

Friday, 28 April 2017

UN expert tells the Government of Mauritania to continue progress

NOUAKCHOTT (28 April 2017) – United Nations Special Rapporteur Urmila Bhoola yesterday concluded a three-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The purpose of the visit was to meet with Government officials to conduct a two-day workshop with Government representatives, civil society organizations and UN agencies on the implementation of the road map against the sequelles of slavery.

“When meeting with Government officials and collecting information during the workshop, co-hosted with the Commissioner on Human Rights and Humanitarian Action, I was impressed by the commitment that the Government of Mauritania had shown to implementing my predecessor’s recommendations and the progress that has been made in the fight against slavery and its causes and consequences”

Following her visit, the Special Rapporteur encourages the Government of Mauritania to build upon and continue the road map as part of their ongoing journey towards the full eradication of slavery and its causes and consequences.

“The success of all slavery eradication efforts in any country is their impact on the lives of victims of slavery and slavery-like practice,” stated the expert.

She hopes that her visit was just one step in gathering information about the implementation of the road map and its impact on the lives of the victims of slavery and would recommend a full, participatory and transparent evaluation of its implementation based on an agreed set of quantitative and qualitative indicators.

“I remain at the disposal of the Government of Mauritania in continuing efforts to fight slavery, its causes and consequences. I hope to return to Mauritania for a mission next year to learn more and provide further support and recommendations to the Government” the rapporteur stated.

As fully eradicating slavery, its causes and consequences takes partnership, the Special Rapporteur encourages the international community, including donors and the UN Country Team, to continue providing substantive and financial support to the Government, civil society and other stakeholders in the on-going implementation of the road map and to ensure that the human rights of victims of slavery and slavery-like practices are mainstreamed into their activities.

A report of the Special Rapporteur summarizing the findings of the workshop will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2017

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