



MAURITANIA

موريتانيا

Speech of  
His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz  
President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

At the occasion of  
The United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015  
development Agenda

New York, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*Please check against delivery*

**In the Name of Allah the Merciful  
Prayer and Peace be upon the Holy Prophet**

**Your Majesties;  
Your Highnesses;  
Your Excellencies;  
Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the Organization of  
the United Nations;  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen Heads of delegations;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for the great efforts made to convene this summit. I would, also, like to thank all Member States, for their invaluable contributions in formulating and implementing the global vision of a joint post 2015 development program. I also would like to pay tribute to the contribution of all actors and partners who have left a significantly positive impact on this well-organized summit.

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

This summit represents a crucial moment, and an important turning point in the international development agenda, through a complete cycle of Millennium Development Goals, and the adoption of a post 2015 development program, which marked the beginning of the implementation of sustainable development goals. Thus, a crowned path that was managed with insight and methodology, and a high level of partnership, armed the international community with a new and ambitious long-term program based on a dual goal: improving the living conditions of the population, and the protecting our planet from the dangers of climate change.

The development of a post 2015 program is the fruit of wide and deep consultations, held at national, regional, international, and included several parties, including governments, private sector, civil society, academia, and development partners. This is a broad representation, and the resulting converging views, a guarantee for the joint development vision that translates specific priorities, and reflects common concerns. Which adds to the effectiveness of the targets set by the new development program started, and enhances the chances of success.

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

We should in this critical junction, as we put new targets, to keep in our minds what we have learned from the course that has elapsed. The Millennium Development Goals have enabled of realization of significant achievements, among which the continued decline in the level of poverty, and the improvement of access to education and health opportunities. It is a clear proof of the importance of developing a comprehensive framework, a reference to mobilize development efforts. As part of the new development program, we applaud what we observe of improving the means of action, and the level of coordination, support, follow-up and implementation mechanisms. The eradication of poverty and achieving sustainable growth, in the context of a peaceful and pure environment requires from all of us to show a solid will to reach the desired results.

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The post-2015 program features provide for new dangers, in addition to continuing to follow the traditional development objectives, and give special attention to environmental issues, which are no longer just a development bet, but has become a direct challenge to threaten the survival of our planet. The reorganization of priorities demonstrates an adequate vision that integrates our approach which is necessarily relevant to the objectives of development with facts that are changing steadily. In the same context, the aggravation and breadth of security threats call us to be taken into account. The multiplicity of acts of terrorism, the spread of organized crime, and the growth of illegal economic activities in all parts of the world, is an obstacle to development, and a real risk for the stability and survival of many countries. These facts compel us to a vision of security and development as organically interconnected.

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

National solutions are no longer able to meet the security threats that are complex in their nature, and cross-border in their structure and objectives. Being aware of such situation, we launched with our brothers from Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Chad, during the Summit held in Nouakchott in February 2014, an initiative that brings us together in an institutional and development framework, concerned with security and development issues. The group of G5 Sahel, which emerged from such initiative was created according to a multi-dimensional

approach, to respond to the challenges of reality and to make plans for the future. It is not only a framework for security cooperation but also a space for convergence, integration, and concerted efforts to stimulate economic growth, employment, and improve infrastructure, basic services, and regional integration.

In this context, the G5 Sahel offers a program of investment in harmony with the goals of sustainable development, and respects the national and regional priorities, and based on compelling, realistic and coherent objectives. This regional effort deserves to have strong support among our partners; it is a qualitative addition to the development and sustainable security in the Sahel Region, and stability in Africa and the world in general.

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Mauritania Has made, in recent years, a considerable economic leap, thanks to the adoption of rational policies, and a new approach in the conduct of public affairs, enabling it to restore macroeconomic stability, and the formation of balances of reserves which helped it to withstand the economic crisis and the severe regression of the prices of raw material had been through recently. These policies have led to raise the level of investment.

As part of its drive to achieve sustainable development, and accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the state set up a plan of action to combat poverty, after having identified the strengths and weaknesses of the previous plans, and reviewed the targets in the medium and long term in the framework of a new vision for economic development of the country.

These efforts have made it possible, in conjunction with raising the per capita share of GDP, from the reduction of poverty in general, in rural areas in particular. During the last six years, poverty has fallen by 11%.

**Your Majesties, Highnesses, and Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

On the social level, Mauritania has made significant progress, in the framework of its firm commitment to the goals of sustainable development; the State has put youth issues at the forefront of its development policies, where it focused on the training of young people, according to approaches designed to enable them to access the labor market and contribute to the development of the national economy, and engage in political work, as well as giving them soft loans and rehabilitated arable lands for agriculture.

An agency for social solidarity was created to focus on fighting poverty, and dealing with fragile layers of the society, through the provision of health services, education, and finance income-generating projects throughout the national territory.

State has also paid great attention to persons with special needs; it worked to integrate them into the civil service, the private sector, and give them more opportunities to participate in active life.

The state has adopted a policy of positive discrimination in order to promote the role of women, in an effort to further gender equity, which enabled women in our country to occupy high positions in the administration, where they became present in sectors that remained reserved for men for decades. It also raised their level of representation in the National Assembly by the introduction of special lists for women only.

In conclusion, I hope that our Summit will be a successful start of the implementation of post 2015 development program. I hope it will exceed the level of success achieved in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Thank you,**

**Peace, Mercy and Blessings of God be upon you.**