



# Mauritania

## Mauritania: Conclusion and Recommendations

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Chart 39: Policy recommendations

### Recommendations

#### Specifically, policymakers in Mauritania should:

- **Strengthen resilience to climate shocks:** Implement measures to respond to climate shocks and develop adaptation strategies. This implies responsible use of natural resources, environmental protection and efficient hydrocarbon management.
- **Enhance governance and efficiency of public finances:** Implement commitments in terms of tax reform, transparent management of public finances, improved governance and political stability.
- **Invest in education and infrastructure:** Improve the education system, offer vocational training and increase research and development. Further, improve transport and communication infrastructures.
- **Diversify the economy:** Develop more sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, renewable energies and services, including livestock, natural resources and the private sector.

Chart 38 summarises the policy recommendations.

This report shows that most macroeconomic indicators for Mauritania are trending upwards over time. Yet, this growth is very much subject to the extractive sector and tends to be accompanied by inequality and poverty. The country benefits from a willingness to improve governance and a strong political commitment to implement public policies aimed at limiting the growth of the informal sector and fostering more inclusive economic growth. However, the low quality of infrastructure, governance, human capital quality, lack of access to financing, high cost of electricity, weak diversification and climate change risks hamper structural transformation.

The eight sectoral scenario interventions modeled in this report offer hope of further improving the country's macroeconomic performance. The eight sectoral scenario interventions modeled in this report offer hope of further improving the country's macroeconomic performance. They point to faster growth, higher living standards, and notable reductions in both poverty and inequality. The informal economy is expected to shrink, creating more opportunities for formal employment. Gains in health outcomes, including longer life expectancy, suggest steady improvements in human development. Meanwhile, the energy sector shows promise, with rising production and diversification that could strengthen Mauritania's future resilience.

Mauritania can seize several specific opportunities to make the most out of its economic potential:

- **Resource endowment:** Mauritania's large amount of iron, gold and gas could provide growth potential if harnessed correctly.
- **Renewables capacity:** Mauritania could be a future hub for solar and hydrogen production in the region.
- **Trade potential:** Mauritania is geographically positioned to be a hub for trade given greater integration with its neighbours.

- **A youthful population:** Mauritania's population is essentially young, with around 40% aged between 15 and 34, and a high dependency rate. This offers significant potential for economic growth and social development. Indeed, the young are a driving force for innovation, creativity and contribution to the labour market, if supported.
- **Agricultural transformation:** If the country improves agricultural efficiency, it can free up capital for domestic investment and supply stability to its economy and population.

However, Mauritanian policymakers should prioritise a holistic development strategy that integrates improvements in all eight sectors, as outlined above. Such an approach not only aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, but also establishes a strategic framework for sustainable growth and shared prosperity in Mauritania - which also requires commitment from all levels of government and cooperation with international partners to take advantage of national and international economic opportunities for sustainable and inclusive economic development. Indeed, the Mauritanian government must implement decisive, targeted actions based on the following priority policies:

- **Strengthening resilience to climate shocks:**

It is crucial to implement measures to strengthen resilience to climate shocks and develop adaptation strategies. This implies responsible use of natural resources, environmental protection and efficient hydrocarbon management. With regard to the *responsible exploitation of natural resources*, the government should prevent the depletion of natural resources, by implementing sustainable management measures and ensuring that the benefits of exploitation are shared equitably. In terms of *efficient hydrocarbon management*, oil and gas revenues should be managed transparently, and returns invested in economic diversification and social development projects. Finally, *environmental protection* means protecting natural ecosystems and combating climate change, by adopting sustainable practices and investing in renewable energies such as solar and hydrogen, to maximise energy stability, economic growth and potential profits from energy exportation .

- **Enhanced governance and efficiency of public finances:**

Tackling corruption and improving governance and public financial management are essential to creating a more favourable environment for investment and economic development. This involves government commitments in terms of tax reform, transparent management of public finances, improved governance and political stability. The aim is to simplify the tax system and improve the efficiency of tax collection to finance development projects. The government should encourage tax compliance by rationalising the use of collected taxes and above all reinforcing communication around how they are used, by putting in place rigorous control and audit mechanisms to guarantee sound management of public finances. In addition, the government should accentuate the production of public goods via infrastructure to facilitate the operation of the country's markets and income-generating activities. Finally, the government should guarantee effective governance by improving the business climate through the reduction of corruption and a more transparent judicial system: important for reassuring and improving the confidence of both investors and citizens.

- **Investment in education and infrastructure:**

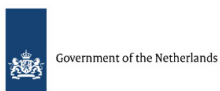
Developing human capital and modernising infrastructure are essential to sustain long-term economic growth. This involves improving the education system, vocational training and increasing research and development. Thus, improving the education system involves implementing reforms aimed at guaranteeing equitable access to quality education, and promoting the skills needed for the professions of the future - the 2020 reform is already a first step, but the government should insist on its effectiveness, especially by encouraging and insisting on its gender component. It should also facilitate and encourage the creation of and access to vocational training. In other words, it should set up training programs tailored to the needs of the job market, targeting emerging sectors - and providing the necessary infrastructure. Finally, incentives

to increase research and development should be put in place to facilitate innovation. The latter can be achieved through award shows for the best innovations and direct integration of the best innovators-necessary to boost the country's competitiveness. Added to this are improved roads, airports and communication infrastructures, particularly the digital ones, to facilitate trade and attract investment.

- **Diversifying the economy:**

It is essential to diversify Mauritania's economy by developing other sectors, such as agriculture, tourism and services. This involves developing key sectors such as livestock, natural resources and the private sector. The aim is to intensify agricultural production, develop local value chains and encourage livestock farming to improve food security and create jobs. For instance, investment in farming technology, irrigation efforts, digitisation of the sector and data driven farming decisions are needed to reduce import reliance. The country needs to exploit hydrocarbons and minerals sustainably and responsibly, ensuring that revenues are invested in development projects. Finally, creating a business-friendly environment, with clear and stable regulations, easy access to financing and access to infrastructure is important. Administrative procedures need to be simplified, facilitating access to markets and reducing red tape.

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