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Fourth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration  
4-8 December 2017, Nouakchott

## INFORMATION NOTE

*Accelerating a coordinated improvement of civil registration and vital statistics for implementation and monitoring of development agenda in Africa:  
Review of progress and the way forward*



**APAI-CRVS**  
Everyone visible in Africa

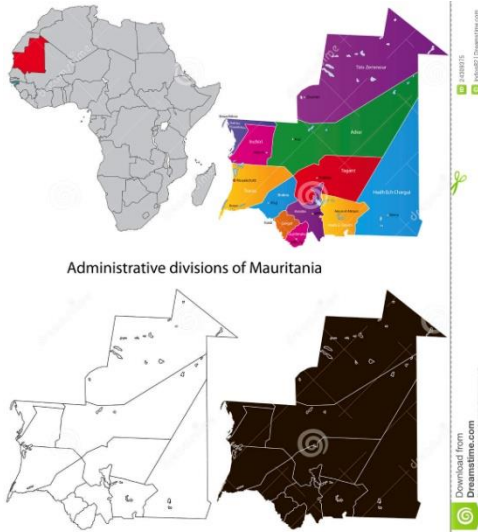


Decade for Repositioning  
of Civil Registration and  
Vital Statistics in Africa  
**2017-2026**

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION ON MAURITANIA

### a) Geographic location

Immense and virgin country, devoted to the games of the sun, the sea and the wind, land of extremely fascinating nomadic culture, Mauritania still retains the totality of its mystery.



The Islamic Republic of Mauritania covers a vast area of 1,030,700 km<sup>2</sup>.

It is a country in northwestern Africa, located between 15-27 degrees' north latitude and 5-17 degrees' west longitude. Mauritania belongs to the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, G5 Sahel Group, the OMVS, and is a member of International Organisation of the Francophonie.

It has a coastline of about 750 km on the Atlantic Ocean. To the north, it borders with Algeria and Western Sahara, Mali to the east and Senegal to the south.

### b) Climate:

**In December, average temperature varies between 20 to 30 degrees in Nouakchott.**

### c) Economy and industry

The Mauritanian economy is essentially based on its mining, fishing and rural resources. There are important iron, copper and gold mines in the north enabling to export highly graded quantities of resources.

The territorial waters are among the most full of fish in the world. Fishing which is constituting a prosper industry in the area of Nouadhibou, is one the most important resources of Mauritania.

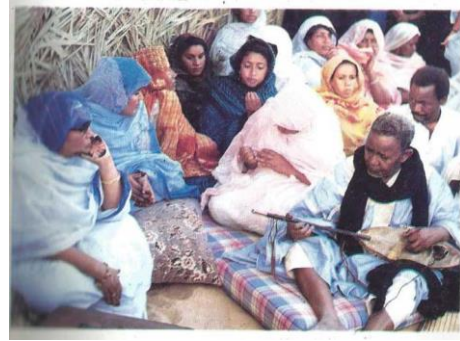
In the North, in the area of Adrar, there are agriculture activities essentially around the oasis as well as in the areas of Tagant and Assaba. The South constitutes an agricultural zone as cereals and vegetables are being cultivated there. Besides acacias are being exploited for extracting arabic gum. The desertic and semi-desertic regions are used for pasture of camels, cows, goats, etc...



#### d) Art

##### **Folklore:**

Mauritania is the "one million poet country". Therefore, there is a traditional poetry as well as lyric and satiric one. The traditional musical instruments are: Tidinit. Ardine. Tbal, Tam-tam...



##### **Handicraft**

It responds to various needs of the society.

It is related to the work on wood, leather, silver, gold, copper and wool.

The handicraft decorations are highly linked to the Islamic civilization and the African style.

#### e) Population

Mauritania's population is around 3.500.000 inhabitants comprising of Arabs, Pulars, Soninkes and Wolofs.

##### **Major Towns:**

Nouakchott (Capital).....	about 1.000.000 inhabitants
Nouadhibou (economic capital): .....	about 200.000 inhabitants
Other towns .....	Between (40.000 to 100.000) inhabitants
Kiffa, Kaedi, Atar, Zouerate, Nema, Aioun, Tidjikja, Aleg.	



#### f) Languages:

The Official language is arabic. Arabic and French languages are used as working languages. Other national languages are spoken only. They are: Pulaar, Soninke and Wolof.

### g) Religion

All Mauritians are practicing Muslims.



### h) Traditional cloths

Men: Boubou, Serwal, shirt, haouli or hat in some regions

Women: Mellihfa or boubou for some regions.



### i) Housing:

Outside the towns, Mauritians use the tent (made of wool) and cabins.



### j) Food:

Nomadic life imposes simplicity. Apart ceremonies, the food consisted of milk, couscous and rice. In some regions near the river, the food is prepared from various cereals cultivated locally (rice).

Dates with butter and cream, Mechoui (roast whole lamb), Cous-cous, Rice with spiced fish or with meat, Grilled fish, Dried meat (called Mechoui), Ksour.

European and Oriental meals can be obtained in the hotels and restaurants.

#### Traditional drinks:

Most drunked are the Green Tea with Mint (called Etaye) with its three cups and Zrig (milk diluted in sweetened water)



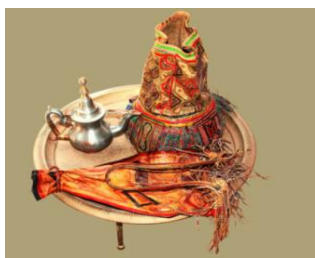


- Other drinks: (Pin de Singe or Baobab Juice, Bissap, Ginger and Arab Gum juice).



### k) Souvenirs from Mauritania

Traditional authentic craftsmanship: gold and silver worked, boxes, jewels, cutlery - Decorated leather: (cushions, snuff boxes, key rings). Carpets of high wool whose original designs are inspired by the ancient Mauritanian decorations; Sculpture in wood, African style, loincloths, and traditional musical instruments as used by musicians.



## II. USEFUL INFORMATION

### a) Entry into Mauritania: Visa

Each participant must present a passport valid for 3 months after arrival and a visa with the exception of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Senegal, Mali, Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, and Guinea Bissau for which only a valid passport is required. Biometric visas can be obtained from any Embassy or Consulate of Mauritania, as well as from Nouakchott International Airport.

Cost of visa:

Geographical Area	Visa for short stay (up to 3 months)
Arab and Africa	40 euros or USD 45
Others	55 euros or USD 60

### b) Health

Valid vaccination certificates against yellow fever and cholera are recommended.

Participants are advised to have a travel insurance that cover costs related to public and private health care services in Mauritania.

A medical team will be available in the Conference centre for first aid and emergency care. In case of emergency that cannot be treated by the team, patients will be directed to the hospital.

All medical care requiring a prescription, examination or hospitalization will be at the cost of the person concerned. In the unlikely event of a health related evacuation abroad, personal insurance regulations will

apply. Health centers and hospitals in Nouakchott are equipped to provide effective medical care for conference participants.

### c) Flights to Mauritania

National Company: MAURITANIA AIRLINES INTERNATIONAL

MAURITANIA AIRLINES INTERNATIONAL can be connected from:

- Dakar
- Abidjan
- Bamako
- Conakry
- Freetown
- Casablanca
- Las Palmas



**Mauritania is also connected with the following foreign airlines:**

Air France, Turkish Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, Tunis-Air, Air Algeria, Binter Canaria, Canary Fly.

The distance between the airport and the city center is 30 Km.



### III. WELCOME to NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT

Participants will be welcomed at the airport by the organizers with the sign of 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of African Ministers in charge of CRVS.

The host country will organize transport from the airport to hotels as well as from hotels to the Conference center and back during the conference

**For all Ministers, State protocol will be applied. Ministers will be welcomed through the VIP lounge at the airport.**

#### IV. ACCOMODATION : HOTELS

Participants are recommended to stay in the following hotels that have a negotiated rate for conference participants. Participants are asked to make their reservations directly with the hotels using the indicated e-mails addresses below.

HOTELS	Cat	Rate in UM			Phone	Mail	Website
		Single Room	Suite	Executive Suite			
HOTEL TFEILA	4*	34,330	48,330	67,330	+222 45 25 74 00	<a href="mailto:info@hoteltfeila.com">info@hoteltfeila.com</a>	<a href="http://www.hoteltfeila.com">www.hoteltfeila.com</a>
APPTS HOTEL KHAIMA	4*	30,300	48,240	78,740	+222 4524 22 22 /4395/4396	<a href="mailto:hotel@alkhaimacitycenter.com">hotel@alkhaimacitycenter.com</a>	<a href="http://www.alkhaimacitycenter.com">www.alkhaimacitycenter.com</a>
HOTEL MAURICENTER	4*	40,000	50,000	50,000	+222 45298001/45296683	<a href="mailto:info@hotelmauricenter.com">info@hotelmauricenter.com</a>	<a href="http://www.hotelmauricenter.com">www.hotelmauricenter.com</a>
MONOTEL DAR EL BARKA	4*	43,300	47,600	64,000	+222 45 24 23 33	<a href="mailto:contact@monotel-mr.com">contact@monotel-mr.com</a>	<a href="http://www.monotel-mr.com">www.monotel-mr.com</a>
ROYAL SUITES HOTEL	4*	29,000	42,000	70,000	+222 45 24 35 00/45 25 55 00	<a href="mailto:contact@r-suites.com">contact@r-suites.com</a>	<a href="http://www.royalsuites.com">www.royalsuites.com</a>
AZALAY MARHABA	3*	40,400	50,400	60,400	+222 4529 50 50 / 50 51	<a href="mailto:robert.maret@azalahotels.com">robert.maret@azalahotels.com</a>	<a href="http://www.azalahotels.com">www.azalahotels.com</a>
Hôtel CASA BLU	3*	25,000	42,000		+222 45 25 30 30	<a href="mailto:derriere_le_siège_de_l'Union_Européenne">derrière le siège de l'Union Européenne</a>	-
HOTEL SEMIRAMIS	3*	38,000		52,000	+222 45 24 00 38 / 00 39	<a href="mailto:info@hotelsemiramis-mr.com">info@hotelsemiramis-mr.com</a>	<a href="http://www.hotelsemiramis-mr.com">www.hotelsemiramis-mr.com</a>
APPTS HOTEL IMAN	3*	32,000	46,800	64,800	+222 45 29 30 57	<a href="mailto:contact@residence-iman.com">contact@residence-iman.com</a>	<a href="http://www.residence-iman.com">www.residence-iman.com</a>
NOUAKCHOTT HOTEL	3*	35,000		60,000	+222 25 00 00 30/ 31 /32	<a href="mailto:contact@noukchotthotel.com">contact@noukchotthotel.com</a>	<a href="http://www.nouakchotthotel.com">www.nouakchotthotel.com</a>
HOTEL WISSAL	3*	28,500	45,000		+222 4525 41 71 /19 80	<a href="mailto:hotelwissal1@yahoo.fr">hotelwissal1@yahoo.fr</a>	<a href="http://www.hotelwissal.com">www.hotelwissal.com</a>
HALIMA HOTEL	3*	26,160	45,360		+222 4525 79 20	<a href="mailto:contact@hotel-halima.com">contact@hotel-halima.com</a>	<a href="http://www.hotel-halima.com">www.hotel-halima.com</a>
HOTEL MOUNA	3*	28,700	36,000		+222 4524 13 29 / 45 24 13 30	<a href="mailto:reception@hotelmouna.com">reception@hotelmouna.com</a>	<a href="http://www.hotelmouna.com">www.hotelmouna.com</a>
HOTEL EMIRA	3*	22,500	41,400		+222 4524 47 00/ 25 00 17 17	<a href="mailto:hotelemira@hotmail.fr">hotelemira@hotmail.fr</a>	<a href="http://www.hotelemira.com">www.hotelemira.com</a>
HOTEL AL KHATER	3*	24,300	30,000		+222 45 25 12 98 / 45 29 11 12	<a href="http://www.elkhater.com/reservation.html">www.elkhater.com/reservation.html</a>	<a href="http://www.elkhater.com">www.elkhater.com</a>
HOTEL ATLANTIC EZZA	3*	28,000	40,000		+222 45 25 00 04/ 46 78 78 78	<a href="mailto:hotelatlantic2015@gmail.com">hotelatlantic2015@gmail.com</a>	
Hôtel Ziwaya	3*	25,000	35,000		+222 45 24 01 64 / 26301545	<a href="mailto:hotelziwaya@ziwaya.com">hotelziwaya@ziwaya.com</a>	<a href="http://www.ziwaya.com">www.ziwaya.com</a>
HOTEL AL AZIZA	2*	20,000	25,000		+222 4529 71 81/71 80	<a href="mailto:hotelaziza@yahoo.fr">hotelaziza@yahoo.fr</a>	
ISTANBUL HOTEL	2*	28,000			+222 47 99 84 00	<a href="mailto:info@hotelistanbul.biz">info@hotelistanbul.biz</a>	<a href="http://www.hotelistanbul.biz">www.hotelistanbul.biz</a>
hôtel HOLIDAYS	2*	18,000			+222 45 25 03 94 / 36 31 43 43	<a href="mailto:sidAhmaedchouaib@yahoo.fr">sidAhmaedchouaib@yahoo.fr</a>	

Appts Hotel EL IDRISSE	2*	12,000			+222 36 60 99 99 / 49 60 99 99	-	idrissihotel/facebo ok
HOTEL AMLAK PLAZA	2*	15,000	25,000		+222 45 25 00 44 / 31381018	<a href="mailto:hotelemina@gmail.com">hotelemina@gmail.com</a>	

**NB:** These rates that have been negotiated are in local currency; the exchange rate can be obtained through the Central Bank at: [www.bcm.mr](http://www.bcm.mr).

All Hotels have WIFI and the majority includes breakfast into the Room rate, except Khaina City center.

### Apartments:

Name	Ch	Average rate	Phone	mail
M.Hôtes la Bienvenue		40 €	+222 48 52 61 16 / 47 59 98 50	<a href="mailto:dominiqueidris@gmail.com">dominiqueidris@gmail.com</a>
M. Hôte "Jeloua"		50 €	+222 36 36 94 50	<a href="http://www.escales-mauritanie.com">www.escales-mauritanie.com</a>

### Guest House:

Name	Ch	Average rate	Phone	mail
Résidence Ghaya prestige		40 €	+222 42 42 12 12	<a href="mailto:residence.ghaya@yahoo.fr">residence.ghaya@yahoo.fr</a>
Appartements JASMINE	10	30 €	+222 45 29 41 87	
Résidence TEIZENT		40 €	+222 48 60 76 17	
Résidence El Khadra		20 €	+222 36 14 14 74	

## V. General information

### a) Administrative hours

Monday to Thursday: from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Friday: from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

### b) Banks and currency

Open from Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 13:00. Most banks have ATMs that accept VISA and MasterCard. Exchange offices can be found in hotels and at the airport for foreign currency exchange.

**National currency:** Ouguiya(UM or MRO)

1 \$ US = 352UM



1 € = 409UM

Foreign currencies are convertible without limits; the export is limited to the imported and declared amount.

**c) Posts:**

The Post Office has offices in all cities of the country. Postage stamps are available: 60 UM for Africa and France, 80 UM for the rest of Europe, 85 UM for Asia and 90 UM for the United States.

**d) Telecommunications and Internet:**

Three telecommunication companies provide fixed and mobile telephony services across the country.

**e) Time zone**

Mauritania is in the time zone GMT +00.

**f) Electrical supply:: 220 Volts, 50 Hz**

**g) Security**

The host country is in charge of ensuring safety of all participants.

**h) Useful numbers**

Police 116 or 117

SAMU: 118 or +222 44 48 12 32

## **VI. CONTACTS : persons/Website**

Participants are invited to register online at : [www.crmc4.mr](http://www.crmc4.mr)

For further information, please contact:

**Mauritania**: Mr. Boide Sghair : b\_oide@hotmail.com

**African Union** : Ms. Leila ben Ali : leilab@africa-union.org

**ECA** : Mr. Oumar Sarr: sarro@un.org

**AfDB** : Ms. Dorothee Ouissika : d.ouissika@afdb.org