



Anti-Slavery International Oral Statement for 54th Session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

Thank you Mr. President.

Anti-Slavery International welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on his visit to Mauritania and here presents a statement from our partners, SOS Esclaves.

Sincere thanks, Mr Obokata for visiting Mauritania and spotlighting the deep-rooted forms of discrimination faced by people, or the descendants of people who've suffered from descent-based slavery. This includes profound social, economic, and political exclusion.

We've worked for twenty-eight years to eradicate slavery in Mauritania, and strongly support your conclusions and recommendations. In particular, we're concerned at implementation gaps in the Road Map; a severe lack of civil society involvement in relevant institutions, like the National Human Rights Commission and the Taa'zour Agency; the lack of mobilisation of faith and political leaders against the practice, and the lack of people affected by slavery in elected bodies.

We appreciate that there's been progress, but for people living in slavery this is too little and too slow. Less than two years ahead of the centennial of the UN Convention on Slavery – we echo the Special Rapporteur's call to tackle the deep-rooted culture of denial in Government and better raise awareness, particularly via our national day against slavery, where the Government should be represented by the President or the Minister of Justice.

We call for the effective, rigorous application of laws against slavery, and measures to resource, support and empower victims and survivors, including special measures to help them obtain civil status, and a compensation fund for those identified.

Thank you.