



Press Release
UNOWA/2006/08**Legislative and municipal elections in Mauritania**

UNOWA – Dakar, 6 December 2006. The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) welcomes the good organization and conduct of the two rounds of the legislative and municipal elections held on 19 November and 3 December 2006 in Mauritania. The elections took place in a peaceful atmosphere and with the presence of international observers.

UNOWA notes with satisfaction that voters participated in large numbers, with a turnout above 69%. This large participation testifies to the citizens' will to exercise their civil rights.

The democratization process in Mauritania, commenced with the constitutional referendum of 25 July 2006, should be completed with the presidential elections scheduled for March 2007.

The International Community follows with interest the pursuit of this program of democratization, being carried out by the Military Committee for Justice and Democracy (Comité Militaire pour la Justice et la Démocratie - CMJD), in power since August 2005.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, expresses his «hope that this process gets to completion and serves as a model to African political transitions».

For more information on the United Nations Office for West Africa, please visit our Website:
www.un.org/unowa

Media contact: Brigitte Escure +221-869-85-74 or +221-869-85-85