

Mauritania



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: September, 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹

2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? ndf.

3. **International resolutions:**

a) CEDAW: Yes. (10 May 2001).²
i) With reservations? Yes.³

b) ILO Conventions:

- i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
- ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: No.⁴

4. **Legal system:**

a) Women's participation:
i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁵

ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁶
iii) Judges? Yes.⁷
iv) Number of women judges: ndf.

b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? ndf.

c) Family law:

- i) Religious.⁸
- ii) Recent changes? ndf.

5. **Political rights:**

- i) Right to vote? Yes (1961).⁹
- ii) Stand as candidates for election? Yes.¹⁰
- iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 3.8 % (lower house); 1.8 % (upper house).¹¹
- iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹²

6. **The state:**

- a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.¹³
 - i) In which sectors? The civil service, police.¹⁴
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁵
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Ministry of Women's Affairs.¹⁶

7. **Gender monitoring and action:**

- a) National Council of Women? Yes.¹⁷
- b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Draft plan.¹⁸
- c) NGOs that monitors women's situation? Yes.¹⁹

9. **Education:**

- a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 30.1./50.7%.²⁰
- b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 81/86%; secondary level 15/21% (2000);²¹ at tertiary level: ndf.
- c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 26% of

primary school teachers and 10% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²²

10. **The economy:**

- a) Female economic activity rate: 63.4%.²³
- b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁴
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁵
 - iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
 - iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

c) Percentage of female-headed households: 36.5% in the early 1990s.²⁶

11. **Health:**

a) Vital statistics:

i) Life expectancy (f/m): 53.1/49.9 years (2000).²⁷
ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 19.4 years (1980-90).²⁸
iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 550 per 100,000 births.²⁹

b) Reproductive rights:

- i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³⁰
- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³¹

c) Female genital mutilation? Yes.³²

d) Employment in the modern health sector: ndf.

12. **Culture:**

a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? ndf.

b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? ndf.

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 5 & Art. 8: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/mr_index.html
2. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
3. Except those parts in contradiction with the *shari'a*: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html>
4. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation* Tunisia: CAWTAR.
5. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8392.htm>
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid.
8. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/mauretania_women.htm
9. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. The Ministries of Health, Social Solidarity and Human Service (1997-2000), and of Women's Affairs (1998) have been headed by women: <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/Mauritana.htm>
13. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2001/af/8392.htm>
14. Ibid.
15. 13.6% of women employed by government occupied ministerial positions (2000) : United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
16. <http://www.guide2womenleaders.com/mauritania.html>
17. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm

18. <http://www.euronet.nl/~fullmoon/womlist/countries/mauritania.htm>
19. Ibid.
20. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
21. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
22. Ibid.
23. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
24. http://www.metimes.com/issue98-26/reg/mauritania_plugs_into.htm
25. Ibid.
26. http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0176e/x0176e04.htm#P305_32084
27. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
28. http://www.unesco.org/culture/worldreport/html_eng/table25.htm
29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press .
30. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_series_results.asp?rowID=732
31. Only to save the life of the mother: <http://www.pregnant-pause.org/lex/world02.htm>
32. Around 25% average; 95% among the Soninke and Halpulaar, 30% among Moor women. No law prohibits FGM: http://ippfnet.ippf.org/pub/ippf_regions/ippf_countryprofile.asp

Morocco



1. **Constitution?** Yes. Latest version: Sept. 1996. Affirms gender equality? Yes.¹
2. **Nationality law:** gender discrimination? Yes.²
3. **International Resolutions:**
 - a) CEDAW: Yes. (21 June 1993).³
 - i) With reservations: Yes.⁴
 - b) ILO Conventions:
 - i) Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100), 1951: Yes.
 - ii) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), 1958: Yes.⁵
4. **Legal system:**
 - a) Women's participation:
 - i) Right to raise cases? Yes.⁶
 - ii) Work as lawyers? Yes.⁷
 - iii) Judges? Yes.⁸

- iv) Number of women judges: In 1998, there were 442 female judges.⁹
- b) Are there civic laws that apply only to men or women? Yes.¹⁰
- c) Family law:
 - i) Codified, religious based.
 - ii) Family law, recent changes? Yes, in 1993.¹¹
5. **Political rights:**
 - i) Right to vote? Yes (1963).¹²
 - ii) Stand as candidates for election? Yes.¹³
 - iii) Percentage of women in parliament? 0.6 % (lower house); 0.4 % (upper house).¹⁴
 - iv) Women in the Cabinet? Yes.¹⁵
6. **The state:**
 - a) Employment in the state apparatus: Yes.
 - i) In which sectors? The civil service.¹⁶
 - ii) Heads of government departments: Yes.¹⁷
 - iii) Section(s) of government concerned with women's issues: Ministry of Human Rights.¹⁸
7. **Gender monitoring and action:**
 - a) National Council of Women? ndf.
 - b) National Plan of Action (post-Beijing)? Yes.¹⁹
 - c) NGOs that monitor women's situation? Yes.²⁰
8. **Education:**
 - a) Adult female/male literacy rates: 36.1/61.8%.²¹
 - b) Female/male gross enrolment ratios: primary level 87/107%; secondary level 35/44%; tertiary level 8/11%.²²
 - c) Distribution of m/f in the teaching profession: 39% of primary school teachers and 33% of secondary school teachers were women in 2000.²³ In 1998, one-quarter of university professors were women.²⁴
9. **The economy:**
 - a) Female economic activity rate: 41.4%.²⁵
 - b) Economic rights:
 - i) To ownership of property? Yes.²⁶
 - ii) To own and manage businesses? Yes.²⁷
 - iii) To open bank accounts and take loans in their own name? ndf.
 - iv) To receive social security and pensions in their own names? ndf.

- c) Percentage of female-headed households: 16% in 1991.²⁸
10. **Health:**
 - a) Vital statistics:
 - i) Life expectancy (f/m): 69.5/49.9 years (2000).²⁹
 - ii) Average age of women at first marriage: 25.8 years (1994).³⁰
 - iii) Mortality rate in childbirth: 230 per 100,000 births (1985-99).³¹
 - b) Reproductive rights:
 - i) Is contraception legal? Yes.³²

- ii) Is abortion legal? Yes, in limited cases.³³
- c) Female genital mutilation? No.
- d) Employment in the modern health sector: One-third of doctors were women in 1998.³⁴
11. **Culture:**
 - a) Do women work in the media – print journalism? Radio? TV? Yes.³⁵
 - b) Do women perform in public (as actors, musicians, etc)? Yes.³⁶

ENDNOTES

1. Art. 5 & Art. 8: http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/mo_index.html
2. Art. 6: Suad Joseph ed., *Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000.
3. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/states>
4. Art. 9 paragraph 2, Art. 16 and Art. 29: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/ConvReservations.html/>
5. Center of Arab Women for Training and Research. (2001). *Arab Women's Development Report. Globalization and Gender: Economic Participation of Arab Women*. Tunisia: CAWTAR.
6. <http://www.ibnkhaldun.org/newsletter/1998/aug/indic.html>
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Eg. women "must obtain the permission of the court in order to join a civil suit against their husband": Laurie Brand, *Women, the State, and Political Liberalization*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1998, p 58.
11. Major amendments to the code's provisions relating to marriage guardianship, polygamy and divorce: <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/morocco.htm>.
12. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. In 2002, there were 3 women in the cabinet: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/morocco/gender.html>
16. http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/profiles/morocco_women.htm
17. In 2000, 4.9% of women in the government occupied ministerial positions: United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
18. <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf> (By Country)
19. http://www.wedo.org/monitor/g_survey.htm
20. http://www.arab.net/morocco/govt/mo_govintro.html
21. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
22. <http://genderstats.worldbank.org> (check "Summary Gender Profiles")
23. Ibid.
24. <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/morocco/gender.html>
25. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
26. "Only 5000 Moroccan women lead businesses," <http://www.afrol.com/Categories/Women/msindex.htm>
27. Ibid.
28. http://www.fao.org/docrep/x0176e/x0176e04.htm#P305_32084.
29. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
30. Morocco: *The National Human Development Report, 1998/1999*.
31. United Nations Development Programme (2002). *Human Development Report: Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World*. New York: Oxford University Press.
32. In 1997, 58.8% of married women used contraceptive methods. *Morocco: The National Human Development Report, 1998/1999*.
33. Only to save the life of the mother or to preserve her mental and physical health. Abortion must take place during the first three months of pregnancy. "Summary of Abortion Laws Around the World". <http://www.pregnantpause.org/lex/world02.htm>
34. www.undp-pogar.org/countries/morocco/gender.html
35. *Al-Safir*.
36. Ibid.