in the death of the child. (iv) Article 41 "Failure by the father or mother to comply with their legal obligations to the point of seriously jeopardising the health, safety, morals or education of their child shall be punishable from six months to one year imprisonment and 80,000 to 120,000 ouguiyas of fines. Three to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 100,000 to 200,000 ouguiyas shall be imposed on the parents and the persons having authority over the child who request the registration of his/her marriage and the authorities who make the registration without respecting the legal age of marriage and consent. This penalty shall also apply to any person who has exercised a physical constraint on the child which has resulted in harm, dismemberment or permanent incapacity with a view to causing him/her to consent to the marriage ".

2°)- Achievements

129. The public authorities have implemented policies and strategies for the promotion and protection of the rights of children which lead to parental liability. These include the Strategic Framework Against Poverty, the National Strategy for Women Empowerment, the National Plan for the Development of the Educational Sector and its Ten-Year Plan, - the National Health Development Plan 2012-2020; The National Child Survival Strategy; The National Youth Development Policy, the Nutrition Development Policy and the Intersectoral Plan against Malnutrition 2012-2015.

3°)- Limits

130. The limited resources of the families and the State make it difficult to apply this principle. Indeed, neither the parents nor the state adequately fulfill their role. This has resulted in the resurgence of street children who are involved in small trades to earn a living instead of attending school; While others move towards delinquency.

C- Separation from parents

1°)- Administrative, legislative and judicial measures

131. The law protects the right for the child not to be separated from his or her family. This principle stems first from the provisions of article 123 of the PSC, which provides that "custody of the child is part of the obligations placed on the father and mother, as long as the latter remain united by marriage. In the event of the dissolution of the marriage, the custody of the child shall be entrusted as a matter of priority to the mother ... "Otherwise, the same article specifies, in the order, the other persons entitled to provide such custody (Article 123). Article 122 lays down the conditions to be fulfilled by the person responsible for the custody of the child. In the case of separation, article 136 states that "where the custody of the child is entrusted to one of the parents, the other parent shall not be prevented from visiting him/her and to inquire about his/her situation. Similarly, the other parent may ask that the child visits his or her, at least once a week, unless the judge decides otherwise in the interest of the child. ". This legislation is enforced by magistrates and CSOs protects it by accompanying the children in the event of a stormy divorce procedure or a threat to the interests of the child.

132. There is a practice of entrusting the child to a more affluent parent who is unable to procreate. It is a measure that is beyond the reach of judicial institutions. The child may be separated from his mother when she is an offender. Children are entrusted with a relative or placed in a care setting. In the case of placement in a public care setting, the Directorate of Child Protection is involved and ensures the care of the child.

2°)- Achievements

132. In collaboration with MASEF, several childcare facilities provide care for children without parental support until they reach majority for some, or are placed for others.

3°)-Limits

133. The limitations are mainly for children born out of wedlock who are abandoned by their mothers, those born of mentally ill mothers and orphans. These cases are common in urban areas. These children live in the care facilities without knowing their family for those who have not had the chance to be placed.

D- Separation due to internal displacement resulting from a conflict

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

135. Mauritania has not experienced any internal conflict. However, following the 1989 events with Senegal, human rights abuses generated a humanitarian crisis. The settlement of the humanitarian crisis has been a main concern of the government. It resulted in a voluntary, dignified and organised return of 24,536 Mauritanian refugees based in Senegal, spread over 118 sites in five wilayas and comprising 5817 families.

136. The operation of the organised return of the Mauritanian refugees based in Senegal followed the signature of the tripartite agreement signed on 12 November 2007 between Mauritania, Senegal and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This agreement is based on the principles of humanitarian law relating to the voluntary nature of repatriation and the preservation of the unity of the family in conditions that are respectful of human dignity. Under the terms of the Tripartite Agreement, Mauritania is responsible for welcoming returnees by providing them with security, dignity and reintegration into the economic and social fabric of the country. In order to fulfill its commitments, the State has put in place an adequate mechanism to ensure the organised voluntary repatriation of refugees and their economic and social integration. In this context, the State created in 2008, the National Agency for the Support and Insertion of Refugees (ANAIR), whose mission is to lead and ensure the care and integration of returnees.

137. This system has also mobilised the central and territorial administrations, which have played a fundamental role in ensuring that returnees have access to land, housing and agricultural activity by settling disputes concerning them. The Government has also set up a national commission for the census of officials and civil servants who were victims of the events of 1989. It has carried out an inventory at national and international level of all the civil servants and State contract agents with a view to their reintegration into the labour market. 1159 civil servants and State officials were granted their rights in accordance with the solutions proposed by the National Census Commission for civil servants and State contract agents, which were assented to by the representatives of the beneficiaries.

As regards the compensation of humanitarian liabilities, the consultation process initiated in 2008 between the public authorities and the beneficiaries led to a settlement in accordance with Mauritanian law, Islamic values and international conventions and treaties. This settlement resulted in the right to redress through the compensation of the rightful claimants (Diya) and through the duty of memory and forgiveness expressed on the occasion of the national reconciliation day organised in Kaédi on 25 March 2009 (Prayer in memory of the victims and speech by the President of the Republic).

2°)- Achievements

138. The State has put in place mechanisms to ensure the integration of returnees into their social environment. To this end, they have benefited from the services of the civil registry and the National Identity Card as soon as they enter the national territory. They have also benefited from other specific services provided by the State, in particular:

- The allocation of 7606 dairy cows;
- Construction of 101 community shops, 103 grain mills and hullers, 6 boreholes, 10 connections, 9 wells and 6 water treatment operations in the river;
- Construction and equipment of 113 classrooms;
- Recruitment of 104 teachers;
- Development and rehabilitation of 116.6 ha of irrigated crops;
- The fencing and exploitation of 1,120 ha of “dieri” fields
- The closing of 2,250 ha pastoral reserves;
- Development of 24 vaccination parks,
- Construction of 54 mosques and 83 community hangars.

These programmes initiated by the ANAIR are now taken care of by the Tadamoun Agency.

139. As part of the registration process, the National Agency for the Register of Populations and Secured Documents (ANRPTS) has undertaken specific actions to benefit Mauritians repatriated from Senegal. These include:

- Issuance of a birth certificate from the Administrative Census for Civil Registration (RANVEC);
- Opening of ten Citizens' Centres (CACs) specially dedicated to returnees in the wilayas of Trarza, Gorgol, Brakna, Guidimakha and Assaba;
- Possibility of registering in any other centre of their choice, subject to the physical presence and presentation of the VRF issued by UNHCR.

This scheme enabled:

- The establishment of a database of 23,995 returnees;
- The issuance of civil registration documents to 21,960 returnees;
- The registration of 9081 returnees from a population of returnees at the CAC.

140. In recent months, the ANRPTS has set up a commission comprising representatives of returnees. This commission studied the majority of the pending cases and proposed solutions concerning them. A process of taking care of the returnees has been implemented in order to support them and ensure their insertion through the National Agency of Support and Rehabilitation of returnees.

3°)-Limits

141. They are linked to socio-professional reintegration following the return of these displaced populations to their region of origin. The public authorities are working to develop strategies for preventing social conflicts and strengthening social cohesion in order to prevent the integration difficulties of the returnees' populations by focusing on the needs of children.

E- Family reunification and children deprived of family (art. 25-2b et 18-3)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial environment

142. The principle of freedom of movement is enshrined in the Constitution of 20 July 1991 and the 1965 Decree on entry into and stay in Mauritania. Articles 10 and 22 of the Constitution establish freedom of residence, entry and exit from the national territory for all. In addition, Mauritania is party to several international human rights conventions (refugees and migrants) which enshrine the right to family reunification enabling the child and his or her parents to be reunited or to visit. Furthermore, legislative measures are supported by decisions to promote family reunification and to maintain healthy relationships between its various members. This is the case for the right to visit provided by the courts to the non-custodial parent, either in the child's habitual residence or in the process of cross-border access, and which allows the child to travel during the holidays and spend a pre-determined time with the non-custodian parent.

2°)- Achievements

143. The achievements in this area relate to the reunification of the family. This is how the State endures the development of towns and villages in order to reduce rural-urban migration both to urban areas and outside the country. It urges farmers to become more professional in annual crops. The micro-credits that it provides to women in the fight against poverty contribute to family reunification.

144. In the judiciary level, a conciliation phase is compulsory when divorce proceedings are triggered. A period of reflection is granted to the spouses. The child placement can be reviewed at any time. The penal code provides for and punishes the non-representation of a child whose custody has been determined by a court decision and the abandonment of a family or home. Children whose parents have not been found are subject to placement measures in the various childcare facilities. They shall be borne by the State or the care setting responsible for them.

3°)- Limits

145. The limitations in this sector are the small number of childcare facilities in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. The role of CSOs in family reunification and children deprived of environment remains embryonic.

F- Maintenance of the child (article 18-3)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

146. If the case of marriage breakdown, the custody of the child is usually entrusted to the mother and the father must pay a maintenance subsidy. The CSP defines the content of child support and sets the criteria for its determination. The MASEF family dispute service is in charge of following up applications for maintenance recovery. It has developed a procedure, which allows the parties to find common ground between the former spouses for the payment of the child support. In this mission, she is supported by the administration and the employers of the ex-husband, in particular the Budget Directorate, which facilitates the payment or deduct the child support from the debtor's wages. It is only in the absence of such an agreement that the mother of the child resort to justice to assert her rights to child support.

2°)- Achievements

147. In addition to the existing legal framework, the recovery of child support is a main concern of the public authorities. To this end, awareness campaigns on this matter are organised by CSOs and the Administration regularly draws up circulars to facilitate its implementation.

3°)-Limits

148. If the bailiff does not find the means for recovering the child support from the debtor, the creditor is obliged to resort to coercion. This implies taking over the debtor's power and placing in prison. This procedure is not used because it undermines the woman's relationship with her children who are also the debtor's children. This is not approved by the society. The difficulty of enforcing judicial decisions relating to personal status against officials and especially child support is difficult. The lack of a child support fund makes it difficult to ensure the maintenance of the child.

G-Adoption et periodic evaluation of the child (article 24)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

149. Adoption does not exist in Mauritanian law. It has no legal value and does not entail any effects of parental lineage. Muslim law, however, provides for a form of adoption known as the *Kafalah* or legal care. Anyone applying to the *kafalah* must meet the following criteria: (i) Be married; (ii) be of Mauritanian nationality; (iii) Have a permanent source of income and a social environment conducive to the education and development of the child; (iv) Accept the responsibility of the child and fulfill it fully. Priority is given to couples without children. A draft law on *keffalah* has been prepared by the public authorities and its adoption is underway in order to offer children in need a status in line with the recommendations of the CRC.

150. MASEF is responsible for the periodic review of placement. After the placement, the experts of the department carry out repeated visits to the new family of the child to whom they provide assistance (health care, psychological supervision, financial assistance, etc.) and, if necessary, remove the child in case of non-compliance with the placement requirements.

2°)- Achievements

151. With respect to the periodic review of the placement of the child, one of the divorced parents who has not been granted custody of the child, may apply for a review when he notices that the morality, education and the health of the child are compromised. The judge assigns either a qualified person or an approved socio-educational service with the mission of providing assistance and advice to the family in order to overcome the material and moral difficulties it encounters. However, in accordance with the CRC and the Charter, the juvenile judge is responsible for requesting a periodic evaluation, either at the mid-term or at the end of the placement measure. At the end of this evaluation, he can either end the placement or renew it.

3°) -Limits

152. The limits are linked to socio-cultural constraints and ignorance of the Islamic texts on the *Kafalah* by the majority of the population. The consequence is that there is very little care. In addition, some couples prefer to accommodate the child of a close relative rather than taking a child whose parents are unknown. Some also consider the *Kafalah* procedure too restrictive because of the conditions to be fulfilled concerning the application.

H-Abuse, negligence, exploitation of the child (articles 16 et 27)

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicicia measures

153. The public authorities have adopted legislative provisions and measures to combat violence against children. The strategic and policy framework takes into account the gender dimension and the combating violence against children through: PRSP III (2011-2015), (ii) the National Strategy for Women Empowerment(2005-2008); (Iii) the National Strategy for Gender Institutionalisation (2009); (iv) The National Strategy to Promote the Abandonment of FGM (2007); (v) Family policy (2006); (vi) the National Strategy for the Protection of Children (2009), The SNPS. In addition to CEDAW; the protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women; The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the CRC, which have supremacy over domestic law, the law on trafficking in persons, the OPPE and the law criminalising slavery and slavery-like practices are currently the main repressive texts in force which protect children against violence.

Although the Criminal Code contains articles prohibiting abortion, infanticide, abduction, abandonment or trade, it is above all the Trafficking in Persons Act which provides clearer clarification by aggravating the sentence incurred by perpetrators of violence against children. While article 311 of the Criminal Code provides for penalties between 6 months and 3 years of imprisonment, the Trafficking in Persons Act provides for 5 to 10 years of hard labour in addition to a fine from 500,000 to 1 million ouguiya. The OPPE contains 68 articles (10-78) about the types of violence against children and their sanctions.

154. Several measures are part of the prevention and reintegration of child victims of violence. ; (i) Since 2009, CARSEC has ensured the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law, which guarantees the separation of minors and adults in prisons, and offers opportunities for reintegration to these children. The juvenile courts, the juvenile prosecution and the juvenile investigating judge, as well as the juvenile squad reinforce this system. (ii) The CSP sets the age of marriage at 18 years old. It includes a series of other provisions aimed at preventing situations that may expose children to violence. (iii) Revision of the Labour Code, prohibiting the employment of children under 16 years of age. The Code also contains nine new articles on the repression of perpetrators of exploitation of children at work. (iv) The penal code itself contains protective provisions for children. Articles 525, 276, 293, 310, 311, 312, 319, 323, 326, 331, 332 and 334 deal respectively with the prohibition of the use of children for begging, the conviction of infanticide, abortion, rape, pimping, prostitution, forcible confinement, abduction and defilement. (v) The Code of Obligations and Contracts remains the common law of redress and provides for compensation clauses for any victim of crime, including children. (vi) The provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Act include protective and repressive measures against perpetrators of violence: enlistment, transportation, accommodation and hosting of children for the purpose of exploitation. (vii) The OPPE establishes an effective enforcement mechanism on violence against children.

155. Thus, the protection of children victims of violence and the imposition of penalties for perpetrators of violence are regulated by criminal legislation. The juvenile judge and the ordinary courts are responsible for the enforcement of these laws, anytime a case of this nature is pending before them. NGOs that are active in the protection of minors ensure that all cases of violence are brought before the courts for the purpose of obtaining sanctions as they assist children in conflict with the law. In the context of prevention, redress and reintegration, NGOs have developed a plan of action to this end. A decree establishing the rules and procedures of schools prohibits corporal punishment in schools. This text is still in force. In addition, the Trafficking in Persons Act increases the penal sentence of prostitution when it applies to children. Wherever the child has been subjected to violence, the OPPE is applicable as soon as the case is referred to the courts. The OPPE prohibit harming the physical integrity of the child. Voluntary or involuntary assault, torture, barbarism, inhuman or degrading treatment are punishable by the criminal law. In any event, the CSP gives priority to the interests of the child and it is for the judge, when the perpetrator of the violence is the minor's parent, to ensure that the interest of the child is preserved. The OPPE does prohibit death penalty for children or corporal punishment against children. The criminal law does not contain explicit provisions concerning bullying and violent initiation rituals. Traditional harmful practices, although not explicitly provided for the existing texts, are largely opposed, both by public structures concerned with child protection, in particular MASEF and by NGOs working to combat violence against children. The perpetrators of these practices are liable to criminal prosecution (FGM for example). The sentence is aggravated if the perpetrator belongs to the medical or paramedical sector. Honour crimes are punishable under the common law. The OPPE makes these harmful practices an offense. It provides for criminal protection for all children, including foreigners and refugee children. Moreover, the criminal law in force is applicable as soon as the offense occurs in the territory, regardless of the perpetrator or the victim. The OPPE enshrines the principle of extraterritoriality in this area. Public authorities have encouraged UNICEF's partnership with the Network of Imam and Religious Leaders for child rights, which has hardened their response to this phenomenon. This is in line with the first recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General's study on violence against children.

2°)- Achievements

156. The network of imams undertook a study of the Koran and Islamic law to determine whether Islam allowed corporal punishment. This study shows that Islamic law protects the physical integrity of children; It concluded that violence had no place in Islam and it provided the basis for a fatwa (the opinion of an Islamic authority on how Islamic law issues should be understood, interpreted or applied) that prohibits verbal and physical violence in the education system. Following the proclamation of the fatwa, UNICEF and the network of religious leaders distributed more than 2,000 copies of this decision and organised a number of workshops across the country.

157. Most of the teachers who participated in the workshops were convinced of the correctness of this religious opinion. The imams and those who ruled the madrasas read the

fatwa and acknowledged that its contents was in harmony with the teachings of Islam. Most of them agreed to put an end to corporal punishment and to follow the recommendations of the fatwa. Several positive changes are already visible: the number of students has increased and teachers are increasingly using non-violent methods to instill discipline. The fatwa was honored during a ceremony chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs and the UNICEF Representative. Awareness-raising sessions aimed at further reducing the practice of corporal punishment were organised in different parts of the country. The network of imams, UNICEF and their other partners intend to continue their collaboration for the protection of the rights of the child in Mauritania.

158. The sale and trafficking of children is regulated by Law No. 25- 2003 of 17 July 2003 on the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons. The penal code also punishes sexual abuse, including prostitution, pimping. The OPPE provides for severe penalties against their perpetrators in accordance with the Second Recommendation of the Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children. The issue of the sexual exploitation of children was the subject of a regional conference for Africa on the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism. Mauritania has taken part and is implementing its recommendations which are helpful and in line with the third recommendation of the Secretary-General's study on violence against children. Statistical data on rape, prostitution and female genital mutilation in Mauritania have been collected by various NGOs and public bodies. The protection and distribution on the Internet of pornographic images depicting children is sanctioned by the OPPE, which includes a set of provisions relating to the fight against pedophilia and child pornography.

159. Within MASEF, there are important human resources whose mission is to collect information on concrete cases of violence against children. There are 45 social workers and 49 assistant social workers whose mission is, inter alia, to provide detailed information on child abuse. MASEF has, for example, a list of complaints about the reported cases of violence. These cases are classified in a list which is monitored by a social service in coordination with the structures concerned. Failure to report an offense in such case becomes a matter of common law and is treated as non-assistance to a person in danger. The OPPE provides for specific penalties for non-reporting of offenses against children by imprisonment plus a fine. The Code of Criminal Procedure makes no distinction between adults and minors concerning the remedies which would allow victims to apply to the courts for redress. This procedure is accessible to parents of children and to organisations who support abandoned children, of children of unknown parents or organisations protecting child rights. Measures to create a juvenile court, training of juvenile magistrates and the creation a juvenile squad, provide the opportunity to file a complaint on violence against children. Complaints about violence against children lead to the imposition of prison sentences against the perpetrator, often accompanied by a fine. A legal action to seek redress remains open as an option before the civil courts. The survey on sexual violence against children, youth and women in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania carried out in 2011 by Save the Children gave a comprehensive picture of the extent of this phenomenon and led to the preparation of a draft law, and its adoption will optimise the society's response to this phenomenon. In 2008, the AMSME carried out a study on the legal and judicial treatment of sexual assaults on women and children, which also highlighted the administrative, legal and social measures needed to make effective the repression of this phenomenon.

160. The public authorities have developed several instruments and methods to protect children against violence. Both public and private structures devote their efforts to the protection of children from violence. Several NGOs are committed to this task. It is also at this level that it

is possible to determine the number of cases of violence, how to prevent them and the possibilities of compensation for the victims and their reintegration. The MASEF, which coordinates its own activities with all the other governmental structures, NGOs and international charities, deals with cases of violence that it knows through the Directorate of Children and the Family. The MASEF is responsible for the monitoring and implementation of the ACRWC, in collaboration with the various public and private institutions (i) the Ministry of Justice, (ii) the Ministry of Education, (iii) the Ministry of Youth (Iii) the Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society, which is responsible for the implementation of the human rights policy in the framework of the national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights. Institutionally, this translates into an approach towards the promotion of human rights and the economic and social dimension. The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Youth each have a department directly responsible for the issue of violence against children. Public advisory bodies such as (iv) the National Council for Children (CNE), an body created by the Office of the Prime Minister, are also official mechanisms. The CNE has prepared three reports on the follow-up and implementation of the CRC, which provided a detailed account of its actions under the National Action Plan (NAP). (v) a parliamentary group for children exists in Parliament. (vi) An association of Mayors Defenders of the Child brings together almost all the mayors. Coordination between these structures is based on periodic exchanges of data and various meetings in seminars focused on the issue of violence against children.

160. To this must be added the establishment of an institutional mechanism for the prevention of GBV with the participation of CSOs at all levels: (i) National Commission on Harmful Practices, which has evolved into a National Committee to Combat Gender-based violence; (ii) National Council for Children (2004), (iii) Regional and departmental committees against FGM; (iv) NCHR (v) CEDAW Follow-up Committee; (vi) Regional committees (6 wilayas) for cooperation and coordination in the processing and resolution of family disputes; (vii) Regional units (6 wilayas) for the processing and resolution of family disputes; (viii) Departmental Committees for the Promotion of Human Rights (in the Wilaya of Hodh Chargui), (ix) National Gender Monitoring Group; (x) Gender Regional Monitoring Groups; (xi) Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (2007). It has distinguished itself by the following actions; (i) Commemoration International Days (FGM Zero Tolerance and VBG Day) (ii) Implementation of a programme to abandon harmful practices including FGM since 2007 (implemented by MASEF and TOSTAN); (iii) Establishment of a national GBV control committee including FGM in 2008; (iv) Establishment of a commission to follow up the recommendations of CEDAW (v) Membership since 2009 of the UN SG campaign on violence against women and children (vi)) Continuous support to 3 care centres run by NGOs; (vii) Development of a roadmap for the abandonment of FGM; (viii) Implementation of the project to promote the abandonment of harmful practices; (ix) Preparation of a draft law on FGM; (x) Issuance of a fatwa for the abandonment of FGM in 2010 and its dissemination to 720 Imams in the wilayas with high prevalence; (xii) Issuance of a Fatwa relating to the specification of reservations on two articles contrary to Shari'a with a view to the lifting of the general CEDAW reserve; (xiii) Organisation of several IEC campaigns on practices harmful to the status of women and girls; (xiv) Institutionalisation, in 2010, of

regional consultation tables for the protection of children; (xv) Establishment of a Gender-Based Violence Technical Unit, including FGM since 2008; (xvi) series of human rights awareness campaigns (GBV, FGM, girls' school dropout, CSP, early marriage and reproductive health; (xvii) MASEF involvement in IEC in the field of Reproductive Health (RH) (xviii) Establishment of a national system for the protection of children against violence, exploitation, discrimination, abuse and neglect (xix) Training of trainers for (xxi) Anthro-po-sociological study on the determinants of FGM in Mauritania 2010 (xxi) Investigation of ongoing sexual violence (xxii) Documentary film on rape (BBC Int. 2008) (xxiii) Harmonised Training Module on FGM 2010; (xxiv) Training Manual for Community Relays on RH; (xxv) clip on RH and Human Rights (xxvi) Cassettes in the 4 national languages / CEDAW, (xxvii) development Of a SOPS guide.

161. The public authorities dedicate financial resources to end violence against children. Through the workshops and seminars organised by the various ministries for awareness raising. Mauritania contributes to end violence against children in the context of cooperation with neighbouring countries, particularly in the fight against child trafficking. It was congratulated by UNICEF on the fight against child trafficking in the UAE. The Children's Directorate of the MASEF and the Ministry of Justice deal with cases of child abuse, the Family Directorate receives and deal with complaints, particularly in terms of violence against children. Particularly for girls before referring them to the courts if necessary. The parliamentary group, which deals with the promotion and protection of children's rights, organises annual workshops and training sessions for the special protection of children.

162. CSOs have undertaken a series of initiatives to combat violence against children. AMSME organised several seminars on sexual violence in collaboration with the Ministry of Health for the benefit of the general public. Some of these seminars have sensitised doctors to problems of sexual violence. With the support of United Nations agencies, the NGO opened a psychosocial support centre for rape victims and organised awareness-raising and training campaigns for the relevant groups (centre staff, doctors). The National Association for the Support of the Women's Initiative for Child and Environmental Protection (ANAIF-PIE) has for its part carried out awareness-raising activities and constituted groups to identify child victims. The Children and Development Association carried out a study on the identification of the main forms of violence against street children. The Association of journalists defenders of women's and children's rights is raising awareness through articles published in the media, in accordance with the fourth recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General's study on violence against children. A specific action for children victims of sexual exploitation through the creation and development of counselling, rehabilitation, protection and social reintegration centres was initiated by an NGO coalition. The National Forum for Women Empowerment and Children's Rights provides legal and judicial assistance for victims of rape, street children and Talibés, the Association of Women Heads of Families and the Association against Addictions have a centre for child victims of violence and provide support and guidance.

163. Public authorities promote the psychosocial and health care of victims of sexual violence (rape) in accordance with the sixth recommendation of the UN Secretary-General's study on violence against children. MASEF, in collaboration with the majority of relevant NGOs, has compiled a list of harmful practices that have been identified. Medical doctors, Ulémas, sociologists and CSO representatives were involved in the development of this

compilation. In this context, a programme to combat FGM has started to inform and raise awareness among the population. 75 Imams were trained to conduct this campaign. They were then relayed by local facilitators. This campaign targeted the most affected regions and where the rate of girls' enrollment is low. The campaign tackled subjects that were taboo in Mauritania until then. The Association of Women Lawyers and rural radio journalists participated in training in this context. There are common programmes between official structures and some NGOs, such as the street children programme with the NGO AEDM in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou.

164. UNICEF Mauritania cooperation programme aims to promote an enabling environment for the protection of children, especially the most vulnerable children, through support for the development of national policies and legislation. The CSOs cyber forum and the non-state actors platform constitute a framework for consultation and dialogue between NGOs and the Government through the Human Rights Commission in the fight against poverty and integration. Several journalists have been trained with the support of UNICEF. Sensitisation in the form of articles published in newspapers contributes to this effort. Rural Radio journalists also underwent training and actively participated in awareness-raising campaigns. Children participated in a horizontal manner in the fight against violence that affects them, primarily through the Children's Parliament and the Children's Municipal Council, in accordance with the seventh recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against children. Vertically, it is through certain programmes, initiated in schools, that their opinions or suggestions are taken into account. NGOs involve children as part of the popularisation of the ACRWC. Children are involved in awareness raising of this phenomenon through (i) messages and information broadcast by all channels: written media, radio, television, drama, schools, posters

165. The public authorities have drawn up and implemented a National Plan of Action for the Monitoring and Implementation of the CRC. The plan has spanned nine years and continues to be the benchmark in the overall policy to combat violence against children. The Plan of Action includes all forms of actions against the various manifestations of violence against children: prevention, protection, medical, psychological, legal and social assistance to support the victims as well as the laws punishing the perpetrators of violence. A second action plan has been implemented by the State since the New York conference in its special session for children, and the MASEF incorporated the PRSP by putting it at the heart of the fight against poverty. The public authorities coordinate their activities with NGOs working against violence. Programmes and action plans link official structures and NGOs: In its organisational chart, the MASEF foresees a partnership with institutions including NGOs and associations protecting children victims of violence. These programmes address all forms of physical and psychological violence and in different settings, such as families, schools, children's institutions and workplaces. Programmes have already been initiated by the State, including awareness-raising and they cover different types of violence, sexual exploitation, harmful traditional practices (FGM), physical violence ... The administration is conducting impact verification through studies that highlight data on violence against children. These studies are often provided by NGOs working with MASEF. (Example of the survey of cases of rape recorded between 2000 and 2004 by the NGO AMSME, ANAIF-PIE survey on sexual exploitation, protection, trafficking, sale, child pornography, sex tourism and the Internet, the Survey of Female Genital Mutilation and Early Marriage conducted by

EDSM 2000-2001, Save the Children Survey on Sexual Violence 2011, AMSME 2008). These studies and surveys enable the government to assess and monitor the impact of its programmes to combat violence against children.

166. The Ministry of Justice participates in regional and international activities related to violence against children and takes into account the recommendations for their implementation. It promotes police and judicial cooperation at the border level in the fight against child trafficking. Public prosecution of violence against children shall be initiated ex officio by the public prosecutor as soon as he or she becomes aware of such acts or through an information or a complaint. To optimise its action against violence against children the Ministry of Justice organises sensitisation workshops on how to deal with violence against women and children. These seminars bring together doctors, police officers, magistrates and NGOs working on violence against women and children, in line with the fifth recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against children. The result is a set of recommendations that can be summed up through the multiplication of such meetings, the training of magistrates, police officers, Imams, health personnel, teachers, staff of children's institutions ... on the consequences of this phenomenon on the victim and the need to deal with them in the most appropriate way.

3°) - Limits

167. Il n'y'a pas de moyens affectés spécialement à la question des violences contre les enfants même si les moyens, affectés de façon générale à l'enfance, sont en progression constante et peuvent être considérés comme alloués à la lutte contre la violence des enfants. Les pratiques traditionnelles en ce qui concerne le châtement corporel persistent encore. Pour les parents, c'est grâce à cette méthode que l'on peut bien éduquer un enfant. Toute dénonciation est perçue comme une ingérence dans la vie privée de la famille. L'ignorance des textes limitent l'efficacité de l'action contre les abus sur les enfants. Parfois, certains parents hésitent à porter plainte en raison de la lenteur judiciaire dans le traitement des dossiers. Tandis que d'autres préfèrent un règlement amiable.

There are no special resources allocated to dealing with the issue of violence against children, even though the resources, generally allocated to children, are constantly increasing and can be considered as allocated to combating violence against children. Traditional practices with regard to corporal punishment still persist. For parents, it is through this method that one can raise a child. Any reporting is perceived as an interference with the family's private life. Ignorance of the laws and regulations limits the effectiveness of action against child abuse. Sometimes, some parents are reluctant to file a complaint because of the slowness of the court process. While others prefer a friendly settlement.

VI. Basic health and well-being

A- Survival and development of the child (article 5)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

168. Mauritania has subscribed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has made it one of the fundamental axes of its development policies. It pledged to make every effort to reach all the targets by the 2015 deadline. Two key elements marked this commitment.

Following the accession of Mauritania to the International Health Partnership (IHP), a National Health Development Plan (PNDS) was created in 2011 covering the period 2012-2020. This is a MDG-based health sector scorecard. Given that health targets 4,5 and 6 will not be met by 2015, the President of the Republic has decided to create a Sectoral Coordination Unit for Accelerating the Achievement of Health MDGs in 2012 .

2°)-Achievements

1. At the Mbéra refugee camp:

- Seven health structures are operational
- Indiscriminate access to health care (provision of services to 5,500 women including 1,450 pregnant and breastfeeding women)
- Vaccination of 11,458 children aged 0 to 5 years against polio, 8,629 children against measles and 2,154 women of childbearing age against tetanus as part of the African Immunization Week

2. At national level :

- Creation, in 2011, of 3 additional public health schools (Néma, Sélibabi, Rosso) for training
- Extension of the coverage of the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM)

3. MDG 4 : Reduce under-five mortality by 2/3

Training of 158 providers in Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI)

- Procurement of 12 pediatric and neonatal resuscitation units
- Establishment and revitalisation of the National Community Health Strategy bodies
- Training of 109 Community Health Workers (CHW)
- Procurement of 69 kits (containing work tools and medicines) for Awjeft, Sélibaby and Moudjeria CHW

4. MDG 5 : Improving maternal health

In 2012, training and recruitment of 230 auxiliary nurse midwives under MDG 1 (poverty alleviation and hunger), 3 (women's financial empowerment) and health MDGs (4, 5 and 6)

- Training in 2012 of 270 former auxiliary nurse midwives (MDGs 4, 5 and 6)
- Training in mobile tele-ultrasound technology in 2013 of health personnel in Hodh Echarghi (participating in the improvement of pregnancy management)
- Opening in 2014 of a budget line (state budget) on reproductive health products with a focus on contraceptives
- Complete equipment at 5 Hospital Centres in operating theaters, maternity services, gynecological consultation rooms, neonatal resuscitation services and laboratory services. These 5 Hospitals were also equipped with a blood bank with a procurement of 8 adult resuscitation units for obstetric emergencies.
- Maternity facilities in 21 health centres through maternity rooms, gynecological consultation rooms and ultrasound scanners;
- Equipment in delivery rooms for 162 health posts.

- Revitalisation of the reference and counter-reference through the procurement of 18 ambulances and 162 4X4 motorbikes.
- Transfer of skills through the upgrading of providers in basic obstetric and neonatal emergency care (SONUB) through training of:
 - 120 providers in SONUB
 - 30 providers using intra-uterine manual aspiration (MVA) and a ventouse (two quality techniques already introduced in the provision of care in all the countries of the sub-region).
 - 39 providers in gynecological and obstetric ultrasound
 - Maternity facilities in Dar Naim, Sebkhah, Ksar and Tarhil, in support of the Nouakchott structures.
 - Procurement of 200 Kits of cesarean section for maternity of the mother-child hospital in order to facilitate the care of the deprived mothers

5. MDG 6 : Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

a) For malaria:

- Acquisition of 190,000 Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) of malaria,
- Acquisition of 10,000 impregnated mosquito nets (LLIN) at all levels
- Formation de Training of 60 providers on malaria management and use of malaria use RDTs

b) For HIV aids:

- Development of the plan to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV / AIDS (MTCT)

c) For Tuberculosis :

- Support for the active search for those who have disappeared
- Training of laboratory technicians in the diagnosis of tuberculosis

d) Meningitis

- **Introduction of new vaccines against meningitis**

6. PERSPECTIVES:

- Improved communication through the implementation of the GFU system for health
- Implementation of the communication plan between health actors and populations
- Materialisation and scaling up of tele-ultrasound training
- Organisation of an advocacy round table for funding mobilisation
- Increase the financial accessibility of populations in poor areas by extending the obstetric package and setting up rural health mutuals.
- Generalisation of the implementation of the national community health strategy
- Provision of the remuneration of community health workers trained in consultation with local elected officials and in collaboration with the administration.
- Establishment of a referral system and functional counter referral (for patients evacuated between different hospitals);
- Institutionalisation of the method of reviewing maternal deaths / surveillance and response.
- Equipment of the blood banks in each regional hospital

- Scaling up the national community health strategy that benefits all health MDGs
- Prevision of two mobile blood collection units
- Encouraging delegation of tasks and transfer of competences in priority areas.
- Continued capacity-building for providers, for the technical platform and infrastructure of basic health facilities
- Repositioning birth spacing
- Revitalisation of the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV / AIDS

3°)- Limits

169. Despite the diversity of care structures, the situation of the child remains a concern in the areas of health, nutrition and access to safe drinking water.

B- Children with disabilities (article 13)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

170. The protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities is a priority for the public authorities. Mauritania adopted Ordinance No. 2006.043 of 23 November 2006 on the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities and its two implementing decrees relating respectively to the Multi-Partnership Council for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities and the definition of handicap. It also ratified the International Convention on Disabled Persons on 3 April 2012. Several governmental structures are more or less directly concerned with the issue of persons with disabilities. MASEF, CNORF and CNP, and the Ministry of Education, as well as the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Communication and Parliamentary Relations, The Ministry for Original Education and the ANRPTS, the Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society, the Commission for Food Security and the National Social Security Fund.

MASEF has a branch that deals specifically with the inclusion of children with disabilities. Furthermore, beside the central administration of the MASES, each wilayas has at least one social worker-level manager trained by the National School of Public Health (ENSP). As for other public structures, they develop and implement policies and programmes for children in general. Children with disabilities or permanent disabilities, who are sometimes cared for in the framework of the services provided by these structures, are treated in the same way as other children, without their specific needs being taken into account (Health, schools, etc.). Several CSOs are interested in the plight of people with disabilities. They are usually organised by type of disability. These include AMPHL (Mauritanian Association for the Promotion of Leprosy Disabilities), AMPHM (Mauritanian Association of Mentally Handicapped Persons), ANAM (National Association of the Blind in Mauritania), AMHM (Association Mauritanian des physical disability), UMSM (Mauritanian Union of the Deaf and dumb) and the UNHR (National Union of the Handicapped of Riadh). These associations deal generally with people with disabilities and, within their means, they carry out activities for children with disabilities in particular. Other NGOs work with children with disabilities, although these do not constitute their sole target (Action for Social Development in Mauritania (ADSM), the Association for Health and Development of Women and Children with Disabilities (ASDFEH), etc.).

171. Nevertheless, progress has been made through the realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities in the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human

Rights. For example, the Plan laments the lack of access of children with disabilities to schools, and recommends that disabled children (especially physical) have access to schools and public training centres. The PNDSE provides for a Special Education component to address the special needs of children with disabilities. Similarly, the National Early Childhood Strategy includes several activities to protect children with disabilities. Finally, the PRSP has set up safety nets for the most disadvantaged groups, including "children in difficult situations and the physically and mentally handicapped." Several programmes and projects, from government institutions or CSOs, were carried out for children with disabilities in various fields. In the area of health ; (i) The fight against disabilities related to certain communicable diseases has progressed significantly thanks to the National Immunization Days and the fixed vaccination strategy for children aged 0 to 5 years.

In particular, the incidence of poliomyelitis-related disabilities has decreased significantly through successive campaigns to eradicate the disease. In addition, actions to combat leprosy, tuberculosis, measles and dracunculiasis have helped to limit the disabilities associated with these diseases. (ii) Several specialised structures have been set up to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. The CNORF (National Centre of Orthopedics and Functional Rehabilitation): with a team of physiotherapists and rehabilitation practitioners, includes orthopedic, physiotherapy and control services, enabling it to provide functional rehabilitation and equipment for the physically handicapped. It carried out more than 10,000 consultations annually, conducted 4,000 rehabilitation sessions and made 100 appliances. In order to improve the financial accessibility of its services, the CNORF has reduced the prices of equipment and rehabilitation sessions. It now has an branch in each wilaya, which can provide the usual functional rehabilitation services. The Centre of Neuro-psychiatry of Nouakchott in charge of children referred by health centres or certain NGOs such as the AMPHM.

172. In the area of care, MASEF can finance the costs of hospitalization, fitting-out and medical evacuation of handicapped children whose parents are indigent. Parents affiliated to the national social security To benefit from a partial reimbursement of these expenses by the Directorate of Budget and Accounts and the National Social Security Fund. (Iii) The NGO "Association for Social Development in Mauritania" (ADSM), with the support of Handicap International, has opened a small factory for tricycles and wheelchairs. The beneficiaries are women and children living with permanent motor disabilities. (Iv) Caritas NGO distributes wheelchairs and prostheses for children with motor impairments for which they are attending school and for which they provide medical follow-up. (V) Finally, the NGO Terre des Hommes, At the request of parents, the costs of treatment and medical evacuation of certain children with disabilities.

173. In the field of special education: (i) schools for the the deaf, dumb and blind have been in operation since 1985 and are under the supervision of the MASEF, with the technical support of the Ministry of National Education. A programme of literacy in Braille and mobility of the blind adults has also been launched in Nouakchott. (ii) In preschool, a handicapped kindergarten was set up in Nouakchott in 2000, initiated by the NGO "National Union of the Handicapped of Riadh". (iii) In mainstream and original education: There is no overall data on the number of children with disabilities attending school. Some mildly physically disabled people manage to integrate into the school system as a result of their parents' efforts to enroll them. Caritas supports this schooling by covering the school fees, the maintenance and medical follow-up of children with physical disabilities who are identified and enrolled in basic schools. (iv) in the area of training centres, the AMPHM has opened a training centre for mentally

disabled children and adolescents. Transformed into a medical-educational centre for intellectual disabilities, it welcomes some thirty mentally disabled youth, including some girls.

174. The community-based rehabilitation programme and integration into economic life made it possible to: (i) Re-educate and equip 3,080 disabled persons (ii) enroll 300 physically handicapped children in basic schools (iii) Children who are deaf or blind. (iv) In addition, 218 persons with disabilities benefited from an economic reintegration project and 1,700 persons with disabilities from community-based rehabilitation activities in 14 localities. Similarly, small vocational training units for disabled youth (sewing and embroidery for girls and carpentry for boys) managed by the DAS in the 1990s are no longer functional. A programme of reintegration into working life was carried out by the NGO "Health and Development of Handicapped Women and Children" with the support of the Commission for Human Rights, following an inquiry into the begging of the disabled persons which led to the identification 110 people, including children. It has financed several applications for 25 unemployed disabled graduates. It has also supported vocational training measures for blind people (techniques of making wire mesh, making chinks), with a view to offering them an alternative to begging. Many people with leprosy residing in Nouakchott have found a small source of income through Caritas-supported car-keeping projects.

175. These activities are complemented by the MASEF activity which has resulted in: (i) Creation of a Directorate for Persons with Disabilities; (ii) Establishment of a Joint Commission for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (iii) capacity-building of national organisations of persons with disabilities through a grant from the State. (iv) Support for the functional accessibility of disabled people through the distribution of a large number of technical aids (500 wheelchairs, 200 crutches, 200 white canes, etc.) (v) schooling of 500 deaf and blind deaf children and equipment for 250 deaf children (vi) Capacity building for 20 sign language teachers and Braille and the empowerment of 100 parents of deaf and blind children in sign language and braille. (vii) Opening of an inclusive class in a school in Sélibaby for hearing impaired children. (viii) Strengthening of infrastructures for people with disabilities (opening of a training centre in office automation adapted to people with disabilities). (ix) Distribution of land for housing projects to persons with disabilities.

176. A progression for children with disabilities was noted in the achievements of the management in charge of their cases in the following areas: (i) 337 deaf 27 in school; (ii) 300 wheelchairs, 800 crutches; (iii) 400 white canes; 55 children with multiple disabilities; (iv) 38 individual microprojects benefiting persons with disabilities; (v) 18 microprojects (16 individual and 2 collective) benefiting handicapped persons in all categories of disability; (vi) 58 microprojects (36 individual and 22 collective) created by associations for their members; (vii) 100 graduates and unemployed persons with disabilities in the process of being recruited; (viii) 53 persons with disabilities from all categories of disability receiving financial assistance; (ix) 200 habitat lots distributed to people with habitat; (x) 103 persons with disabilities in Aleg, Kaédi, Kiffa and Nema; (xi) 50 association managers trained in project development and management; (xii) adoption of Decree No. 2013-129 / PM / defining the status of disabled persons and determining measures to prevent disability; (xiii) Validation of the National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities (xiv) Adoption of Order No. 22/471 of 23 December 2013 appointing the members of the Multisectoral Council for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities.

2°)- Achievements

177. The achievements in this area are:

- Ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in 2010.
- Adoption of an Ordinance on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities • Preparation of texts implementing the Ordinance on the Promotion and Protection of Persons with Disabilities and their harmonisation with the relevant international instruments.
- Creation of a Multisectoral Council for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities.
- Annual procurement of assistive technologies (for disabled people (distribution of more than 5000 assistive technologies (wheelchairs, crutches, white canes, hearing aids, etc.).
- Public service recruitment of 100 unemployed disabled graduates.
- Allocation since 2009 of an annual grant of 70 million ouguiyas to associations of people with disabilities.
- Financial support for the Pan-African Organisation for Disabled Persons, whose Honorary President is His Excellency Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz.
- Regular financial support by transferring funds to families with children living with multiple disabilities.
- Covering the cost of adaptive device for disabled persons at the National Centre for Orthopedics and Functional Rehabilitation.
- Assigning a set of 200 plots of land to the families of people with disabilities without a shelter in the context of the promotion of social housing.
- Adoption by the Government of the National Strategy for Social Protection.
- Development and validation of a national strategy for the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities.
- Allocation of land to house the headquarters of some associations of disabled persons in Nouakchott.
- Creation of a Centre for the Training and Promotion of Children with Disabilities

3°)- Limits

178. Socio-cultural constraints constitute a blocking factor in the application of these rights. Financial and human resources of the State are inadequate. There are few infrastructure adapted to each category of disability. Persons with disabilities have difficulty finding a job. Special needs institutions are insufficient. The number of schools is below demand and the lack of opportunities after training is significant.

C- Health and health services (article 14)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

179. The increase in budget allocations to health and the increase in health programmes and projects benefiting directly or indirectly the child contributed to the implementation of the provisions of the ACRWC on child health. In the area of health coverage, 80.08% of the population have access to a health facility within a radius of 5 km, with uneven spatial distribution. In view of this situation, important actions have been taken to substantially reduce

the proportion of populations that do not have easy access to a health facility: (i) the rehabilitation of the Sebkha, Teyarett and El Mina Health Centres ; (ii) the construction of 4 health centres (Tarhil Nouakchott, Tarhil Nouadhibou, Hay Sakin and Termessa); (iii) the extension of the Mother and Child Centre and the CNO; and (iv) the equipment of 15 health centres and 15 health posts. In addition, the construction of 10 health posts, the construction of the Rosso and Kaédi hospitals, the construction of the SAMU and the construction and equipment of the CNC were launched.

180. The state of the fight against disease, however, is characterised by the lack of an effective strategy for the development of quality services that can rapidly alleviate the suffering of the sick, especially children and pregnant women, this has led to a disaffection with health facilities (0.6 contact per person per year). However, significant actions have been taken to remedy this situation. These include: (i) acquiring and distributing more than 40,000 impregnated mosquito nets to households living in endemic areas of malaria; (ii) organising more than 5 immunisation trips to control and eradicate polio at national level; (iii) organising a measles epidemic response campaign targeting persons aged 5-29 years in three wilayas (both Hodhs and Assaba); (iv) the organisation of a national follow-up campaign against measles targeting children under five years of age throughout the country; and (v) the availability of ARVs for PLHIV / AIDS

181. Concerning the improvement and availability of skilled health personnel, the following activities were carried out: (i) recruitment of 296 health personnel; (ii) ongoing training of 20 people in public health; (iii) creation of 3 nursing schools (Néma, Sélibaby and Rosso); (iv) training of 25 Teachers of Health Teachers; (v) support for the training of 43 specialist doctors and the training of 2 radiation therapists; And (vi) training of 60 nurses. In terms of improving the performance of the sector, the main actions taken were: (i) preparation of the public health expenditure review RDPS; And (ii) the development of national health accounts. Institutionally, 2011 was marked by the creation, by decree N ° 90-2011 of 09 June 2011, of a Directorate of Public Hygiene whose main mission is to elaborate and implement hygiene policy, promotion of hygiene rules and development and monitoring of the application of regulations in this field, in particular Law No 42-2010 of 21 July 2010 on the hygiene and health and its various implementing texts.

2°)-Achievements

182. Public expenditure on health (PEH) rose from UM 10.8 billion in 2005 to UM 27.4 billion in 2010. This represents a very high average annual variation of 20.5% during this period. This means that the per capita PEH in UM has fluctuated very positively between 2005 and 2010, from 3709 to 6171, representing an average annual variation of 10.7%. This result shows the fairly large increase in the resources available to the health sector. The evolution of the share of health in the expenditure of the State, has been increasing. Generally speaking, it is around 7% and reached a peak of 10.7% in 2010. This indicates the importance that the State gives to the sector. Between 2010 and 2015, the financing policy is expected to be more efficient: (i) raising the state funding to more than 15% of the national budget, excluding debt services; (ii) providing an overall level of funding in excess of UM 5200 per capita; (iii) making the investment-to-operating ratio conducive to effective resource absorption at levels below 0.6; (iv) ensuring an efficient allocation of resources between the levels of the health pyramid with a primary and secondary financing ratio of tertiary and central funding of more than 1.8;

(V) increasing the share of the cost recovery system in the overall funding of the sector to more than 15%.

183. The main general and sectoral policies and strategies developed in recent years consider health as a national priority and place it at the heart of the country's development. The Health and Social Action Policy 2005-2015 developed by the public authorities sets out the principle that the right to health is a basic human right of every citizen. It aims at the sustainable improvement of the health of populations and the mitigation of the impact of poverty on the most vulnerable groups, especially children.

184. Child health indicators are favorable: (i) prenatal coverage increased from 80.2% in 2004 to 87.4% in 2008 (82.9% in rural areas compared to 93.3% in (ii) the assisted delivery rate improved from 56.5% in 2004 to 60.2% in 2008 (38% in the rural area compared with 92.5% in the urban area (iii) the percentage of people aged 12 to 23 who are fully vaccinated is 68.8%. (iii) For physical accessibility, 40.3% of the population can access a health centre within 30 minutes required by standards and 67.3% of the population live within a radius of 5 km from a health facility.

185. National policy focuses on maternal and child health and, in the area of social protection, it aims to ensure that health care is provided for the majority of people living in extreme poverty and exclusion social. This mission is part of the health system, whose three levels facilitate access to health for children. Operational or peripheral level (Moughataa) where there are two types of structures: health posts and health centres, which account for 530 and 67 respectively. In support of this level, several hundred basic health units (USB) were installed in an important part of the village settlements far from the health posts and health centres (beyond a radius of 10 km). The intermediate level includes three types of hospitals in the regional capitals or in moughata: (i) moughata hospitals, still limited in number, to cover the most populated or landlocked moughatas, (ii) regional hospitals, (Aleg, Tidjikja, Atar, Sélibaby, Zouerate and Akjoujt) and (iii) regional hospitals, which are set up as public administrative establishments, six in number (Néma, Aïoun, Kiffa, Kaédi, Rosso and Nouadhibou). The tertiary level, mainly concentrated in Nouakchott, includes four types of public referral establishments: General hospitals, four of which are the National Hospital Center (CHN), Cheikh Zayed Hospital (HCZ) The Friendship (HA) and the Military Hospital. There are five specialised centres: the Neuropsychiatric Centre (CNP), the National Centre for Cardiology (CNC), the National Centre for Oncology (CNO), the Mother- Child Centre (CME) and the National Centre for Orthopedic and Functional Rehabilitation (CNORF). The three specialised referral centres, namely the National Centre for Blood Transfusion (CNTS), the National Institute for Research in Public Health (INRSP) and the National Laboratory for the Quality Control of Medicines (LNCQM). Two training institutions, namely the Faculty of Medicine and the School of Public Health in Kiffa (ESPK).

186. Beside the public system, there is a private care system, particularly located in the main urban centres (Nouakchott, Nouadhibou) which is experiencing a real increase. The private sector is composed of (i) 15 Medico-surgical clinics, mainly based in Nouakchott, (ii) 47 outpatient clinics, (iii) 37 dental offices and (iv) 15 nursing homes, with 118 pharmacies and 280 pharmaceutical depots, across the national territory. This highly coveted sector remains dependent on the public sector, using its qualified staff and sometimes its services and resources, in particular, as regards reference / remedies. 545 Basic Health Units, managed by community health workers, provide primary health care to populations who are far from health posts and health centres. These measures were corroborated by the initiative of the President of

the Republic who created a unit with the financial, material and human resources to accelerate the achievement of MDGs 2 and 3 related to health.

187. The National Health Development Plan 2012-2020 aims to address the challenges of a national situation marked by (i) still high mortality and morbidity, especially among the most vulnerable groups (including the mother-child duo), (ii) inadequate coverage of essential health services, (iii) inefficient and inequitable health care, and (iv) an environment characterised by significant barriers and constraints to the development of the sector.

188. La stratégie nationale de lutte contre le sida repose sur cinq axes : (i) Réduction des risques de transmission des IST/VIH. Dans cet axe stratégique, les objectifs poursuivis visent à : Assurer la sécurité transfusionnelle, Renforcer la lutte contre les IST, Promouvoir et mener le conseil dépistage volontaire et gratuit du VIH, Assurer la sécurité et la protection contre le VIH en milieu de travail Promouvoir les comportements sexuels à faible risque de transmission du VIH, Réduire la transmission du VIH de la mère à l'enfant et Promouvoir l'utilisation des préservatifs; (ii) Réduction de la vulnérabilité des individus, des familles et des communautés au VIH/SIDA. L'objectif principal, retenu dans ce cadre, vise à renforcer les valeurs socioculturelles nationales et à prendre en compte la dimension économique de la lutte contre le VIH/SIDA. (iii) Meilleure connaissance de l'épidémie et des comportements. Dans ce domaine l'objectif vise à renforcer la surveillance épidémiologique, la surveillance comportementale et la recherche sur les IST/VIH/SIDA; (iv) Accès des PVVIH à une prise en charge globale. Les objectifs retenus dans cet axe stratégique visent à : Renforcer la prise en charge psychosociale et médicale des PVVIH, Renforcer la prise en charge communautaire des PVVIH, des orphelins, des veuves et des familles affectées par le VIH/SIDA, Apporter un soutien socio-économique aux PVVIH, aux orphelins, aux veuves et aux familles affectées par le VIH/SIDA; (v) Gestion stratégique de la réponse nationale au VIH/SIDA. Dans ce domaine, l'objectif vise à renforcer la coordination et l'efficacité de la riposte nationale aux IST/VIH/SIDA.

The national AIDS strategy is based on five axes: (i) Reducing the risk of STI / HIV transmission. In this strategic direction, the objectives are to: Ensure transfusion safety, Strengthen the fight against STIs, Promote and lead voluntary and free HIV testing, Ensure safety and protection against HIV in the workplace Promote Sexual behaviors at low risk of HIV transmission, reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV and promoting condom use; (ii) Reduction of vulnerability of individuals, families and communities to HIV / AIDS. The main objective is to strengthen national socio-cultural values and to take into account the economic dimension of the fight against HIV / AIDS. (iii) Better knowledge of the epidemic and behavior. In this area the objective is to strengthen epidemiological surveillance, behavioral surveillance and STI / HIV / AIDS research; (iv) PLHIV access to comprehensive care. The objectives of this strategic axis are to: Strengthen the psychosocial and medical care of PLHIV, Strengthen the community care of PLHIV, orphans, widows and families affected by HIV /

AIDS, Provide socio- Economic impact on PLHIV, orphans, widows and families affected by HIV / AIDS; (v) Strategic management of the national response to HIV / AIDS. In this area, the objective is to strengthen the coordination and effectiveness of the national response to STI / HIV / AIDS.

189. Le bilan de cette stratégie contribue à la protection de l'enfant contre la pandémie du Sida. En ce qui concerne la réduction des risques de transmission des IST/VIH à l'enfant les PP ont mis en place 13 banques de sang régionales assurant un dépistage systématique du sang. La mise en place d'un Centre National de Transfusion sanguine a facilité la mise en réseau de ces banques de sang régionales – avec un personnel formé, des outils de gestion et un approvisionnement régulier en réactifs et consommables – et le développement d'activités promotionnelles en vue d'une augmentation de la collecte active de sang et de la fidélisation progressive d'une partie des donneurs. Relativement à la sécurité transfusionnelle du sang, toutes les poches prélevées sont systématiquement testées contre les hépatites B et C, la syphilis et le VIH. A l'apparition d'un marqueur positif la poche est immédiatement éliminée. Le donneur VIH positif est convoqué pour un deuxième prélèvement ; après la confirmation du résultat, il bénéficie d'une séance de counseling au niveau du CNTS puis référé au CTA pour sa prise en charge.

The assessment of this strategy contributes to the protection of the child against the AIDS pandemic. With respect to reducing the risk of STI / HIV transmission to children, the public authorities have established 13 regional blood banks for routine blood screening. The establishment of a National Blood Transfusion Centre facilitated the networking of these regional blood banks - with trained personnel, management tools and a regular supply of reagents and consumables - and the development of promotional activities with a view to increasing active blood collection and the gradual retention of part of the donors. With regard to blood transfusion safety, all the pockets collected are systematically tested against hepatitis B and C, syphilis and HIV. When a positive marker appears, the pocket is immediately eliminated. The positive HIV donor is called for a second withdrawal; after confirmation of the result, he follows a counseling session at the CNTS level and then referred to the CTA for his/her care.

Since 2007, HIV testing and syphilis testing have been offered to donors who have been rejected through the pre-donation consultation. The analysis of the evolution of the seroprevalence of these four pathologies shows an important part of hepatitis B and syphilis in the causes of elimination of the blood collected. However, despite their high level, they have begun a downward trend reflecting the loyalty retention and donor selection policy. In the case of HIV and HCV, their seroprevalence remains low, less than 1%; Overall, the trend is increasing for HIV and decreasing for HCV. The impact of awareness campaigns has increased the number of blood donors from 6,802 donors in 2004 to 10,584 donors in 2008, and trends in loyalty and coverage of need are on the rise. The promotion of sexual behaviours with low risk of HIV transmission is marked by awareness-raising actions carried out by the various actors: (i) Opinion leaders - Imams and Ulémas - have been sensitised and support the fight against HIV / AIDS in mosques or in mass campaigns around information about the disease, the need to prevent and prohibit the stigmatisation of PLHIV.

(ii) Il existe un module scolaire sur le VIH/SIDA et les IST de la 1ère à la 6e année à travers des matières principales et un guide pour les enseignants ; (iii) La population manifeste une meilleure acceptabilité de l'action de lutte et des PVVIH, et la demande de prise en charge est importante et insistante, ce qui correspond à un changement positif du comportement de groupe en faveur de la lutte contre le sida, beaucoup plus prononcé au niveau de Nouakchott et

Nouadhibou. Un plan d'approvisionnement et de distribution des préservatifs a été mis en œuvre au niveau national, utilisant la CAMEC pour le stockage et la distribution centrale et 10 ONG nationales et internationales pour la distribution de proximité au sein des groupes de jeunes et d'autres groupes vulnérables. La stratégie de distribution des préservatifs est basée sur un mécanisme s'appuyant sur des structures publiques (Secrétariats exécutifs régionaux de lutte contre le SIDA ou SERLS, Coordinations Sectorielles, Directions régionales de l'action sanitaire ou DRAS) et des organisations de la SC, particulièrement les ONG, associations de jeunes et de PVVIH, coopératives féminines et organisations communautaires de base ; l'approvisionnement et la distribution par les organisations de la SC s'est fait dans le cadre d'un protocole d'accord signé entre le FNUAP et le SENLS.

(ii) There is a school module on HIV / AIDS and STIs in grades 1 to 6 through the main subjects and a guide for teachers; (iii) There is greater public acceptance of control and towards PLHIV, and the demand for care is important and insistent, reflecting a positive change in group behaviour towards the fight against AIDS, which is much more pronounced in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. A condom supply and distribution plan has been implemented at national level, using CAMEC for storage and central distribution, and 10 national and international NGOs for local distribution among youth groups and others vulnerable groups. The strategy for distribution of condoms is based on a mechanism based on public structures (Regional Executive Secretariats for AIDS Control or SERLS, Sectoral Coordination, Regional Directorates for Health Action or CBD) and CSOs, Particularly NGOs, youth and PLHIV associations, women's cooperatives and grassroots community organisations; Procurement and distribution by CSOs was done through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNFPA and SENLS.

190. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) is provided by 15 PMTCT sites across the country and screening for pregnant women is offered. PMTCT protocols have evolved in recent years. There is an "obstetric package" at the mid-level hospitals, which consists of monitoring pregnancy and prenatal examinations for pregnant women in a coherent service package, with a flat-rate financial contribution of UM 5500 . The establishment and generalisation of this system in the country, supported by the AFD, is an opportunity for the integration of HIV testing in the management of pregnancies and the scaling-up of PMTCT activities. The management of breastfeeding of newborns of HIV-positive women is taken into account. Reducing the vulnerability of individuals, families and communities to HIV / AIDS is achieved by integrating the AIDS dimension into the PRSP through the overall objective of "stabilising the HIV / AIDS rate by 2015". HIV / AIDS at 1% "; The CSLP 2 (2006-2010) devotes a cross-cutting role to the fight against HIV / AIDS. Since the beginning of the CSN / LCIS, the fight against AIDS is based on a multisectoral and decentralised approach. This multisectorial nature has been achieved through the setting up of sectoral committees, the adoption and implementation of operational plans by sector, the definition of specific budget lines at the level of sectoral budgets and coordination of these sectors at the SENLS level.

191. The National Health Information System (SNIS) constitutes the main information channel for the knowledge of the HIV / AIDS epidemic in Mauritania. The fifteen sentinel sites transmit data collected annually about pregnant women who are seen during prenatal consultations. A survey and a serological survey of tuberculosis patients was conducted by SNLS. Prostitutes were involved in two surveys and the other risk groups or bridging groups were involved in a single combined survey conducted in 2007. A national care strategy was developed with the main objective of contributing effectively and rapidly to the survival and

improvement of the quality of life of PLHIVs; In this framework, a PEC module for PLHIV was adopted and was used for certain training of personnel. Medical treatment with ARVs is provided by the Ambulatory Treatment Centre (CTA). Medical care, including ARVs, biological tests and medicines for opportunistic infections, is free of charge. The distribution of food kits is operational. It currently only concerns patients treated in Nouakchott. The role of CSOs, particularly the PLHIV network, is important in this area. Medicines against opportunistic infections are available. The nutritional care of PLHIVs results in the distribution of food rations and community meals during support groups.

192. The legal framework for the fight against AIDS reflects the concern of the public authorities to protect and promote an environment guaranteeing PLHIVs rights against discrimination and exclusion in the workplace, to ensure that children and adolescents have access to training, education and appropriate health services including information on HIV / AIDS prevention. Law No. 2007.042 on the prevention, care and control of HIV / AIDS fulfills this mission. A national strategy for the care of orphans and child victims of AIDS (OVC) was adopted, and its implementation is supported by a convention involving the State and some of its partners. Several actions have been undertaken to set up a network of care and counseling by NGOs trained in counseling. Regularly, support groups are held at the CTA and at the headquarters of PLHIVs associations, with the support of a psychologist. Members of the care associations were trained in counseling and support to patients.

193. The provision of socio-economic support to PLHIV, orphans, widows and families affected by HIV / AIDS enables their integration and social rehabilitation. For example, the CSN / LCIS provided protection and respect for human rights and social support in accordance with the principles of Islam and the right to family, work, social security as well as criminal justice protection, economic support through material assistance and income-generating activities, and the self-promotion of PLHIV, which consists of mentoring them to speak about their own problems and needs. For example, the Law on HIV / AIDS Prevention, Care and Control makes public, private institutions and CSOs responsible for preventing, protecting and managing population in their area of expertise. Increased visibility of PLHIVs with several active PLHIV association networks and their more frequent and more expressive appearance in meetings and for a, as well as participation in managing the coordination of the national response are now noted.

194. Faced with a threatening pandemic, Mauritania has succeeded in concentrating the action of the actors in a single canvas. This has resulted in: (i) A broad, multisectoral national response involving different types of governmental and non-governmental actors; (ii) Political commitment to an effective fight against HIV / AIDS, with a CNLS chaired by the Prime Minister; (iii) Involvement of religious leaders in the fight against HIV / AIDS; (iv) The existence of a consensual strategy referring to national and international orientations; (v) Scaling up of some key interventions such as: blood safety: up to the regional level (regional hospitals); voluntary and free testing: up to the level of certain moughata and community centres; The psycho-medical care of PLHIV: up to the level of some wilaya, prevention of mother-to-child transmission: up to the level of certain wilaya, access to condoms: up to the level of certain wilaya and Community centres, biomedical waste management. Child and maternal health services and reproductive health services have experienced a qualitative and quantitative improvement that has benefited children.

195. The extent and nature of adolescent health problems are not the subject of specific studies. However, all studies and surveys carried out in the field of health have a specific

component for children. Sexual and reproductive health education for children is the subject of a special programme in reproductive health. Reproductive health covers all areas of the health of the individual with a direct or indirect impact on reproduction. Several components common to all target groups have been selected: (i) the prevention and treatment of infections of the genitourinary tract (STI / AIDS), infertility, screening and management of pregnancies at risk, sexual dysfunctions and other gynecological disorders, information / education / communication, family planning, vaccination, combating harmful practices (early marriage and pregnancy, excision, force feeding, tattooing ...), prevention and management of unwanted pregnancies and treatment of abortion complications, management / training. / Supervision / evaluation of RH activities. However, there are components specific to certain groups: (i) women / mothers: the areas covered are: monitoring of pregnancy, childbirth and post-partum, and screening and treatment of breast and the reproductive system; (ii) adolescents / young people: the components covered are sex and family education, risk management (addictions, early sexual activity, multiple partners) and prenuptial counseling) Information on family planning, STD / AIDS prevention and treatment, and co-responsibility; (iv) Children: activities in for them are care and follow-up of the newborn, child feeding (breastfeeding / weaning), growth monitoring and child care (preschool and school).

196. Afin de renforcer les services proposés en matière de santé de la procréation, de faire connaître leur existence et de les rendre accessibles aux adolescents conformément à la recommandation du CIDE, les PP ont élaboré et appliqué une stratégie de la santé de la reproduction. En effet, la santé de la reproduction englobe une gamme complète de services qui comprend : (i) les soins périnataux en faveur du couple mère / enfant pour une maternité à moindres risques, (ii) la planification familiale, (iii) la santé de l'enfant (iv) et la lutte contre les pratiques néfastes. Elle prend en compte également les besoins des hommes et des adolescents en matière de prévention et de prise en charge des infections et affections génitales, y compris la stérilité, les IST/VIH/SIDA et le concept « Genre » afin de permettre à chacun de vivre sa procréation conformément aux réalités socioculturelles.

In order to strengthen the proposed reproductive health services, make their existence known and make them accessible to adolescents in line with the recommendation of the CRC, the public authorities have developed and implemented a reproductive health strategy. Indeed, reproductive health encompasses a full range of services that include: (i) perinatal care for mother / child pair for a lower-risk maternity, (ii) family planning, (iii) child health (iv) and the fight against harmful practices. It also takes into account the needs of men and adolescents in the prevention and management of genital infections and diseases, including infertility, STI / HIV / AIDS and the "Gender" concept in order to enable people to pursue their procreation in accordance with socio-cultural realities.

Reproductive health legislation and regulations are based on the principles developed by the international community in this sector. In 1968, Tehran hosted the First International Conference on Human Rights, which proclaimed the principle that "Parents have the fundamental right to freely and consciously determine the size of their families and the timing of births." In 1994 Cairo confirmed in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) the following principles: (i) Everyone has the right to "take decisions on childbearing without being discriminated against, coerced or violated, as expressed in human rights documents". (ii) Reproductive health "therefore presupposes that a person can conduct a satisfactory sexual life safely, is able to procreate and is free to do so as often or as little as he or she desires. "Compliance with these principles has led the public authorities to develop a draft reproductive health bill that is still pending.

197. Public authorities have a policy of making the services necessary for reproductive health available to the populations. This policy encompasses a range of services such as: (i) Availability of basic and comprehensive basic and emergency obstetric care; (ii) Assistance of qualified personnel during delivery; (iii) Access of pregnant women to prenatal care; (iv) Management of complications of abortion; (v) Availability of contraceptive products; (vi) Management of infertility; (vii) Fight against FGM; (viii) Screening and management of cervical cancers; (ix) Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of AIDS; (x) Management of Obstetric Fistula; (xi) Management of the newborn; (xii). The reproductive health strategy has integrated capacity building and upgrading of health structures. This action resulted in

(i) L'octroi d'équipements médico-chirurgicaux de plusieurs structures de santé du pays (2eme salle d'opération du Centre de Santé de Sebkha, du Centre d'hébergement des femmes souffrant de fistules obstétricale à Nouakchott, du Centre de santé de Guérou en Assaba, des autres structures de santé de la wilaya du Gorgol), des Hôpitaux (Cheikh Zayed, CHR de Kiffa, CHR de Kaédi) leur permettant d'offrir des soins obstétricaux d'urgences complets (SOUC). (ii) Le financement de la construction d'un bloc opératoire indépendant pour la maternité et un pavillon d'hospitalisation à l'Hôpital Cheikh Zayed (HCZ), ; (iii) achat des équipements de bloc opératoire, (iv) mise à disposition d'ambulances au niveau des structures de santé (accès aux SOUC) ;(v) Formation en recherche opérationnelle (personnel de santé de l'Assaba) ; (vi) Disponibilité de produits contraceptifs au niveau des structures de santé, avec introduction de nouvelles méthodes ; (vii) Disponibilité de préservatifs dans le cadre de la prévention des IST/VIH/SIDA, à travers l'implication des organisations de la SC (ONG nationales et internationales);

(i) The provision of medical and surgical equipment from several health facilities in the country (2nd operating room of the Sebkha Health Center, the Center for the care of women with obstetric fistula in Nouakchott, the Health Center Guérou in Assaba, other health facilities in the wilaya of Gorgol), Hospitals (Cheikh Zayed, CHR de Kiffa, CHR de Kaédi) enabling them to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric care (SOUC). (ii) Funding for the construction of an independent operating theater for the maternity ward and a hospital ward at the Cheikh Zayed Hospital (HCZ); (iii) procurement of operating room equipment, (iv) provision of ambulances for health facilities (access to SOUCs), (v) operational research training (Assaba health staff); (vi) Availability of contraceptive products in health facilities, with introduction of new methods; (vii) Availability of condoms in the context of STI / HIV / AIDS prevention through the involvement of SCOs (national and international NGOs);

199. In the area of staff training, Mauritania through the National Reproductive Health Programme has carried out training activities in the field of RH services; (i) Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing Services for doctors, gynecologists, pediatricians, midwives, anesthesia technicians; (ii) Essential Obstetric Care (OAS) for Chief Nurses (ICP) and Auxiliary Attendants; (iii) Family Planning and New Techniques (iv) Therapeutic Management of Obstetric Fistula (vi) and RH Programme Management Training on Obstetric Package. In the field of advocacy, the National Reproductive Health Project distinguished itself through the following actions; (i) Advocacy for decision makers, opinion leaders (local elected representatives, community leaders and religious leaders); (ii) Advocacy for development

partners (iii) Awareness, Information, Education and Communication for behaviour change, for the the population, users of RH services.

201. Significant successes of the RH policy are: (i) Political commitment by the public authorities in this area; (ii) Institutionalisation of a national RH week under the patronage of the First Lady of the country; (iii) commitment of PTF; (iv) Development and implementation of three national RH strategies (1998-2002, 2003-2007 and 2009-2013); (v) Availability of SONU protocols; (vi) Training and assignment of obstetricians and paediatricians; (vi) The opening of a medical school; (Vii) The opening of a second training school within the country; (viii) Scaling up the obstetric package; (ix) Scaling up of PMTCT; (x) Development and implementation of a national strategy for obstetric fistula control; (xi) Development of a national IEC strategy; (xii) Development of a road map to accelerate the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality.

3°) -Limits

202. Several factors limit the implementation of the right to health. The State does not have the financial resources to deal effectively with basic needs, including:

- recruitment of staff;
- the provision of equipment and medicines for health centres;
- the creation of new health centres;
- Household poverty does not allow them to meet the costs of consultations, hospitalisation and the purchase of pharmaceuticals.

203. In rural and urban areas, people opt for traditional medicine which is less costly or prefer to buy products sold on the market without any medical prescription.

D- Social security and services and facilities for the development of the child (article 20, a-c)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

204. Article 10 of the Constitution guarantees the right to health for all citizens in general and the child in particular. Article 26 of the CRC stipulates that the child has the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance. It recognises that every child has the right to an adequate standard of living, physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, and that it is the duty of the parents, first of all, then to the State to ensure it. The OPPE punishes the abandonment of family or of home and the non-payment of child support in case of divorce. It also provides for the removal of the child from his or her family environment when his / her health, morals and education are compromised

205. The framework for the protection of the rights of the child was strengthened by the development and validation of a national strategy for the protection of children and the design of a protection system based on the reform of the National Council for Children and the establishment of regional consultation platforms for child protection and the introduction of early childhood issues into the social protection strategy. The Early Childhood (EC) sector has a significant propensity. The pre-school enrollment rate is estimated at 8% at national level. The most common forms of child care and education in early childhood are public and private kindergartens, Koranic schools, day-care centres and community day-care centres. **These facilities have been growing steadily over the past few years, increasing the number of children enrolled in preschool. In addition, several training sessions were organised for**

120 kindergarten teachers and 80 teaching assistants were trained for two years at the Early Childhood Training Centre and support was provided to more than 100 kindergartens which were provided with from school equipments and school desks by MASEF. The total number of the centre's graduates is 614 kindergarten teachers.

206. Plusieurs séminaires de formation sur les axes de la stratégie nationale de l'éducation parentale ont été organisés au profit des chefs de section enfance au niveau des coordinations régionales du MASEF et des chefs de réseaux de la petite enfance.. L'enfance jouit d'une place de choix dans le programme du MASEF à travers l'amélioration du cadre législatif, la consolidation des infrastructures et l'élargissement des prestations sociales de base. La promotion de l'enseignement préscolaire constitue une des priorités du département des affaires sociales eu égard à son impact positif à travers la création des conditions favorables à l'épanouissement de l'enfant et sa préparation pour assumer les responsabilités sociales et nationales. Le MASEF a contribué à la création de plusieurs jardins d'enfants publics en les dotant d'équipements et de matériels nécessaires en plus de l'élaboration des outils pédagogiques ainsi que la formation d'un plus grand nombre de monitrices et l'amélioration de leurs capacités de manière constante. Les jardins d'enfants privés ont bénéficié également de cet effort. La stratégie de développement de la petite enfance a bénéficié de l'appui du programme de coopération Unicef – Gouvernement. Elle améliore le système éducatif préscolaire en consolidant la formation des monitrices et en élargissant l'accès à l'enseignement préscolaire notamment en milieu rural. Elle renforce l'efficacité et l'adaptabilité des mesures prises pour la promotion de la petite enfance. La petite enfance bénéficie aujourd'hui de (i) une Direction dont les compétences englobent la petite enfance (ii) une équipe de spécialistes de formateurs de la petite enfance (iii) un centre de formation des monitrices des jardins d'enfants (iv) de conseils municipaux et de parlement pour enfants (v) et d'un hôpital mère enfants (vi) l'encouragement par l'octroi de récépissé pour les garderies d'enfants et (vii) de réseaux de la petite enfance dans les neuf moughataas de Nouakchott et a Nouadhibou.

Several training seminars in line with the national strategy for parent education have been organised for the heads of the MASEF child section regional coordinators and the heads of early childhood networks. Children enjoy an important place in the MASEF programme through the improvement of the legislative framework, the consolidation of infrastructures and the extension of basic social services. The promotion of pre-school education is one of the priorities of the Department of Social Affairs in view of its positive impact through the creation of favorable conditions for the child's development and preparation for social and national responsibilities. MASEF has contributed to the creation of several public kindergartens by providing them with the necessary equipment and materials in addition to the development of teaching aids as well as the training of more teachers and the improvement of their capacities consistently. Private kindergartens have also benefited from this effort. The Early Childhood Development Strategy has been supported by the Unicef - Government Cooperation Programme. It improves the pre-school education system by strengthening the training of teachers and by expanding access to pre-school education, particularly in rural areas. It enhances the effectiveness and adaptability of measures taken to promote early childhood. Early childhood benefits today from (i) a directorate with a mandate on early childhood (ii) a team of specialists in early childhood educators (iii) a training centre for kindergarten teachers (iv) Municipal councils and parliaments for children (v) and a mother - child hospital (vi) encouragement through the granting of vouchers for child care centres and (vii) early childhood networks in the nine moughataas of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou.

2°)- Achievements

208. La Mauritanie a souscrit à la Convention de l'OIT n°102 de 1952 relative à la Sécurité Sociale. Le pays dispose de trois régimes de sécurité sociale : (i) celui qui est géré par la Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale (CNSS) en faveur des travailleurs salariés du Code du Travail et du Code de la Marine Marchande; (ii) celui qui est géré par la Caisse des Retraites de l'Etat en faveur des fonctionnaires et, enfin, (iii) celui de l'assurance maladie qui est géré par la Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladies (CNAM) et qui bénéficie aux fonctionnaires, militaires et parlementaires. Ce dernier a été créé par l'ordonnance n° 2005-006 portant institution d'un régime d'assurance maladie et a été étendu à tous les établissements publics. Il y a également l'Office National de la Médecine du Travail (ONMT), régi par la loi 2004/017 du 6 juillet 2004 portant code du travail en son article 255, chargé de promouvoir et maintenir le bien-être physique, mental et social de tous les travailleurs. L'enfant bénéficie de la sécurité sociale s'il est à la charge d'un assuré social assujéti à l'un de ces régimes.

Mauritania has subscribed to ILO Convention No. 102 of 1952 on Social Security. The country has three social security schemes: (i) one managed by the National Social Security Fund (CNSS) for employees under the Labour Code and the Merchant Marine Code; (ii) one administered by the State Pension Fund for civil servants and (iii) the health insurance fund managed by the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAM) for civil servants, military and parliamentarians. The latter was created by Ordinance No. 2005-006 establishing a health insurance scheme and was extended to all public establishments. There is also the National Office of Occupational Medicine (ONMT), governed by Act 2004/017 of 6 July 2004 on the Labour Code, article 255, which is responsible for promoting and maintaining the physical, mental health of all workers. The child is granted social security if he/she is the dependent of a person who is socially insured through one of these schemes.

209. Pour assurer la protection sociale de l'enfant, la Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale a vu le jour. Son siège est à Nouakchott et ses démembrements dans les départements. Elle intervient dans le domaine des soins médicaux, prénatals et prestations familiales. Par ailleurs, les PP ont pris des mesures et adoptés des programmes pour lutter contre la pauvreté, favoriser la création d'emploi et la réinsertion sociale des jeunes dans le CSLP.

To ensure the social protection of the child, the National Social Security Fund was created. Its headquarters are in Nouakchott and its decentralised services are in the departments. It intervenes in the field of medical care, prenatal care and family benefits. In addition, the public authorities have taken measures and adopted programmes to combat poverty, promote job creation and reintegrate young people into the PRSP.

3°) - Limits

210. Based on its statute, social security covers only children whose parents are employed. In addition, employees do not pay their contributions regularly. The majority of children from rural areas or parents in the informal sector are not provided with social security. The only benefit is access to prenatal care and counseling for all. The system of social security provided by the private sector is not within the reach of the population. Child care services exist only in urban areas. State structures are insufficient. On the other hand, private institutions are more in number. Access to these facilities is limited because of their high cost and means. The common practice is to hire a nanny to look after the children. The cost is lower but involves

many dangers for children (malnutrition, ill-treatment, etc.). In rural areas, child care is virtually non-existent. In this case, the child is entrusted to a member of the family or to a neighbour to allow the mother to attend to her activities. The standard of living in article 20a of the ACRWC poses several problems, including those related to housing in urban areas. These include inadequate housing in relation to demand; The high cost of housing rental price; The non-existence of a code of lease and the inaccessibility to the average stock exchanges for the few social housing units created by the State and the non-existence of wastewater, septic tanks and sewage which are slowly destroying housing and the ecosystem.

211. Despite the means implemented by the State and the efforts made, including the construction of wells, boreholes equipped with pumps with human traction, the rate of coverage of drinking water is low in rural rural areas. In general, low incomes of household have resulted in an increase in the poverty that affects society, especially the vulnerable groups of children.

VII- Education, leisure and cultural activities

A- Education including vocational training and supervision (art.11)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

212. Conformément à cette série de recommandations, les PP ont assigné au CSLP la mission de tracer les contours d'actions efficaces pour promouvoir l'éducation qui repose sur le principe de la gratuité du secteur public. L'objectif assigné au secteur de l'éducation, dans le CSLP III, était de produire un capital humain à même de favoriser le développement économique et social du pays. La réalisation de cet objectif devait se faire à travers la mise en œuvre d'une stratégie articulée autour de : (i) l'amélioration de l'offre éducative par la mise en place d'une nouvelle organisation de l'offre scolaire (publique et privée), plus adaptée à la demande pour améliorer la rétention dans le fondamental et promouvoir l'équité au secondaire ; (ii) le renforcement de la qualité de l'enseignement ; (iii) l'amélioration de l'efficacité interne et externe afin de fournir une main d'œuvre qualifiée pour améliorer la productivité du secteur traditionnel, favoriser son développement et assurer une offre d'emploi hautement qualifiée pouvant satisfaire les besoins d'un secteur moderne appelé à s'étendre dans les prochaines décennies ; et (iv) l'amélioration et le renforcement de la gestion et du pilotage du système.

212. In accordance with this set of recommendations, the public authorities have assigned the PRSP the task of mapping out effective actions to promote education, which is based on the principle of free public sector. The education sector's objective in PRSP III was to produce human capital that would promote economic and social development in the country. The achievement of this objective was to be achieved through the implementation of a strategy based on: (i) improving the educational provisions by setting up a new type of school provision (public and private), which is more responsive to the need to improve retention in the primary and promote equity at the secondary level; (ii) strengthening the quality of education; (iii) improving internal and external efficiency in order to provide a skilled workforce to improve the productivity of the traditional sector, foster its development and ensure a highly qualified job offer capable of satisfying the needs of a sector to be expanded in the coming decades; and (iv) improving and strengthening the management and steering of the system.

La mise en œuvre du CSLP III a été marquée par la poursuite d'efforts en matière de construction/réhabilitation d'infrastructures scolaires et de formation, de recrutement et de

formation du personnel enseignant. Au cours de cette période, les efforts ont portés sur la consolidation des acquis et la correction des dysfonctionnements au niveau des différents ordres d'enseignement. Au niveau du fondamental (éducation de base), les effectifs des élèves ont sensiblement augmenté passant de 465 887 élèves en 2005/2006 à 535 976 élèves en 2010/2011, soit un taux de progression de 13%. Le nombre d'écoles a atteint 4 075 contre 2 980. La contribution de l'enseignement privé est passée de 7% en 2006 à 11% en 2011. Le taux brut de scolarisation (TBS) au niveau du fondamental qui était de 98,8% en 2010 s'est situé à 99% en 2011, approchant ainsi la cible de 100 % prévue en 2015. La parité garçons/filles est légèrement en faveur de ces dernières (50,4%). La cible du TBS en 2010 a été atteinte dans toutes les wilayas, à l'exception du Gorgol (90,09%) et du Hodh Charghi (86,8 %). Au niveau du secondaire (premier cycle), le TBS a connu une amélioration en passant de 26,6% en 2006 à 29,6% en 2011.

The implementation of PRSP III was marked by continued efforts in the construction / rehabilitation of school infrastructure and training, recruitment and training of teaching staff. During this period, efforts focused on the consolidation of achievements and the correction of dysfunctions at different levels of education. At the basic level (basic education), the number of pupils increased significantly from 465,887 pupils in 2005/2006 to 535,976 pupils in 2010/2011, an increase of 13%. The number of schools reached 4,075 against 2,980. The contribution of private education increased from 7 per cent in 2006 to 11 per cent in 2011. The gross enrollment ratio (GER) at basic level which was 98, 8% in 2010 was 99% in 2011, approaching the target of 100% in 2015. The boys / girls ratio is slightly better than the latter (50.4%). The GER target in 2010 was reached in all wilayas, with the exception of Gorgol (90.09%) and Hodh Charghi (86.8%). At secondary level (junior level), the GER has improved from 26.6% in 2006 to 29.6% in 2011.

Cette amélioration traduit la conséquence de la progression de la scolarisation au primaire malgré le faible niveau de transition entre le fondamental et le secondaire : 50,2% en 2011, contre 56% en 2006. Le second cycle a connu au cours de la même période une régression de 20,7% de ses effectifs avec un TBS de 13,6% pour les garçons et 17% pour les filles. Cette baisse est consécutive au changement structurel imposé par la réforme avec un allongement de la durée du 1er cycle. En matière d'enseignement supérieur, des efforts considérables ont été consentis dans le cadre de la diversification, de l'élargissement et de la professionnalisation de l'offre. Des filières nouvelles ont été créées dans les différents établissements du supérieur en plus de l'ouverture d'un nombre conséquent des masters. La construction d'un nouveau campus universitaire va certainement contribuer à l'amélioration du rendement et de l'efficacité du système.

This improvement reflects the consequence of the increase in primary school enrollment despite the low level of transition from basic to secondary education: 50.2% in 2011, compared to 56% in 2006. The second cycle experienced during the same period A decline of 20.7% of its workforce with a GER of 13.6% for boys and 17% for girls. This decrease is due to the structural change imposed by the reform with an extension of the duration of the first cycle. In the area of higher education, considerable efforts have been made in the context of diversification, extension and the professionalisation of provision. New courses were created in the various higher education settings in addition to the opening of a significant number of Masters degrees.

The construction of a new university campus will certainly contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

213. As regards the original teaching, the achievements concerned: (i) the development of a guide for the Mahadras and Mosques of the country; (ii) the preparation of a diagnostic study on original education and religious and cultural influence; (iii) carrying out several awareness campaigns. In terms of technical and vocational training, the objectives of PRSP III were: (i) to carry out far-reaching institutional reforms on the unification of piloting; (ii) improve the governance of the system; and (iii) to stimulate the state-management dialogue bodies (National Council for TVET). Achievements in this area have included: (i) improving the capacity of training institutions; (ii) the renovation of equipment in several training streams; (iii) the training of dozens of trainers and supervisory staff; (iv) implementation of the TVET support project (PA-FTP); (v) identification of training needs in several sectors (services, fisheries, agriculture, industry and mining) and; (vi) the creation of 6 agreements dedicated to the training of approximately 5,100 young people over the period 2012-2016, including 1,200 for the year 2012. The objectives of PRSP III were to: (i) The entire population aged 14 and over to master reading and numeracy; (ii) improve retention at the basic education level; (iii) consolidate initial literacy through post-literacy and basic vocational training directed towards IGA; And (iv) develop self-training. While the literacy situation has seen real progress, efforts both upstream (basic education) and downstream (active people who have not been literate) are still required to combat the scourge of ignorance that affects Still a large part of the country's labour force.

2°) - Achievements

214. In order to achieve universal primary education, by 2015, the Government has committed itself to providing all children, boys and girls, with the means to complete a full course of primary education. The net enrollment rate was close to 75% in 2013 compared with 62% in 2000, while that of the proportion of pupils beginning the first year and reaching the final year of primary education is 72%, compared with 50% in 2000. The target rates for these two targets for 2015 are 85% and 81%, respectively. Although it can be achieved significantly, achieving the targets set for 2015 is made difficult given the late entry of children into the first year of the fundamentals in rural areas. The literacy rate of 15 to 24 year-olds (male and female) rose from 57.6% in 2008 to 77.5% in 2010. The Mauritania Education Guidance Act stipulates that " Education is a national priority. The public service of education is conceived and organized according to the learners and taking into account the development objectives and the socio-cultural values of Mauritania. The right to education is guaranteed to every citizen. It is exercised through access to education and attendance at public or private educational institutions. The school is the framework for the creation, transmission, construction and development of knowledge. Its mission is to educate, educate, socialize and qualify women and men in order to enable them to lead their personal, collective, civic and professional lives. Education is compulsory under the conditions determined by law. Public education is free. Private education is recognized and exercised under the conditions defined by law.

215. The efforts undertaken since the start of the implementation of the National Programme for the Development of the Education Sector (NPDES) have made it possible to improve this inalienable right. It is in this context, which is both promising and challenging, that the Department of Education has developed a sector development strategy aimed at expanding

access, improving quality and optimising the use of human, logistical and financial resources to improve the internal and external efficiency of this system. These physical achievements allowed a quantitative and qualitative evolution of the various indicators at the level of the fundamental and the secondary. This resulted in a 5% growth rate of 512998 pupils in 2008/2009 at 568953 in 2012/2013, a growth rate of 10% over five years and an average annual increase of 2%. Secondary education also underwent an important provision expansion during the same period, which made it possible to increase its total workforce from 104,682 pupils in 2008/2009 to 17,125 in 2012/2013 an increase of 56% and an average annual increase of 13% over the period. In the field of higher education, considerable efforts have been made in the context of diversification, enlargement and the professionalization of supply. New courses were created in the various higher education settings in addition to the opening of a significant number of Masters degrees. The construction of a new university campus will certainly contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. As regards the original teaching, the achievements concerned: (i) development of a guide for the Mahadras and Mosques of the country; (ii) the preparation of a diagnostic study on original education and religious and cultural influence; (iii) carrying out several awareness campaigns.

This quantitative development has led to a marked improvement in the indicators. The gross enrollment ratio for basic education increased from 96 per cent in 2009 to 98.7 per cent in 2013. The basic retention rate rose from 59 per cent in 2009 to 75 per cent in 2013. The gross enrollment rate in secondary education increased from 26 per cent, To 33% in 2013. Literacy has contributed to: (i) enabling the population aged 14 and over to master reading and numeracy; (ii) improve retention at the level of basic education; (iii) consolidate initial literacy through post-literacy and basic vocational training directed towards IGA; And (iv) develop self-training.

216. In terms of perspective, the Department of Education will continue to implement its strategy through the following activities:

- the extension and restructuring of educational provision with a view to adapting it to the demand.
- the mitigation of disparities related to the environment and socio-economic conditions, through the implementation of targeted programmes for the wilayas and disadvantaged areas in terms of schooling. This ambitious project called ZEP (Priority Education Zones) has as its main objective to reduce disparities in terms of gender and socio-economic environments, thus enabling children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds (Adwabas) to benefit from the same educational conditions Other students.
- In terms of gender, the Strategy will develop special measures to encourage the education and retention of girls in the system by reducing the handicaps they face in their schooling.

217. Within this framework, this policy will focus on:

- Reinforcement of the achievements in the schooling of girls in the fundamentals and the undertaking of measures specific to the wilayas, which have not yet achieved full parity;
- Achieving gender parity at the lower secondary level by 2015;
- Construction of community colleges to give girls access to lower secondary education;
- The introduction of incentive policies to increase the participation of girls in upper secondary education.

218. In terms of school health, the strategy will strengthen partnerships between the Education Sector and the health and environment sectors in order to familiarise pupils at all stages of their

education with civic and social integration and the preservation of their health and environment. The policy at this level will focus on:

- Adapting and strengthening programmes to improve school health, environmental protection and citizenship education;
- The establishment of a health, hygiene and nutrition policy in schools
- Stimulating demand by increasing the number of beneficiaries of school canteens (45% rationnaires in 2015) and improving the quality of their services.

219. In order to ensure full employment and the opportunity for everyone, including women and young people, to find decent and productive work, the Government has: (i) carried out far-reaching reforms at the institutional, in the unification of piloting; (ii) improved governance of the system; And (iii) energised the state-management consultative bodies (National Council of the FTP). Achievements in this area have included: (i) improving the capacity of training institutions; (ii) the renovation of equipment in several training streams; (iii) the training of dozens of trainers and supervisory staff; (iv) implementation of the TVET support project (PA-FTP); (v) identification of training needs in several sectors (services, fisheries, agriculture, industry and mining) and; (vi) the creation of 6 agreements dedicated to the training of approximately 5,100 young people over the period 2012-2016, including 1,200 for the year 2012. According to data from the ILO Unemployment rate is around 10% (well below the target rate in 2015), while the rate was 31% according to the EPCV of 2008. This improvement, which is expected to continue, is a result of the actions taken by the government. These include:

220. With regard to vocational training:

- Development of programmes, teaching tools and teaching aids.
- Improvement and updating of the legal framework.
- Improving the quality and efficiency of training.
- Expansion of the capacity of the system in initial training.
- Strengthening the level of qualification of teaching staff (continuing education).
- Strengthening INAP-FTP's training engineering capabilities.
- Establishment of an apprenticeship training system (qualifying training).
- Experimentation of the Competency Certificate (CC).
- Creation of the Aleg National School of Construction, its equipment and the development of its programmes.

221. With regard to Employment and Integration:

- Regularisation of the labour market.
- Review of labour management regulations.
- Improving the employability of jobseekers.
- Identification and implementation of integration programmes.
- Updating, adoption and implementation of the national microfinance strategy.
- Improved services offered by Micro Finance.

3°) - Limits

222. Prejudice against girls' schooling persists. They have difficulty completing their secondary education because of early marriage tradition, household activities, distance from secondary schools, etc.). Educational institutions are more concentrated in urban centres than in rural areas. The frequent movement of populations (pastoralists and nomads) in search of pastures does not facilitate the continuation of the schooling of their children. The population is not sufficiently aware of the usefulness of the school. Parental poverty causes them to place children on the labour market instead of sending them to school. Reduction of public school

textbooks and supplies, the abolition of boarding schools and canteens, the contribution of parents to the costs of schooling, the high rate of unemployment among young graduates, which is characterized by a lack of recruitment in the civil service and the precarious living and hygienic conditions in the schools do not facilitate the enjoyment of this right.

B- Leisres, recreational and cultural activities (article 12)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

223. In the area of culture, youth and sports, the public authorities have set objectives that contribute to the promotion of the youth. The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports's action plan aims to achieve the following priority objectives: (i) to develop the national cultural heritage; (ii) promote and develop a culture embedded in the values of society; (iii) making culture an economic and social development factor; (iv) promoting the establishment of democracy and civic values; (v) protect young people from the current scourges that threaten them, such as drugs, STIs, HIV / AIDS and illegal immigration; and (iv) implement a youth mobilisation and mentoring policy through Socio-educational and sports activities.

224. Dans le domaine de la culture, les actions réalisées ont porté sur : (i) la création d'un fonds de réhabilitation urbaine et immobilière des villes anciennes, classées patrimoine mondial de l'humanité; (ii) l'organisation de semaines culturelles régionales et départementales et du festival des villes anciennes qui est à sa quatrième édition; (iii) l'organisation de plusieurs festivals culturels, de jeunesse et de sports à l'intérieur du pays; (iv) la classification du patrimoine culturel immatériel musical au niveau mondial ; (v) la réhabilitation de la mosquée de Tichit et des infrastructures de culture, de jeunesse et des sports dans les 9 Moughataa de Nouakchott ; et (vi) la Création d'un Institut Mauritanien de la Musique ; (vii) la création d'un établissement public à caractère administratif dénommé l'office national des musées (viii) la création d'un établissement public à caractère administratif dénommé bibliothèque nationale ; (ix), la célébration de la journée de la langue arabe ; (x) l'institutionnalisation du festival de la poésie ; (xi) l'élaboration d'une stratégie globale en matière de culture de jeunesse et des sports.

224. In the field of culture, the actions carried out concerned: (i) the creation of a fund for the urban and real estate rehabilitation of ancient cities, classified as World Heritage of Humanity; (ii) the organisation of regional and departmental cultural weeks and the Fourth Edition of the Festival of Ancient Cities; (iii) the organisation of several cultural, youth and sports festivals within the country; (iv) the classification of the intangible cultural heritage at the world level; (v) the rehabilitation of the Tichit mosque and the culture, youth and sports facilities in the 9 Moughataa of Nouakchott; And (vi) Creation of a Mauritanian Music Institute; (vii) the creation of a public administrative institution called the National Museums Office; (viii) the establishment of a public administrative institution called the National Library; (ix), the celebration of the day of the Arabic language; (x) the institutionalisation of the festival of poetry; (xi) the development of a comprehensive strategy for youth culture and sports.

225. With regard to youth, the actions concerned: (i) the rehabilitation of the Office of the Olympic Complex, the National Centre for the Training of Youth and Sports Officers, the new Youth House and Culture ; (ii) the construction of the Nema youth centre and the inauguration of the youth centre of Tidjikdja; (iii) the establishment of 13 regional youth network offices; And (iv) the adoption of a national youth, leisure and sports policy (v) development of the youth strategy (vi) youth awareness programmes (vii) organisation of a consultation meeting between the President of the Republic and the youth (ix) Youth forum.

226. As regards sports, the activities undertaken are: (i) the construction of three stadiums (Zouerate, Kiffa, Nema) and three youth houses (Akjoujt, Nouadhibou, Arafat secteur 18); And (ii) the completion of the studies on the construction of a sports path to the beach in Nouakchott and the project to build a stadium in Nouadhibou (iii) awareness-raising campaign on sport and health; In place of a support fund for the development of the associative movement in the field of culture, youth and sports; (v) training program for human resources in the cultural, youth and sports sectors; (vi) organisation of periodic surveys to determine the interests and concerns of young people in order to integrate them into the policies and programmes of the PYP; (vii) introduction of sport in curricula to raise awareness of the benefits of physical education and sport, particularly in school settings, (viii) organization of the Estates General of sport (ix) recruitment and training of 50 senior staff : 10 teachers of Physical Education and Sport, 10 Principal Sports Inspectors including 10 sports inspectors, 10 major youth inspectors and **10 youth inspectors; (Xix) periodic organisation of inter-wilayas competitions, (xv) periodic participation in international competitions (xvi) granting 1% of budgetary revenue to the development of culture and sports, (xvii) (xviii) 135 youth inspectors recruited and assigned to regional level.**

2°) -Achievements

227. Like in the international community, cultural rights have become an essential concern for public authorities that have set up institutions to deal with the issue and to develop a legal framework for its promotion and protection. Under the impetus of UNESCO, the popularisation of these rights has gradually become a quasi-global concern. Mauritania has since its independence integrated the promotion of cultural rights in its concerns. And this commitment can be appreciated through, on the one hand, the creation of public institutions for cultural management and promotion and the related rights and, on the other hand, the ratification and definition of a normative framework which integrates these rights.

228. Mauritania has ratified the main international human rights treaties which contain important provisions on cultural rights, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions. Mauritania has carried out various constitutional, institutional and legal reforms in recent years: major amendments to the Constitution in 2006 and 2012, adoption of the family code and creation of a number of institutions for the promotion of human rights Cultural institutions, such as the Mauritanian Institute of Music, the Directorate of Culture and Arts, the Directorate of Books and Public Reading, the Directorate of Cultural Heritage.

In its fourth paragraph, the preamble to the Constitution states: "*... the Mauritanian people recognize and proclaim their cultural diversity, the basis of national unity and social cohesion, and its corollary, the right to be different. The Arabic language, the official language of the country and the other national languages, the poular, the soninké and the wolof, each constitute in itself a national heritage common to all Mauritians that the State owes on behalf of all , To preserve and promote "*. The correlation "cultural diversity" and "national unity" is sufficient to highlight the importance of the promotion of cultural rights. Article 10 (9) of the Constitution stipulates that: "The State shall guarantee to all citizens public and individual freedoms, in particular ... the freedom of intellectual, artistic and scientific creation. Article 15 guarantees the right to ownership, a right without which certain types of cultural rights, such as intellectual property rights, can not be guaranteed. Today, the actors of culture, without exception, are involved in the execution of cultural policies. The broad consultation of the

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with performers, phonograms and videograms producers, as a prelude to the adoption of the law on literature and artistic property is a typical example.

229. Public authorities encourage the promotion of cultural rights through the creation, in all its dimensions, of using mass media, such as radio and television. The safeguarding of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, remains a priority for the public authorities of culture. The partnership between private promoters and cultural actors is initiated. For a better promotion of cultural rights, culture remains the business of the masses. This ensures that cultural rights are promoted on a large scale. The national tangible cultural heritage includes archaeological sites, historic sites and ancient cities, classified as World Heritage of Humanity. There is an effort to document and promote this heritage as a living tradition in Mauritania by creating museums and initiatives in this field and by organizing festivals and cultural weeks throughout the territory enabling the population to participate in cultural life and to have access to it, as well as the support given to various actors in the cultural sector so that they can continue to live on their activities.

230. Des efforts considérables sont entrepris par le Ministère de la Culture, de la jeunesse et des Sports pour organiser divers festivals culturels et des semaines culturels. Ceux-ci sont des espaces de dialogue interculturel remarquables. L'Etat veille à ce que les communautés et artistes locaux soient les principaux bénéficiaires de ces manifestations. L'organisation du festival annuel des villes anciennes est un indicateur du degré d'implication des pouvoirs publics dans la sauvegarde et la promotion des droits culturels.

230. Considerable efforts are being made by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport to organize various cultural festivals and cultural weeks. These are remarkable spaces of intercultural dialogue. The state wants local communities and artists to be the main beneficiaries of these events. The organisation of the annual festival of ancient cities is an indicator of the degree of involvement of public authorities in safeguarding and promoting cultural rights.

3°) -Limits

231. They are mainly related to inadequate infrastructure, management and financial resources. These difficulties are more evident in urban centers where spaces dedicated to games have been largely fragmented or assigned to other missions. There is also evidence of the non-existence or obsolete nature of sports facilities in schools

VIII-Special protection measures

A- Refugee, returnee and displaced children (art 23 (2))

1°) -Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

232. Le processus de rapatriement des réfugiés mauritaniens au Sénégal a fait l'objet de l'accord tripartite signé le 12 novembre 2007 entre le Sénégal, le HCR et la Mauritanie. L'objectif pour la Mauritanie est de mettre fin au statut de réfugiés mauritaniens au Sénégal à travers le rapatriement volontaire de ses ressortissants au Sénégal. Chacune des parties s'est engagée à remplir ses obligations découlant des dispositions de cet accord tripartite.

- La Mauritanie s'est engagée à organiser et faciliter le rapatriement volontaire et l'insertion de tous les réfugiés ayant accepté de retourner au pays.

- Le Sénégal s'est engagé à faciliter ce rapatriement et à offrir la Nationalité sénégalaise à ceux des réfugiés n'ayant pas opté pour le retour.

Le HCR s'est engagé à coordonner ce rapatriement et à appeler à la mobilisation des ressources nécessaires à la conduite des opérations de rapatriement.

232. The process of repatriation of Mauritanian refugees based in Senegal was the subject of a tripartite agreement signed on 12 November 2007 between Senegal, UNHCR and Mauritania. The objective for Mauritania is to end the status of Mauritanian refugees in Senegal through the voluntary repatriation of its nationals to Senegal. Each of the parties has undertaken to fulfill its obligations under the provisions of this tripartite agreement.

- Mauritania is committed to organising and facilitating the voluntary repatriation and integration of all refugees who have agreed to return.
- Senegal undertook to facilitate this repatriation and to offer Senegalese nationality to those refugees who had not opted for return.
- UNHCR is committed to coordinating this repatriation and calling for the mobilisation of resources for the conduct of repatriation operations.

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233. In order to fulfill its obligations, Mauritania has set up structures for the supervision and implementation of refugee repatriation and integration operations. This arrangement enabled the organisation of 106 convoys for the care, settlement and insertion of 24,536 people, distributed among 5817 families in 118 sites in 5 wilayas of the country (Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha and Assaba). These families benefited from: the allocation of land for residential use and financial support for the construction of a dwelling. In addition, the State has put in place mechanisms to ensure the integration of returnees into their social environment. For this purpose, they have benefited upon their return to the national territory from the payment of the civil registration services and the National Identity Card. They have also benefited from other specific services provided by the State, in particular:

- The allocation of 7606 dairy cows;
- Construction of 101 community shops, 103 grain mills and hullers, 6 boreholes, 10 connections, 9 wells and 6 water treatment operations in the river;
- Construction and equipment of 113 classrooms;
- Recruitment of 104 teachers;
- Development and revitalisation of 116.6 ha of irrigated crops;
- The fencing and exploitation of 1,120 ha of diery fields
- The closing of 2,250 ha pastoral reserves;
- Development of 24 vaccination parks,
- Construction of 54 mosques and 83 community hangars.

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234. These programmes initiated by the ANAIR are now supported by the Tadhmour Agency. As part of the registration process, the National Agency for the Register of Populations and Secured Documents (ANRPTS) has undertaken specific actions for our compatriots repatriated from Senegal:

- Issuance of a birth certificate by the Administrative Census of Vocation of Civil Status (RANVEC);
- Opening of ten Citizens' Centres (CACs) specially dedicated to returnees in the wilayas of Trarza, Gorgol, Brakna, Guidimakha and Assaba;
- The possibility of registering in any other centre of their choice, subject to the physical presence and presentation of the VRF issued by UNHCR.
- This system allowed:
- The establishment of a database of 23,995 returnees;

- The issuance of civil registration documents to 21,960 returnees;
- The recruitment of returnees from a population of 9081 returnees to the CAC.
- In recent months, the ANRPTS has set up a commission comprising representatives of returnees. This committee has studied the majority of the pending cases and has proposed solutions concerning them.

235. Mauritania has concluded an agreement with the United Arab Emirates which has put an end to the trafficking of child jockeys. The agreement resulted in: (i) the return of 548 children who were used in the camel race, (ii) compensating their parents, and (iii) financing development infrastructure in their villages, origin. In addition, as part of the resolution of the issue of Mauritanian refugees in Senegal, Mauritania has concluded a tripartite agreement with Senegal and UNHCR for the repatriation of all Mauritians, including children who were in Senegal as a result of the events. These two agreements have facilitated the return of children to their countries. They constitute the policy of the public authorities in the event of the children's displacement. In addition, refugees in the M'Berra and Bassiknou camps are provided with health, education and food services provided by the State, which has opened a dispensary, school classes and daily distribution points of food. Their security is also ensured by the national gendarmerie. These various actions are supported by the coordination of the humanitarian action of the Technical and Financial Partners. NGOs complement this action with one-off interventions in the same field and through awareness campaigns on the rights of refugees in general and women in particular. Assaults against women refugees are the subject of legal proceedings because the gendarmes refer their perpetrators to the Justice. The government is working in partnership with partners to develop resilience programmes (IGA health, community shops, access to drinking water, etc.), especially for women in the settlement areas).

236. The humanitarian response to the situation of Malian refugees in Mauritania is as follows:
Statistics :

237. At the end of July 2013, 74,108 Malian refugees from 22,390 families were settled in the Mbera camp in Mauritania, including 40,317 women (54.40 per cent) and 33,791 men (45.60 per cent).

The composition of the population is as follows:

57.81% of refugees aged 0 to 17 years;

37.76 per cent of refugees aged 18 to 59;

4.43% of refugees over 60 years of age;

54.4% of women and 45.6% of men. **238.** The ethnic composition of the population is as follows:

-Arab: 54.27%

-Touaregs: 45.16%

-Songye: 0.30%

-Pulaar, Fula: 0, 14%

-Bambaras: 0.12%

-Other: 0.01%

Protection:

Protection :

239. The Mauritanian authorities keep the border open and refugees are welcomed by both the host community and the authorities. No refugees have been turned down or deported to the border. UNHCR maintains a permanent presence at the border at Fassala for the reception and pre-registration of new arrivals. UNHCR also provides transport assistance to those who

need it. UNHCR and the Mauritanian authorities continue to monitor arrival at the Fassala port of entry. The number of spontaneous returns has probably decreased as a result of the Malian elections. In view of the results of the presidential elections, UNHCR has developed a regional strategy for the return of refugees to Mali.

Registration:

240. UNHCR and its implementing partner ALPD carry out the individual registration of refugees as soon as they arrive in the Mbera camp.

As of 31 July 2013, 100% of the 74,108 refugees settled in the Mbera camp are registered individually. At the end of July 2013, a total of 21,696 refugees were enrolled as part of the biometric enrollment initiated by the Mauritanian authorities on 10 April 2013. In addition, biometric data of 12,681 refugees were recorded in the UNHCR ProGres database. At the same time, UNHCR is continuing the field checks to update its database. Since the launch of the biometric registration by the Mauritanian authorities at the beginning of April 2013, UNHCR has identified 6,539 people (12%) who are considered as perpetrators of fraud or are no longer settled in the camp, and do not show up for the biometric registration, are not present in their shelters and do not collect their food rations.

Community Services:

241. UNHCR and its partner for community services, Intersos, continue to facilitate the individual registration of people with special needs and implement appropriate measures to address the needs of the most vulnerable as a priority for assistance distributions .

During the month of July 2013, UNHCR and its implementing partner ALPD registered 174 people with special needs. In addition, UNHCR and its implementing partner for community services, Intersos, provided specific assistance to 413 refugees and conducted 755 home visits. The detail by gender is as follows:

New registrations: 132 women and 42 men

New Assistance: 234 women and 179 men.

Au 31 juillet 2013, 6 400 personnes à besoins spécifiques étaient enregistrées dans la base de données de l'UNHCR. Le détail se présente comme suit : Besoins spécifiques	Femmes	Hommes	Total	Pourcentage
Femmes vulnérables	2393	0	2393	3,23%
Personne âgée vulnérable	1 155	866	021	2,72%
1 seul parent	440	22	462	0,62%
Enfant non accompagné ou	453	208	461	0,62%

séparé des parents				
Enfants à risque	404	173	577	0,78%
Personnes déstabilisées	144	169	313	0,42%
SGBV	82	0	82	0,11%
Conditions de santé dégradées	34	30	64	0,09%
Besoins en protection juridique et physique	1	7	18	0,02%

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence:

242. During the month of July 2013, SGBV training was organised for 16 refugees' religious leaders, 27 women, 3 members of the Community Child Protection Network and 7 community workers. The training was organized by UNICEF and the Minister of Social, Children and Family Affairs (MASEEF). During the general food distribution in July, sensitisation sessions on gender-based violence were organised in all distribution centres with the aim of reaching the largest number of refugees.

Relations with the host community:

243. No tension or other form of conflict has been reported between the refugees and the host population. Refugees say they feel safe in Mauritania. It should be noted that joint committees composed of members of the host community and refugee representatives meet regularly to promote good cohabitation and the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

Development of the Mbera / Abris refugee camp:

244. A community centre was built. Other activities of the UNHCR Registration Centre, HCR, pharmacy and semi-permanent shelters are satisfactory.

Water and sanitation ::

245. Several boreholes are operational in the camp and have the capacity to supply 1,806 m³ of drinking water per day (24 l / d / d). However, 1,095 cubic meters of drinking water are consumed daily in the Mbera camp (14.5 l / d / d). WASH partners Solidarités International and Oxfam continued to treat chlorine-based water to prevent the development of diseases caused by the consumption of non-potable water. 1,397 latrines and 1,315 showers are operational in the Mbera camp. The construction of 126 semi-permanent latrines further improved the situation. In addition, 37 landfills and 85 public washing areas are also operational in the camp.

Health and Nutrition:

246. At the Mbera camp, there are seven functional health facilities, including a health post in the Ministry of Health, a UNFPA maternity and mobile clinic and a health centre and three health posts by MSF. The staff assigned to these health facilities provide a total of 2,237 medical consultations per week, an average of 46 consultations per day per qualified physician. The main diseases in the refugee camp are respiratory diseases (high: 12.7%, lowest: 18.28%), simple diarrhea (10.19%), bloody diarrhea (2.37%) And malaria (0.67%). The percentage of bloody diarrhea decreased due to joint actions by the WASH and Health groups. On July 24, the 3rd round of vaccination against polio was completed. There are good trends in all antigens.

The M'Bera Health Post received its furniture on 21 July 2013. A general distribution of mosquito nets was carried out jointly by MSF-B, UNHCR and its implementing partner the CSA. The distribution was launched on 24 July for 22,255 families. UNHCR and its implementing partner ALPD organised the medical evacuation of 10 patients referred to the Néma regional hospital. 12 nutritional recovery centres are operational in the camp, including an intensive nutritional recovery centre (1 MSF B CRENI), four nutritional recovery centers for severe malnutrition (1 CRENAS of the authorities and 4 CRENAS of MSF B) and six centers Of nutritional recovery for moderate malnutrition (6 WFP CRENAM). The Ministry of Health and WFP managed the feeding program for children aged 6 to 24 months. 4960/5200 beneficiaries received food from the general diet. WFP has promised to distribute the plumpy Sup from September to replace the CSB +. The Ministry of Health is working closely with UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and other NGOs have begun a SMART / SENS nutritional survey that began in September 2013. UNHCR has been involved in its methodology and Implementation.

Nutrition training:

247. UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, MSF-B, ADICOR and DRASS organised nutrition management training for CRENI, CRENAS and CRENAM staff in the Mbera camp to improve the quality of Nutrition management

Education / Child Protection:

248. The six schools in Mbera camp are operational. Classes for regular programs continued at school (5 and 6). Catch-up classes were organized for 2,671 pupils in four schools (1 to 4). Of the 2188 students enrolled in the six Child Friendly Spaces, 1,536 participated in courses including 717 boys and 819 girls. The construction of 13 semi-permanent schools made it possible to increase the access of school children to school as follows: 4 in school 3, 3 in school 5, 3 in school 5 and 3 in school 'school

Food :

249. The general distribution of food (GFD) has proceeded smoothly.

73 483 refugees (97%) / 21 918 families received food rations from WFP and distributed by UNHCR and CSA. It should be noted that SFM included 282 new arrivals audited by UNHCR. The NGO Islamic Relief of Mauritania donated 24 tons of food (21 tons of rice, 6,760 tons of vegetable oil and 6,8 tons of pasta) to the CSA for the Malian refugees in the Mbera camp. UNHCR and CSA are planning the distribution of this donation.

Domestic goods

250. The distribution of kitchen fireplaces donated by IOM and LWF has been completed. On 22 July, UNHCR and the LWF continued to distribute it to vulnerable people. The distribution of soap was supplemented by Oxfam and International Solidarity. 139 392 soaps of 225g were distributed to 69 696 beneficiaries out of 72 113 planned. Each beneficiary received two soaps for 2 months. 2,417 beneficiaries were absent. As of July 28, 2013, 5,355 families received 8,563 nets

Preservation of the environment

251. UNHCR and SOS Desert held meetings with refugee farmers to raise their concerns, including the sharing of grazing areas and transhumance of livestock. SOS Desert also participated in the preparation of the WASH JAM and contributed to the creation of a focus

group to ensure that the concerns of refugee farmers, including livestock access to water, are duly taken in consideration. Sensitisation sessions on the preservation of the environment were conducted by SOS Desert in the Mbera camp. UNHCR initiated consultations with operational partners in the Mbera camp on developing a strategy for the collection of empty plastic bottles in Mbera camp. UNHCR and SOS Desert supported hygiene awareness in the Mbera camp and are in charge of the burial of animal carcasses. SOS Desert distributed plants to many refugees. 7,000 plants were distributed. A surveillance strategy has been put in place to help refugees but also to ensure that plants are well maintained. The goal is to have a camp with more greenery. SOS Desert completed the distribution of materials for the construction of 3,000 stationary stoves after serving 324 families. SOS Desert vaccinated 1,200 animals and supplied livestock: 270 dairy cows, 242 goats and 224 sheep. In addition, 1,040 animals were treated against many types of diseases.

-IGA / Self-Sufficiency

252. UNHCR and Intersos conducted a 15-day training course for 40 beneficiaries in the field of sewing. This training provided the beneficiaries with the skills needed to train refugee women. Training on the personal skills of 50 peer educators was conducted by Ensemble Pour la Solidarité et de Développement (ESD). In addition, ESD launched educational talks on HIV / AIDS for 312 young people, including 176 girls. At the same time, INTERSOS organised a training course on child friendly school management and emotional stimulation. 31 facilitators, 23 of whom were trained. Training for the club of children aged 10 to 17 years was organised by INTERSOS. 42 children, including 17 girls and 25 boys, took part in the training with the following topics: definition of the child, children's rights, definition and role of children.

Coordination

253. A monthly multisectoral meeting is held in Nouakchott at the premises of the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization. This meeting is co-chaired by the National Coordinator and UNHCR. The objective of this coordination mechanism is to rationalize the humanitarian assistance provided to the Malian refugee population in Mbera in order to avoid duplication and to ensure that the basic needs of these refugees are covered. These meetings include the participation of representatives of United Nations agencies, representatives of national and international NGOs, as well as representatives of the diplomatic community. In addition, monthly Protection and Education thematic meetings were held at Nouakchott level to monitor actions and identify priority activities to be implemented in the field. Weekly coordination meetings were organised by the UNHCR team with the participation of all actors involved in implementing the humanitarian response to the situation of Malian refugees in Mauritania. Weekly WASH, Health, Protection, Camp Management and Nutrition meetings were also held at the UNHCR office in Bassiknou.

2°)- Achievements

254. Following the tripartite agreement, the voluntary repatriation of Mauritanian nationals from Senegal was carried out. It has implemented repatriation and integration operations for refugees. The latter were supported through IGA, civil registration and facilities for their integration into the social fabric. Refugees from Mali benefited from measures facilitating their lives in the camps and preparing their voluntary return to Mali.

3°)-Limits

255. The limits in this context relate to the increase in the needs of refugees and their movement beyond the borders which do not facilitate their socio-economic frameworks in order to facilitate their protection and the satisfaction of their needs on the one hand. The dispersion of the returnees on several sites that they chose which requires many means to sustain the concerned cities.

B- Children in situation emergency (articles 22 et 23)

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

256. Mauritania is not in a situation of war or conflict and there are no children used in this field. With the assistance of UNICEF in 2010, MASEF conducted a study on trafficking and child labour. The study showed that some of these worst forms exist in Mauritania. In view of this worrying situation and with reference to the relevant international treaties, it proposed a list of the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) for abolition by the Government and recommended a rapid action to prevent the aggravation of this situation with the protection of child victims. It also proposed a thorough and specific inquiry into each of the three phenomena studied. For example, in its MASEF / UNICEF action plans, the Government committed itself to taking action against the WFCL. In addition, the Wilaya of Nouakchott within the framework of child protection systems (PES) has also targeted child labour as one of the priorities to be taken into consideration in child protection. The Government requested UNICEF support to carry out a field survey to obtain more precise data on (i) the location of child victims of the worst forms of child labour in the regions concerned, (ii) the size of the affected population and (iii) to refine existing information on the social and economic profile of these children and their living and working conditions. This quantitative and qualitative survey on the issue of WFCL will improve the effectiveness of the public authorities. This is reinforced by the work of NGOs working to combat the worst forms of child labour.

2°)- Achievements

257. Mauritania has a legal arsenal that guarantees the social reintegration of children working or living on the streets. These are legislative, regulatory, judicial and social measures. For example, several international conventions have been ratified by the Government on combating child labor. These include: (i) the CRC and its two Optional Protocols prohibiting the sale, prostitution of children and their use in armed conflicts, (ii) ILO Convention 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour, (iii) ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age for Work.

258. Several national instruments also prohibit child labour. These are: (i) Act No. 2001.052 laying down the CSP, which promotes the harmonious social development of all fringes of society by first placing children at the expense of their parents to prevent them from working; (ii) Act No. 2004.017 establishing the minimum age for employment at 14, (iii) Act No. 2003.025 on the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, provides a means of combating trafficking in children and constitutes a means of combating trafficking in persons and their exploitation. It provides that the consent of the victim is null and void in the case of vulnerable persons such as children; (iv) Act No. 2007.048 on the criminalization of slavery and slavery practices criminalizes child abduction, deprivation of schooling, inheritance and submission to

work; (v) Since education is compulsory, the public authorities have adopted Act No. 2001.054 on the obligation to provide education for children between the ages of six and fourteen, which prevents them from working before the age of 14; (vi) Ordinance No. 2005.15 of 5 December 2005 on the penal protection of the child sanctions the exploitation of the child and the sentence is aggravated if the offense is committed on several children. It sanctions work that jeopardizes the health and education of the child; (vii) Ordinance No. 2005.05 on legal aid establishes regional legal aid offices include a children's section to assist child victims of work, trafficking or exploitation; (viii) Order No. 2005.05 on legal aid establishes regional legal aid offices include a children's section to assist child victims of work, trafficking or exploitation. (ix) the Labor Code strengthens the guarantees of Children under the age of 14, except by way of derogation from the Minister of Labour, the restriction of night work and periodic health checks. (ix) the general labor agreement protects the child more Endangering his life, health and education.

259. The Ministry of Labour has given instructions to labour inspectorates to take the necessary measures to combat all forms of child labour which are not in conformity with the law. Awareness-raising campaigns have been carried out by the PPs to put an end to the economic exploitation of certain families by their children. Two surveys on child labor (child carter and apprentice mechanics and domestic girls) were carried out by the MASEF with the assistance of UNICEF to determine the educational, training and integration opportunities for these young workers. The Decree of the Minister of Labour dated 18 August 2011 determines the general conditions of employment of servants by guaranteeing them all rights and protecting them from abuse. It introduces conditions that protect domestic children. In 2009, the public authorities developed the national child protection strategy, which holistically targets childhood problems in order to solve them by improving coordination of public actions and empowering all actors at all levels of society (community, family, political and budgetary). The Child Protection System and the 9 Regional Child Protection Tables are measures of this comprehensive strategy for the protection of the child.

260. The creation of the Centre for the Integration and Social Protection of Children (CPISE) is a step forward in the care of street children. It contributes to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, participates in the legal, psychological and social supervision of the categories of children in difficult situations, promotes the integration into society of children in difficulty, supervises their rehabilitation, observes and analyses data on To the evolution of children in difficult situations. The center targets the following children: (i) street children, (ii) child victims of begging and economic exploitation, (iii) children without family support (abandoned neonates), (iv) children exposed to neglect and (Vi) child victims of abuses and affected by parental and family violence, (viii) children with severe and continuing abuses in education and protection, (vi) child-oriented children were taken to rehabilitation centers which encountered problems of social or family reintegration. Children are referred to the center by magistrates, local and communal administrative authorities, social workers, medical services and police and gendarmerie services. The centre has already reintegrated 2024 children who did not have family support or who were totally or partially estranged from their parents. In addition, 464 new abandoned babies were placed in foster care. In 2013, the CPISE carried out the following actions for the benefit of children: (i) care and guidance for 305 children in difficult situations; (iii) care and rehabilitation of 242 children in difficult circumstances; (iv) Insertion of 73 children into vocational training; (vi) inclusion of 52 children in schools; (Vii) family insertion of 152 children in difficult situations in their families of origin or host families; (viii) distribution of large quantities of food products to 130 families who take care of street children and children without family support (ix) monitoring of IGAs for 50 projects distributed

to families with children in difficult circumstances (x) distributing quantities of clothing for more than 80 children during Ide Elvitri Festival (Xi) organisation of two 2-day recreational outings for the children of the Dar Naim center and El Mina centre, (xii) asupport to 27 children without family support to obtain birth certificates; (xiii) signing of a cooperation protocol with the King Ross Taziaste, in which 133 children have been cared for at the centre: (xiv) UNICEF support in the area of follow-up Monitoring of the centre at Kiffa and Nouadhibou level and other follow-up activities at NKTT); (xv) continuing the work of the monitoring and evaluation committee for the care centres and (xvi) opening of a branch of the CPISE in Rosso.

261. National NGOs are also involved in the prevention and care of street children. Some have opened family-type homes to re-educate street children to live in a family run by an adult educator and a cook who creates a family environment for them. The objective of these homes in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou is to remove children from the street to meet their immediate needs in terms of safety, nutrition and education. The length of stay in these homes is sometimes necessary for their family and social reintegration. Social workers at the CPISE and some NGOs work in the field by tracking street children and referring them to centers. They are taken care of by educators who define with them solutions to their problems. Social educators also spot talibé children who are used by adults for begging. Domestic girls are also spotted in the streets and are referred to special care facilities offering them psychosocial care, literacy or vocational training to enable them to better reintegrate into society

3°)-Limits

262. The limitations relate to the need to mobilise human, material and financial resources to realise and implement the policies developed by the State in order to resolve the issue of children in emergencies.

C- Children in conflict with the law

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

263. The juvenile justice system is compliant with articles 37, 40 and 39 and other relevant provisions as well as various international standards in this area, such as the Beijing Rules, the Riyadh Guidelines, The United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty and the Vienna Guidelines on Children in the Criminal Justice System. The OPPE has set up a system for the specific treatment of juvenile delinquency based on the protection provided by the administration of justice to juveniles in conflict with the law and the rules applicable to them.

264. The OPPE contains several provisions which protect the child in conflict with the law when dealing with his/her case by the courts. These include: the introduction of an irrefutable presumption of irresponsibility in favor of children under 7 years of age (Article 2-OPPE); (ii) the presence of a lawyer and the social worker at the first hearing before the judicial police (articles 101-103 OPPE); (iii) the prohibition of the custody of a child under 15 years of age (Article 2 OPPE); (iv) establishment of police and specialized juvenile courts (Articles 101-112 and 142 OPPE); (v) the presence in judicial courts of jurors chosen among specialists in the field of children, alongside experienced magistrates (Article 142 OPPE); (vi) compulsory recourse by the juvenile courts to social and psychological inquiry, which must include the

opinions of specialists and constructive proposals to inform the court seized in its decisions and the necessary and appropriate measures (Article 110 OPPE) ; (vii) respect for the integrity (Article 21 OPPE) and the privacy of the child (Article 63 OPPE); (viii) the possibility to use correctional avenues except for voluntary homicides (Article 3 OPPE); (ix) the possibility of resorting to mediation, except in the case of crimes and at all stages of the judicial procedure (Article 155 et seq. OPPE), which aims at arresting the effects of criminal prosecution, (Article 155 OPPE)

265. At the sentencing level, the protection of the child in conflict with the law is also significant, and the judicial authority may, in particular, issue a decision, stating: (i) that the child has been handed over to his/her parents; his/her guardian, caregiver, or a trusted person, (ii) placing the child in a public or private institution for education and vocational training; (iii) placing the child in an authorised medical or educational medical centre; (iv) the placement of the child in a rehabilitation centre (Article 131 OPPE). A criminal conviction may be imposed on the child if it proves necessary to re-educate the child.

266. Public authorities have implemented a reform of juvenile justice. It has resulted in (i) developing the necessary legislation for juvenile justice, (ii) setting up specialised training modules, (iii) consolidating the structures created under the reform, Namely the Directorate of Judicial Protection of Children (DPJE), within the Ministry of Justice and the Special Brigade for Minors (BSCM) within the Directorate General of National Security, under the Ministry of Justice, (iii) the establishment of trained personnel in the field of juvenile justice; and (iv) the identification and protection of children who may be victims of offenses. During the same period, juvenile justice was marked by: (i) the constant collaboration of the PIs with CSOs, (ii) the creation and mobilisation of networks of services and grass-roots organisations to support the establishment Of communal child protection systems (CPS), which are now operational, (iii) the adoption of decrees, complementing the implementation of OPPEs; (iv) numerous training periods, multidisciplinary in nature, but also by bodies of actors for police officers, magistrates, social workers, lawyers, etc., with a view to taking optimal account of the elements of the OPPE). The establishment of a database within the DPJE for monitoring and the most comprehensive information possible on the specific elements of juvenile justice; (vi) ongoing training of BSCM members; (vii) revitalization of consultation circles specific to juvenile justice or the promotion of the rights of the child; (viii) production of training and / or information documents and tools specific to the thematic or sector to intervene in the juvenile justice (police, justice, social work, alternative care settings, care standards, child protection measures, etc.), (ix) awareness-raising campaigns on children's rights, through the CPSs, which enabled the mobilisation and involvement of many children services (health, education, civil status, municipalities, etc.) and CS organizations; (x) studies or situation analysis (in particular for minors who are victims of ill-treatment and are in a domestic situation); (xi) a significant number of children being treated, whether as perpetrators, alleged perpetrators and / or victims.

2°)- Achievements

267. The efforts made by the public authorities to respond to the recommendations of the CRC have resulted in several actions: (i) a system of alternative measures has been put in place by the adoption of two decrees on alternative measures to detention of children And legal aid, which were consolidated by the opening of a reception and social reintegration center for children in conflict with the law (CARSEC) in Nouakchott, which has developed a cooperation with the Center for Social Protection and Integration (CPISE); (ii) the roles of: prosecutor, investigating judge, criminal courts and special juvenile chamber were established in

Nouakchott. In Nouadhibou and Rosso, the critical mass of juvenile delinquency is significantly lower. Judges and other judicial personnel deal with all cases, including those involving minors. However, the application of the OPPE is effective; (iii) a decree on the criminal courts for children was adopted; (iv) magistrates have received training / information on OPPE; (v) an initial training manual for juvenile justice professionals has been developed (vi) at least 8 types of alternatives are applicable by specialized judges (1.Return to family, 2.Judicial control, 3.Work Of general interest, 4.Mediation, 5.Repairing, 6. Admonition, 7.Ordering to a rehabilitation centre 8.Referral to an authorised medical centre); (vii) all the measures provided for by the OPPE are applied; (viii) 80% of judges, clerks and lawyers for minors received the text of the OPPE.

268. The number of incarcerated minors is low (34). The use of alternatives is therefore used for the most part. 1,801 (year 2012) 1,862 (year 2011) 2,796 (year 2010) or 6,459 in three years. As of 2011, the data could be made more reliable through the establishment of a database. 218 children were reinstated on 3,644 enrolled in the DPJE (6%). An agreement for the guidance of children in conflict with the law is concluded between the DPJE, the Juvenile Squad CSOs. Coordination between the DPJE and the BSCM has worked. MASEF has decided to implement a national strategy for the protection of children. This opportunity was seized to raise awareness within this framework and thus disseminate the rights of the child and the notions of protection. This has resulted in: (i) training and sensitizing members of the regional child protection table, set up on the initiative of the MASEF in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou; (ii) training of 32 municipal protection institutions as part of the national strategy; (iii) formation of networks of community organisations; raising awareness among families; (iv) raising awareness among 8,110 families (4,382 in Nouakchott and 3,728 in Nouadhibou) via community talks; (v) development of tools for the use of alternatives to the detention of juveniles in conflict with the law (MCL), and the specialization of juvenile judges. (vi) organisation of multidisciplinary meetings, allowing the networking of juvenile justice actors. (vii) evaluation of juvenile justice through the degree of implementation of OPPE and the functioning of the DPJE in coordination with UNICEF, (viii) research and provision of documentation on measures Alternatives: (ix) adoption on 22 January 2009 of the Decree on alternative measures for the detention of minors; (x) training of juvenile justice actors from the South Wilayas on the decrees on alternative measures applicable to minors and referring to legal aid; (xi) organisation of meetings between magistrates of the Tribunal of Nouakchott (February 2011), as a reminder of the principles specific to the treatment of minors.

269. Other activities have also been organised with the technical assistance and cooperation of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Juvenile Justice, which includes UNODC, UNICEF, OHCHR and NGOs. These are: (i) two studies entitled "traditional forms of social solidarity and work of general interest" and "the notion of childhood in traditional settings" which have facilitated the adoption of alternative measures, The Mauritanian context and an analysis of the situation of domestic minors, victims of maltreatment, (ii) organisation of two days of consultation with the juvenile justice actors for the presentation of the recommendations of the evaluation of the OPPE application and the DPJE (Iii) organisation of a consultation workshop with the partners of the DPJE on the assessment and prospects of juvenile justice, (iv) organisation of an information day on "Protection and reintegration of juveniles"

270. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Children's Directorate (MASEF), Terre des Hommes in Mauritania (TDH) organised the campaign to disseminate the concepts of child protection with the CPS. This activity was also linked to regional consultation panels on child

protection (TRP), respectively created by Order No. 30 WN of 7 April 2010 in Nouakchott and No. 0018 / WD. Nouadhibou on 2 November 2010 in Nouadhibou. 4 communal protection structures (SPCs) have been set up in 4 of the nine communes of Nouakchott (Arafat, Sebkha, Dar Naim and El Mina). 2 SPCs have been set up in Nouadhibou (Nouadhibou and Boulenouar). TDH has been actively involved in facilitating TRP and community outreach work. It initiated the organization of regular meetings between the actors active within the BSCM (13 meetings from March 2010 to September 2011), and between social workers (6 meetings). These meetings provided support in terms of monitoring the application of the procedures, and the regular alert as to any shortcomings observed. It was also a question of encouraging collaboration between actors. From there, a minimum package of services to be offered within the BSCM was agreed between partners, for an optimised care of the children. Terre des Hommes, in partnership with UNICEF, facilitated (i) the creation of consultation circles on other themes or services (Trafficking, Trafficking, Child Labor, Special Needs Management - CPISE) , (ii) translation of decrees and compilation of texts, (iii) engagement of reflection with MASEF, for the production of a child code.

271. In the area of legal assistance for children, several actions have been carried out. For example, between 2010 and 2012, a total of 6,459 children (boys and girls) were seen by social workers and lawyers. They were provided with a form of assistance, only those whose case has been brought to court have been assisted by lawyers. The presence of the social assistants of the DPJE in the BSCM has been constant since 2010, during the day from 8:00 to 22:00. The DPJE social workers worked in pairs with their CSOs counterparts. The staff of the DPJE carried out the research of the families and the organization of the social investigations, so that the procedures can be carried out and observed in the norms. To this end, a social welfare office has been set up within the BSCM for a better application of the OPPE and the standards of protection of children in relation to their rights. It was accompanied by the setting up of a database specific to juvenile justice and the training of its administrator.

272. With the assistance of TDHM, several multidisciplinary training courses are held for juvenile justice actors. Three multidisciplinary training courses were organised: (i) thematic training for 90 juvenile justice actors on alternative measures to imprisonment of minors, in Nouakchott from 2 to 4 February 2009. (ii) training Of 68 juvenile justice actors in Nouadhibou from 11 to 14 May 2009 on the notions of childhood, the application of OPPE, alternative measures and legal assistance for minors (iii) identical training in its content, For 70 actors of juvenile justice, in Rosso from 4 to 7 October 2009. These trainings enabled the networking of actors from various sectors (police, gendarmes, judges, clerks, lawyers, social workers). On December 13 and 14, 2009, the DPJE, in collaboration with Unicef and TDHM, organized a workshop to assess the prospects of the OPPE for 50 magistrates, police officers, social workers and lawyers from Akjoujt, Tidjikdja, Kaédi, Aleg, Rosso, Atar, Sélibabi and Nouakchott, for the situation point and to recall the foundations of the OPPE. TDH also organized psychosocial training for 18 social workers in contact with children in conflict with the law, in particular to encourage the participation of the latter. This activity was carried out in two phases: from 21 to 23 December 2008 and then from 18 to 20 January 2009. More than 35 social workers have been trained in child welfare by the Training Institute for Social Action (IFAS) in December 2009. As part of the ongoing training of its social workers, TdH has an agreement with IFAS. Thus, five TdH educators have undergone continuous training as of January 2010, over 14 months (in evening classes). The idea is to help them get a diploma in "A-Level in Professional social work ". In February 2010, the DPJE, Unicef and TdH jointly prepared a plan to accompany social workers, taking into account field observations. In May 2010, a comprehensive training of 18 social workers took place to maximize their involvement in the

protection of children's rights. The participants came from the structures of the DPJE, DAPAP, CARSEC, TdH, AFCF, AMSME. All are directly involved in the care of MCL or victims of criminal offenses. In July 2010, TdH, in collaboration with the DPJE, organised training in counselling techniques for 24 social workers from DPJE, DAPAP, CPISE, CARSEC, AMSME and AFCF (two national NGOs) and TdH .. Finally, regular meetings of coordination between social workers took place within the DPJE. From November 2010 to July 2011, constant work was carried out alongside the CPISE, in order to set up a manual of rules and procedures conducive to meeting standards of care for children in need of special measures protection. Thus, several meetings have taken place. From 31 October to 6 November 2010, an expert on behalf of TdH conducted a training course for 32 CIPSE staff. From 27 February to 3 March 2011, another expert in juvenile justice on behalf of TdH conducted a training course for 15 staff members of the CPISE and a representative of the Direction de l'Enfance. On 24 March, 12 April, 31 May and 7 June 2011, the manual's drafting group, consisting of 3 members of the CPISE, one UNICEF component and one TdH component, met To jointly draft the rules and procedures document. On July 13 and 14, 2011, a workshop was held for distribution to all the staff of the CPISE (30 people). A similar process of setting up a manual of rules and procedures for the AFCF was launched in July 2011 and ended on 17 September with a time of sharing and dissemination to all the workers involved (19 people). All of this reinforcement work has made it possible to provide and implement specific social work tools for children in conflict with the law or victims of offenses.

273. The training of police officers, gendarmes and lawyers was also favored by the PP and their partner TdH: (i) Training of 3 officers and 19 police officers in procedures and standards for the protection of children's rights, carried out on 16 and 17 December 2008 (ii) 1st training of 10 trainers of the National Police School, questions of care for MCL and child victims, from 8 to 12 February 2009 (ii) training of 10 police officers, In charge of the minors, in December 2009. (iii) A guide for the special police officer was produced for the National Police School. (iv) The DPJE, the Directorate of the Judicial Police and TdH organised an awareness-raising day for 31 commissioners Police in Nouakchott, to encourage them to better observe the OPPE and circular 822 of the DPJSP on the orientation of children to the BSCM. (v) 20 people active at the BSCM were involved in the Writing of a list of 20 points of service to be given to any minor who has to go through this structure. (Vi) In August 2011, 30 police officers stationed at the BSCM were re-trained to apply the texts specific to the processing of minors' files. The specialist policeman's guide was broadcast again on this occasion. (vii) In September 2011, 24 police officers stationed in the various police stations in Nouadhibou received the same re-training, led by the focal point "juvenile justice" of the Directorate of Judicial Police and Public Security, in connection with TdHM . (viii) At the invitation of the International Bureau of the Rights of the Child, two police officers participated in a regional meeting on the harmonization of initial training tools for police and gendarmes in West and Central Africa. (ix) 9 lawyers were trained on legal aid in relation to the CRC, the OPPE and the decrees on alternative measures and legal aid to minors in April 2009. A group of lawyers Is set up to defend the rights of minors. TdH mandated three lawyers, respectively active, to the BSCM, the court of Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. The AFCF has a lawyer in charge of MCL files. TdH-Lausanne worked with TdH-Italy to raise the awareness of CARSEC management personnel and to take care of minors in conflict with the law. This NGO has developed a basic training module on Children's Rights for the University, the School of Police and Gendarmerie. It also contributed to the training of 10 police trainers. Educational materials were produced by trainers from miners' brigades in Switzerland and France. These documents were translated by TdH and forwarded to the ENP. This support is valid for any OPJ: whether it comes from the police, or from the gendarmerie. Two additional modules were forwarded through this NGO,

at the level of the judicial services and social affairs: initial training manual on juvenile justice and a toolkit for the protection of children.

274. In order to ensure that children in conflict with the law benefit from the protection provided by the CRC, the public authorities have created the El Mina Centre for the care and social reintegration of children in conflict with the law. It is a structure of the Ministry of Justice whose mission is in keeping with the spirit of Ordinance No. 2005.015 of 5 December 2005 on the Protection of the Child. It was created by Decree No. 0692 of 21 March 2010 of the Minister of Justice establishing the El Mina Centre following the signing of the Convention Ministry of Justice and Land of Men Italy on 19 March 2008 on the AID Project 8893 which runs from 07 January 2009 to 06 January 2011. It was subsequently transformed into a public institution with legal entity and financial autonomy by Decree No 061.2012 of 28 February 2012 establishing a financial institution Public administrative centre known as the Centre for care and Social Reintegration of Children in Conflict with the Law (CARSEC). It selected its staff and received its equipment on December 20, 2009 before dedicating the month of January 2010 to the training of the staff. The first placement of children at the Centre took place on June 8, 2010.

275. It contributes to the implementation of the State's criminal and penitentiary policies, protects the rights of children in conflict with the law and accompanies their reintegration into society. It receives children between the ages of 13 and 18 of both sexes under judicial control (detained or not) by order of placement of the judge (Art.4), convicted or in another phase of the criminal proceedings, in view of their social reintegration (Article 1). It offers judges the possibility of taking educational measures as an alternative to simple detention (Preamble) and ensures the collaboration with the judicial authorities (eg accompaniment of the child during judicial hearings, contacts between judges and minors - Arts 7, 8). The centre ensures the care of children in conflict with the law by information on rights, medical examination and care, listening and psychological counseling, provision of clothing and personal hygiene equipment, housing, canteen, recreation (sport, video-library) It provides education and training through listening and educational support, literacy, civic education, schooling, vocational training (sewing, mechanical, carpentry, plastic arts, sport). Social reintegration is achieved through the participation of families and social workers and the judiciary, study, financing and implementation of individual projects, educational monitoring and technical assistance to the child. The activities of the centre are carried out through general summary sheets and follow-up of the children of health identification, social survey, psychological follow-up, education and training and social reintegration through the individual reintegration project. The weekly meeting of the team of heads of service of the Center (Coordinators, Director / Head, Training Coordinator, General Supervisor, Socio-health Assistant) and the monthly meeting of children evaluation (team of heads of service, trainers, literacy teachers, facilitators, psychological support) contribute to the social reintegration of children. The centre has accommodation (i) 3 dormitories with a total capacity of 40 places for boys and 20 places for girls with showers and toilets (ii) a canteen service, a football field and a volleyball court;), A multi-purpose room equipped with screen for projections and television for literacy in Arabic and French, animations and sensitization, (iv) workshops for professional training (sewing, hairdressing, cooking, electricity, computers, masonry / mechanical, wood and metal joinery, plumbing), a library; (v) an administration equipped with computers and printers; (vi) an infirmary provided with basic medicines, isolation rooms, beds and the services of a state qualified nurse; A guard room for the surveillance and security service (xiii) three vehicles

276. The centre has 48 staff members and a psychiatric consultant, as well as the support of lawyers on request. It has a Rules of Procedure accessible to all Personnel and children and a book of procedures for the management of children concerning the management of the child

from the phase of preparation for admission to the Centre, his/her care and stay at the centre, up to follow-up outside the Centre during individual reintegration projects for children. The of El mina centre has hosted 182 children, 162 of whom are boys and 15 girls, the majority of whom have benefited from individual reintegration projects in the field of micro enterprises, employment and training in the secretariat; IT, sewing, transportation and mechanics car wood and metal joinery.

3°)- Limits

277. They are due to:

- the inadequacy of the state institutions of placement provided for in the texts;
- inadequate human, material and financial resources;
- the majority of prisons have no juvenile ward;
- the obvious lack of specialised educators.
- The lack of knowledge of instruments,
- Poor ownership of the juvenile justice system by the population.

D- Children deprivies of their liberty, including any form of detention, imprisonment or placement in custody facilities and compliancw with the provisions of article 5 prohibiting the imposition of death penalty on children

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

278. Article 13 of the Constitution protects individuals against unlawful arrest and enshrines the principle of the presumption of innocence and the right to defense. The OPPE specifies that the child subject to prosecution must be heard in the presence of a lawyer and a social worker. The OPPE makes provisions for the sanctions to which the child can be sentenced. For example, if he/she faces the death penalty, he/she will be sentenced to up to 12 years' imprisonment. Nor can he/she be sentenced to life imprisonment. The periods of detention on remand with respect to children may not exceed 3 months in correctional matters and 6 months in criminal matters. The civil prison in Nouadhibou and Nouakchott have juvenile wards. In addition, a centre for the care and reintegration of children in conflict with the law exists in Nouakchott

2°)- Achievements

279. The achievements in this area are:

- the adoption of Ordinance No. 2005.015 of 5 December 2005 on the criminal protection of children;
- the creation of a ward for minors at the Nouakchott and Nouadhibou
- reintegration activities at the Nouakchott centre;
- the National Commission on Human Rights, which ensures compliance with the legal conditions for detention, the implementation of community service
- Under the programme to support judicial reforms, the creation of a centre for the care and reintegration of children in conflict with the law in Nouadhibou is planned for 2015.

3°)- Limits

280. They include:

- The inapplicability of certain provisions provided for in the texts,
- The scarcity of reports from the population;
- The reluctance of magistrates to prosecute;
- Inadequate awareness;
- Insufficient infrastructure, material and logistical resources;
- The vast majority of prisons are dilapidated, while others are on the verge of collapsing;
- Hygienic conditions are deplorable;
- Insufficient human resources;
- Insufficient training of the actors (judges, clerks, social workers, police and gendarmerie).
- Inadequate reintegration activities and educational institutions.

E- Reform, family reintegration and social rehabilitation (art. 17.3)

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

281. The OPPE provides several measures to facilitate family reintegration and social rehabilitation of the child. These include:

- Return of the child to his or her parents to a caregiver or trusted third party;
- Placement in a care centre or in an institution, a vocational education institution, a State health care institution or an authorised public administration;
- Placement in a child welfare department or a hospital facility;
- a provisional placement in an approved observation centre where his or her physical or mental condition so requires.

2°)- Achievements

282. NGOs and associations working for family reintegration and social rehabilitation of children. The CPISE also has a mandate in this field.

Youth are often placed by NGOs in apprenticeship based on projects developed with the participation of the youth after their release (welding, sewing, mechanics and carpentry).

3°)- Limits

283. They are linked to the difficulty of implementing the OPPE including :

- Inadequate statutory structures;
- Parents' reluctance to collaborate;
- the lack of knowledge of the instruments by the actors
- Lack of awareness
-

F- Children of imprisoned mothers

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

284. The Decree on the organisation and functioning of penal institutions and the Rules of Procedure contain a number of provisions concerning mothers of imprisoned children. Indeed,

female prisoners are placed in a separate section from that of men. In Nouakchott, they have a prison independent of other prisons and in Nouadhibou their ward, is clearly separated from that of men. Pregnant women are placed at the end of pregnancy in a separate room communicating with the dormitories reserved for other prisoners. After giving birth, they will stay for another month and even after weaning, they will be able to keep their children with them until they reach the age of 5.

2°)- Achievements

- 285. They include:
- • Ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- • The CNDH, which conducts unannounced visits to prisons to monitor the implementation of provisions relating to pregnant or breastfeeding women
- • Release for health reasons
- • Pardon by the President of the Republic during national events
- • The presence of NGOs and associations involved in women's wards in remand centres.
- • Inmate training in computer science, dyeing and sewing.

3°) - Limits

286. The limitations relate to the ineffectiveness of measures relating to sentenced pregnant women or mothers, inadequate or virtually no legislative, administrative and judicial measures relating to the detained mother and their integration into the family and rehabilitation social. The inadequacy of the resources makes the status of the pregnant woman or mother detained precarious.

G- Children in situation of exploitation and abuse

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

287. The Labour Code lays down the working conditions of children and prohibits the employment of children in jobs exceeding their capacity and likely to harm their health and development. Article 32 of the CRC provides for the protection of the child from work that endangers his or her health, education and development.

288. Mauritania has ratified ILO Convention 138 in 1978 on the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour of 1999. The 2007 Act criminalizes slavery . The Labor Code has legislated on child labor and Mauritania has subscribed to the various international conventions protecting children from economic exploitation (ILO Convention 138 and 182). Associations fight against child labour and support the efforts made by the State to implement the national plan of action to combat child labour

289. The Drug Control Act of 1990 regulates the possession, trafficking, sale and consumption of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. Article 33 of the CRC protects children against the consumption of narcotic drugs. The law prohibits the supply to

minors of toxic chemical inhalants under penalty of conviction. It provides for treatment in lieu of imprisonment. The most serious cases are dealt with by the psychiatric services. In addition, a national anti-drug commission exists and each year large quantities of seized drugs are incinerated.

290. Article 13 of the Constitution prohibits any act of torture, sedition or degrading and inhuman treatment. The law of 2012 defines this offense as a crime against humanity and the OPPE punishes all forms of physical or moral harm committed on children. Corporal punishment is prohibited in schools. Article 34 of the CRC protects children from violence. The OPPE makes it an offense to privatize food or care that could compromise a child's health. The abandonment of a child or an incapable person is considered an offense provided for and punished by the OPPE as well as the defilement of minors. The existence of national and international instruments that protect children against these abuses and the awareness campaigns carried out by SCOs contribute to the fight against abuse.

291. The OPPE defines as criminal acts and punishes as such most sexual violence committed against minors. Rape on a minor is also a crime. Pimping, incitement to debauchery, and misappropriation of minors are severely punished by law. Article 34 of the CRC protects minors from sexual abuse. The legislation on sexual assault on children is very repressive. The phenomenon of gang rape prompted the public to report such acts. The fight against poverty can put an end to certain types of sexual exploitation. NGOs take charge of young prostitutes and their rehabilitation them by training them in the field of sewing, hairdressing and cooking. From a medical point of view, the management of the survivors by CSOs has advanced the fight against this phenomenon.

292. The Criminal Code punishes the offense of begging as well as parents who make profits from the begging of their minor children. The OPPE also punishes the défilement of minors with or without violence. The African Charter on the Welfare of the Child protects these children and associations and NGOs raise awareness of this phenomenon. The OPPE code 1 punishes kidnapping, confinement, removal, substitution and non-representation of children. Since 2007, slavery has been an offense. Trafficking in Children is prohibited under the 2003 Law.

2°)- Achievements

293. Children in situation of exploitation are referred to the Centre for the Protection and Social Integration of Children (CPISE) under MASEF. It offers children benefits that facilitate their social integration. Created by Decree No. 184-2007 of 1 November 2007, the Centre is the greatest achievement of efforts made towards children, in particular children living in difficult circumstances (street children, child victims of begging and economic exploitation, children exposed to abandonment and vagrancy, child victims of domestic violence, children in conflict with the law). Its mission is to: (i) Contribute to the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the abandonment of children; (ii) Participate in the psychological, legal and social support of the most vulnerable categories of children; (iii) Ensure the inclusion of these children in the social fabric; (iv) Provide pedagogical support and rehabilitation for children at risk of moral depravity; (v) Establish a system for monitoring and analysing data on the evolution of these phenomena. The CPISE has a specialised staff and three branches (NDB, Kiffa and Rosso) and

is responsible for the rehabilitation of street children and the other in El Mina for the rehabilitation of child beggars, child victims of family violence and delinquency.

3°)- Limits

294. The limits are as follows:

- the main difficulty is due to parental poverty.
- children are oriented towards the labour market.
- the informal sector absorbs the vast majority of them.
- The difficulty of enforcing the instruments
- The perception of the notion of work by society
- The perception of the notion of children by society
- widespread use of petrol dissolution and petrol by inhalation.
- People's carelessness in the face of this growing phenomenon.
- The sale of glue is not regulated.
- The use of certain wild herbs that have hallucinogenic effects.
- Absence of specialised detoxification institutions, despite the fact that they are provided for in the laws.

295. Traditionally, corporal punishment is one of the ways in which children are educated. Sometimes such punishments are real abuses leaving indelible traces on the children. The reluctance of the society to report these practices to the competent authorities; The act being perceived as an interference in family affairs, the low awareness of the harmful consequences of these practices; Prosecutions are rare because very few cases are brought to the attention of the judges.

296. Despite the existence of laws against sexual abuse of children, some parents are reluctant to file a complaint. The reporting is badly perceived by society. Sometimes parents prefer to find common ground for a certain amount of compensation. Others see the information procedure as a source of judicial slowness. Justice is the last resort.

297. Several challenges limit the fight against begging. They are linked to socio-cultural factors:

- poverty in the population;
- non-application of the text for religious reasons;
- encouraging parents to put their children on the streets to engage in begging;
- marabouts who require a certain amount of money from their talibés;
- some parents lease their children to guide blind persons for daily remuneration;
- victims of early pregnancy are rejected by their family;
- a child conceived out of wedlock is a shame for the family;
- some prefer to resort to clandestine abortions that also put their lives in danger and others committing infanticide;
- lack of state care institutions

H- Children victims of harmful social and cultural practices

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

298. Since the adoption of Act No. 2001-052 of 19 July 2001, Mauritania has had a personal status code. It regulates marriage. This text prohibits early marriage because it sets the age of marriage at 18 years of age. Article 21 of the Charter protects the child against harmful social and cultural practices

2°)- Achievements

299. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child prohibits such practices. Women's associations and those working in the field of children's rights are raising awareness, conducting training sessions and debates for better respect for these rights. The Constitution guarantees the right to physical integrity. Article 12 of the OPPE provides for and punishes female genital mutilation. Article 19 of the CRC protects children from abuse. CSOs advocacy has led to the development of criminal law texts on female genital mutilation. The sensitisation of female circumcisers and their reconversion into income-generating activities contributes to the fight against female genital mutilation.

300. The forms of harmful social and cultural practices (Article 211b) have not been the subject of specific legislation. **These practices include food taboos and the practice of force-feeding.** They tend to disappear on their own because they are increasingly abandoned. In urban areas, gender sensitisation has also helped to reduce discrimination against children on the basis of gender.

3°)- Limits

301. They are of a socio-cultural nature. Early and forced marriages are an integral part of customs. The various conventions ratified by Mauritania are seen by society as a questioning of customs. Marriage is the business of families. The consent of the spouses is not important.

302. Female genital mutilation is rooted in customs. The existence of female excisors by profession and the difficulty of implementing the texts limit the effectiveness of the actions aimed at its eradication.

I- Children from a minority group (Article 26)

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

303. The Constitution enshrines equality of all before the law, regardless of gender, social, racial or ethnic origin. It guarantees to foreigners the same rights and freedoms as the Mauritanian citizens under the conditions determined by the law. In its Article 2 the CRC guarantees this right.

2°)- Achievements

304. The existence of the texts punishing these discriminatory practices encourages the strict observance of laws. The mission of the National Commission of Human Rights compliance with this right. Several human rights associations carry out awareness-raising actions to benefit the rights of all children regardless of their ethnicity.

3°)- Limits

305. Generally, these discriminations are of a socio-cultural nature. This involves the existence of castes in society (griots, blacksmiths ...); The survival of certain slavery practices and the ignorance of the texts by the population and the difficulties of their implementation.

IX-Responsibilities of the child

A Parents, family and community (article 31)

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

306. The African Charter emphasises the role of the family and the parents. The family is considered the " basic natural unit of society". But the child also has duties and responsibilities towards the State and his/her family. Every child has responsibilities to his or her family, society, the State and any other recognized community, as well as to the international community. The introduction of the responsibility of the child constitutes an innovation in relation to the CRC, which gives it only rights. Article 31 of the charter is in conformity with the Islamic traditions of Mauritania which impose respect for parents, elders and elderly people. The child, according to his/her age and capacity, has the duty:

- to work for family cohesion, to respect parents, superiors and the elderly in all circumstances and to assist them when necessary;
- to serve the national community by placing its physical and intellectual capacities at its disposal;
- preserve and strengthen the solidarity of society and the nation;
- preserve and strengthen cultural values in relation to other members of society, in a spirit of tolerance, dialogue and consultation, contributing to the moral well-being of society;
- preserve and strengthen the national independence and integrity of its country;
- to contribute to the best of its ability, at all times and at all levels, to promote and achieve the unity of the country.

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307. The education of children in the family is based on these basic principles. The community also participates in the education of the child. In urban centres, these traditions have eroded because of the destruction of the traditional social fabric.

2°)- Achievements

308. The achievements in this area are part of the development of traditional and religious education, which has a ministerial department in charge of promoting Islamic education that is

tolerant, modern and adapted to the evolution of the country. This system teaches the child to fulfill his/her obligations towards his/her parents and his/her country. In addition, the constitution highlights the promotion and development of the family as the fundamental unit of society.

3°)- Limits

310. The weakening of children's adherence to traditional positive values and the attraction to the individualistic and consumer society reduce the lessons that a child can derive from community life in order to serve his/her parents and country.

B- The duty to serve the national community

1°)- Legislative, administrative and judicial measures

311. Since its adherence to pluralism in 1990, Mauritania has witnessed the development of associations contributing to the entrenchment of democracy and the socio-economic development of the country by informing citizens about their rights and freedoms. Some associations, particularly the organisations for the defense and promotion of human rights, contribute to the culture of citizenship by training young people or using the youth in this context. Thus, youth associations contribute to:

- Promoting human rights and culture in all its forms
- Fighting against illiteracy and social inequalities
- Promoting public health education
- Promoting sustainable and effective development
- Promoting education and citizenship
- Promoting reforestation activities;
- Carrying out public health operations.

2°)-Achievements

312. The main achievement in this area is the existence of a youth conscious of its participation in the development of the country

3°)- Limits

313. Despite the stated willingness to serve the national community, young people are quickly caught up by politicians who use their actions for political purposes. This often reduces the enthusiasm of the youth.

C- Preservation and strengthening of the solidarity of society and the nation

1°)-Legislative, administrative and judicial measures.

314. Act No. 99-012 of 26 April 1999 on the reform of the national education system requires the school to develop a sense of morality in the child, respect for parents, family and social

environment ; To ensure that he / she acquires the virtues of work, initiative, values of personal effort, sense of self-responsibility towards parents, family group and society, and ensure, by appropriate means, his/her participation in all matters relating to it. The school must raise the child in the sense of national identity and citizenship, fidelity and loyalty to one's country, and a sense of belonging to a set of positive values of civilization at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. The school provides the child with an education that is imbued with the humanistic culture integrating openness to the other, in accordance with the requirements of modern educational orientations.

2°)- Achievements

315. The preservation and strengthening of the solidarity of society and the nation is taught throughout the education system through its four main levels: (i) basic education. The purpose of this instructional system is to provide basic education for all children aged six years and over, for a period of six years, attested by the primary school certificate. Preserving and strengthening the solidarity of society and the nation; (ii) general secondary education: this level of education is organised in two cycles: the first is to consolidate basic education and to prepare either for the pursuit of studies in one of the courses of the second cycle of general or technical secondary education, or to integration into socio-economic life. In general secondary schools are open to pupils of the 6th year of the Fundamental Education, who are admitted, after a competitive entrance examination, to a three-year schooling for the transitional period and four years for the reform cycle; It is sanctioned by the certificate of undergraduate studies, the second cycle is to prepare for higher education. In the general education secondary schools, it is provided with orientation and accommodation capacity for pupils who have successfully completed their undergraduate studies. It is sanctioned by the baccalauréat. The module on the preservation and strengthening of the solidarity of society and the nation is predominant in these two cycles; (iii) technical and vocational training (TVT): the purpose of this level of education is to prepare for employment or the pursuit of higher technical or vocational studies. It comprises: technical and vocational education, which recruits by competitive examination pupils leaving the first and second cycles of General Secondary Education or technical education in courses of two or three years sanctioned by the certificate of professional studies (BEP), Technician's Certificate (BT), Technical Baccalaureate (Bac.T), and BTS (two-year post-baccalaureate or BT) diploma course includes preserving and reinforcing The solidarity of society and the nation. (vii) original education delivered by traditional schools known as mahdra. They mainly teach the Koran and the Hadith, as well as the literature and sciences in Arabic language. This type of school and teaching is widespread in the country; Highly prized by a large part of the population, it contributes to the spread of knowledge and the preservation and strengthening of the solidarity of society and nation.

3°)-Limits

315. Preserving and strengthening the solidarity of society and the nation is a promising niche for politicians. However, in practice, it does not interest young people who are more focused on economic activities contributing to the fight against unemployment or reinforcing their training.