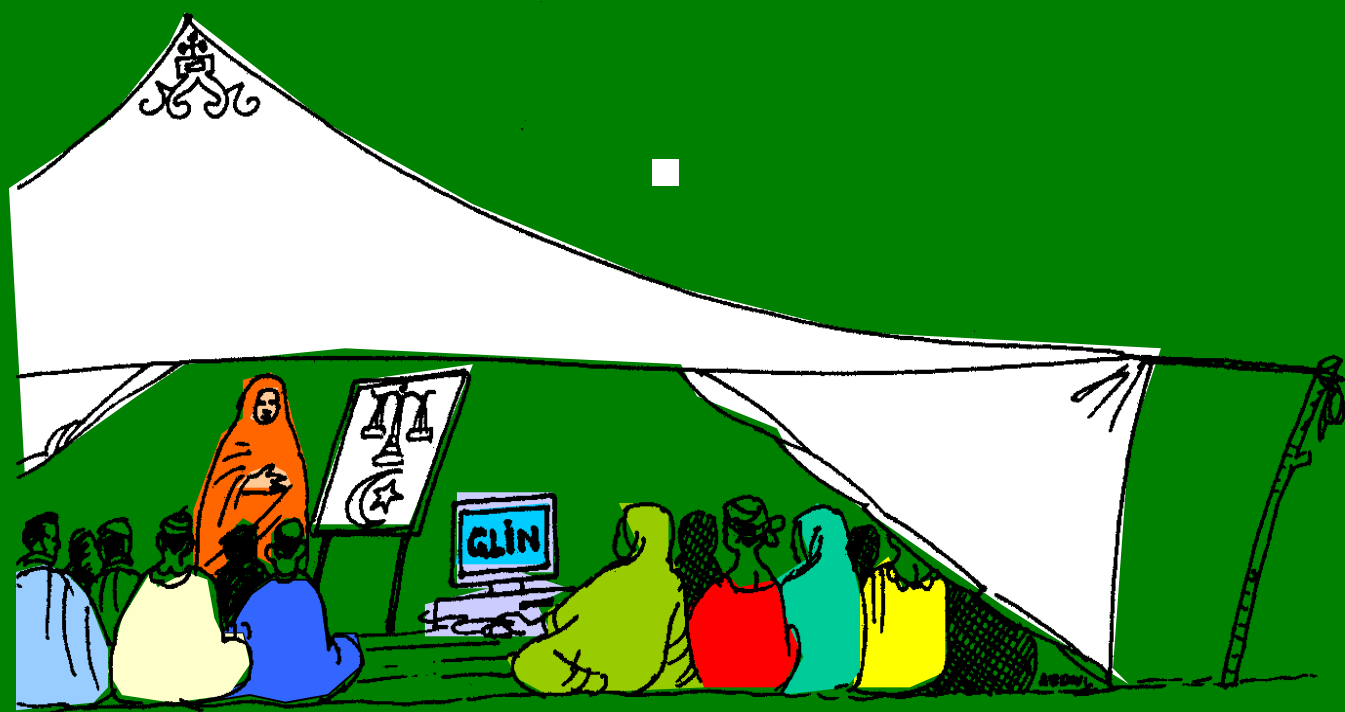


GLIN in Mauritania

A tool for sustainable democracy



Lakhsara Mint Dié
Projet CCD/CBD

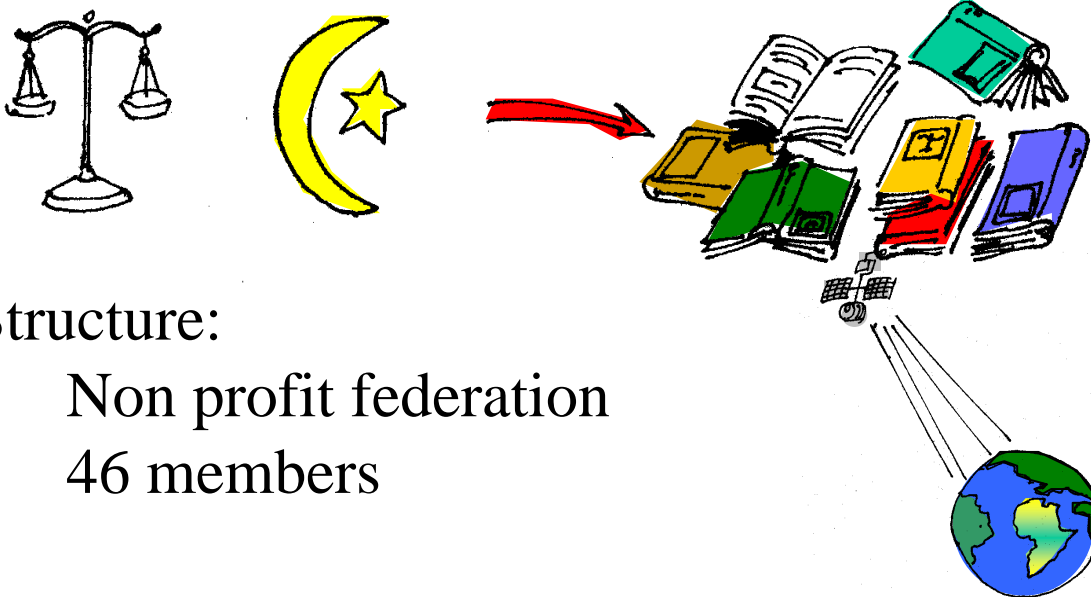
Washington DC, 27 November 2001

World Bank

Global Legal Information Network (GLIN)

Function:

- Recording and filing the texts of laws
- Publishing the laws
- Comparative work



Structure:

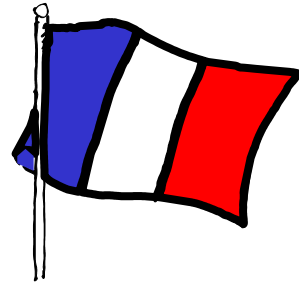
- Non profit federation
- 46 members

Partners:

- NASA & Inter-American Development Bank & support of the World Bank
- Different institutions

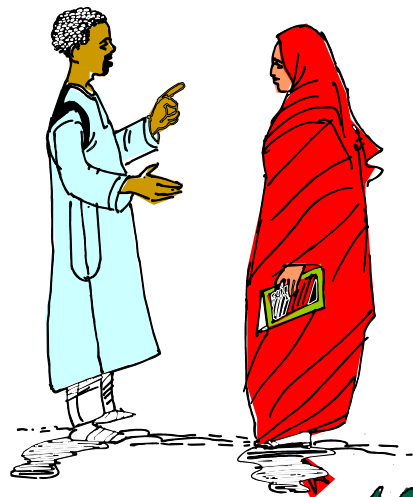


The historical evolution of the legal system:



- Borrowing from the french legal system

- Additions from different actors



- Ratification of the conventions

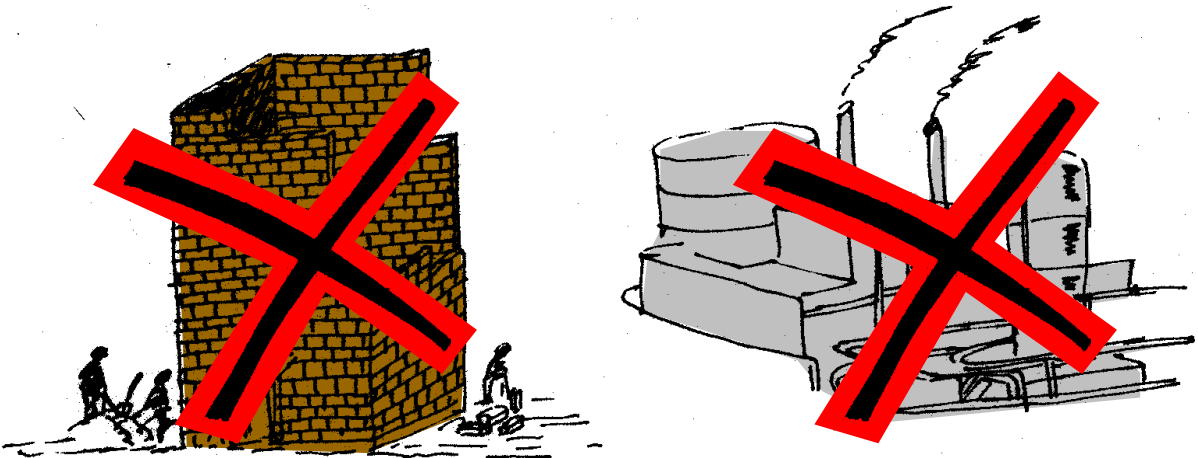
- Customary laws and the Charia



- Recent decentral zation (no effects on sectoral laws)

Consequences:

- Partial inconsistency of the laws
- Antagonism between centralized and decentralized structures
- Little sustainability as a result of these inconsistencies
- Antagonism between the current legislation, Charia, customs and conventions.
- Ignorance and inapplicability of the current legislation
- Legal insecurity
- Very little investment



The state has the will to apply legal reform

Harmonisation of laws

Goals:

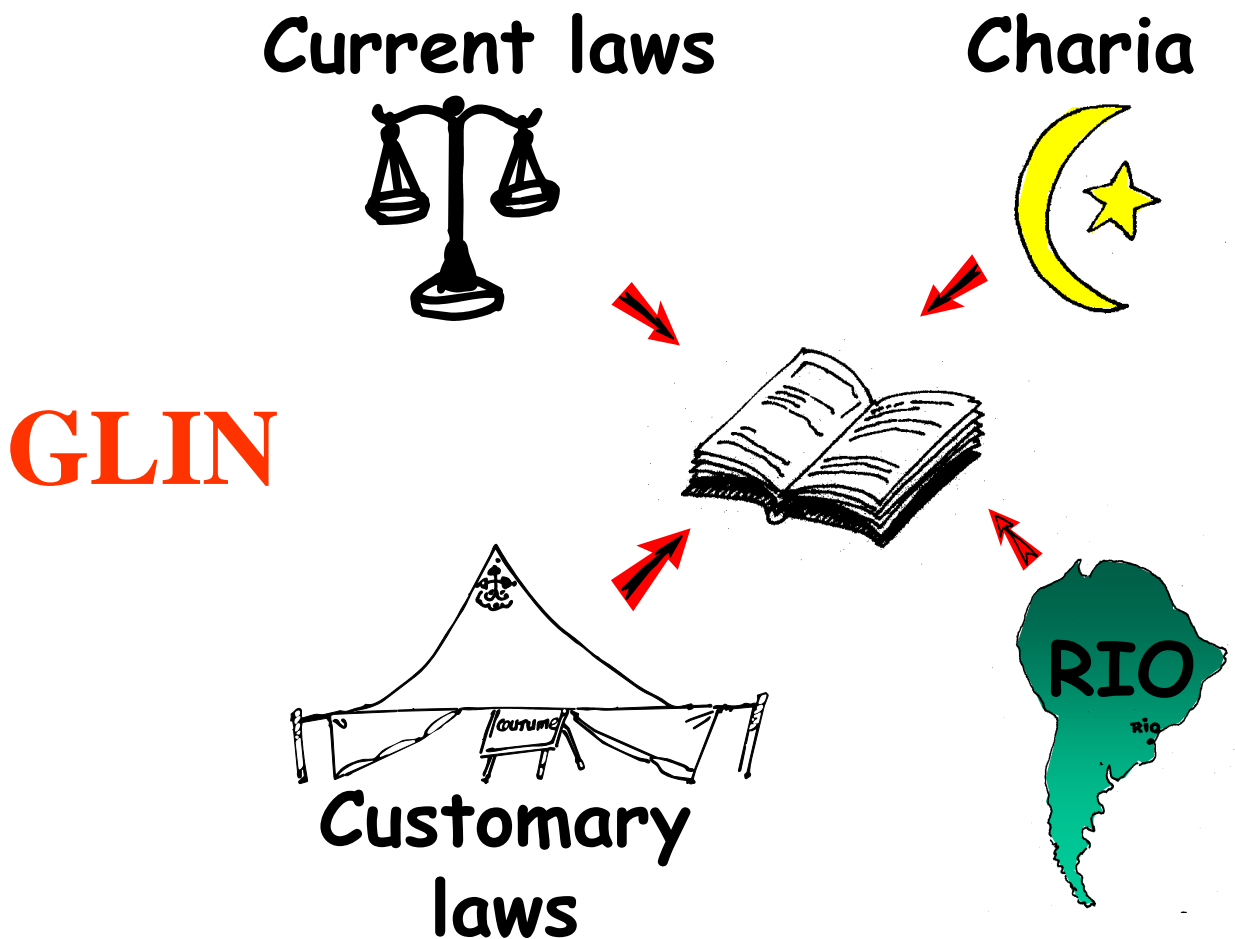
- Eliminate the contradictions existing between the laws
- Eliminate the accumulated redundancies
- Improve access to the sparse texts on specific themes
- Facilitate the comparison of similar texts from different countries



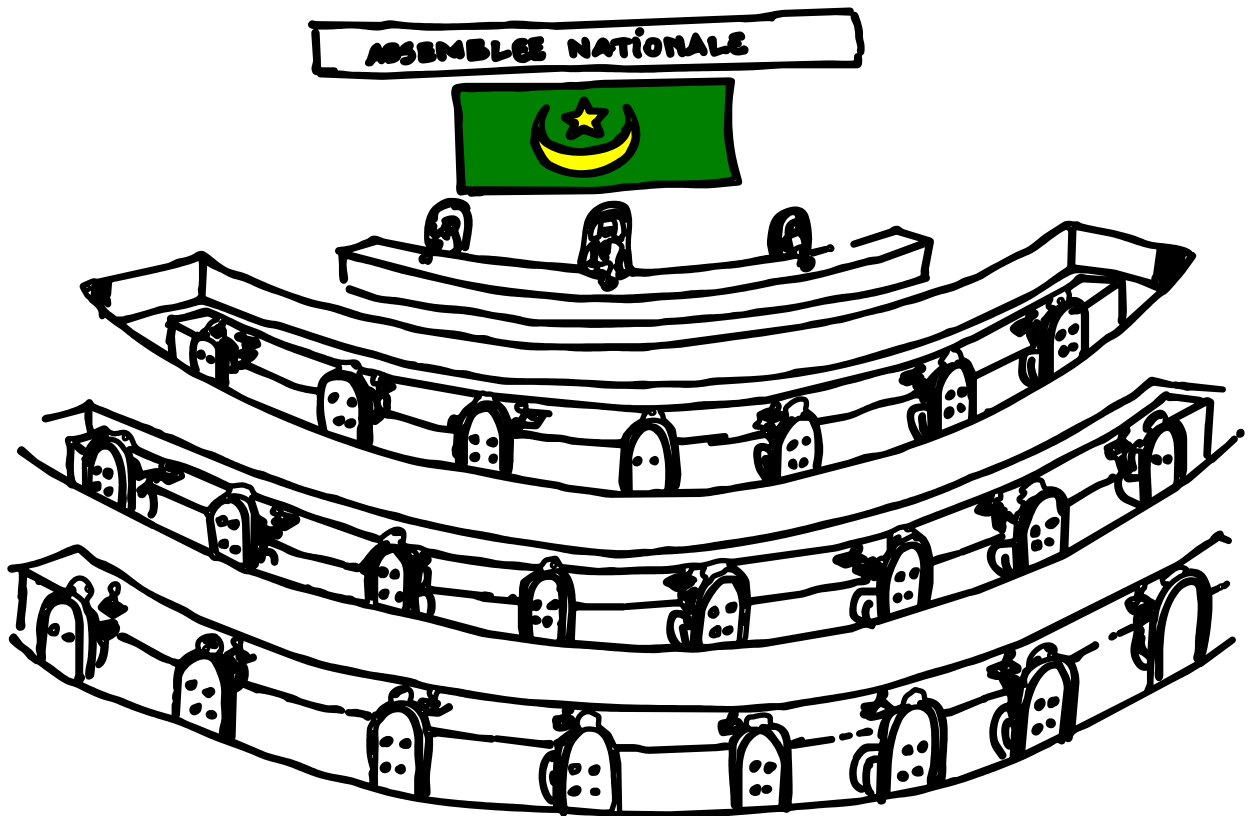
Harmonisation of laws

How?

- Abstracts
- Key word definitions
- Comparative work on existing legislation
- Comparison of the current laws with the Charia, customary laws and the international conventions
- Proposition of amendments



Parliament



Facilitate the parliament's work:

- Parliament's access to GLIN
- Use GLIN to record parliamentary debates

Access to the laws

- Publish the laws and give easier access to the official gazettes
- Popularize the laws



How?

- Through Internet
- Select and train the middlemen in the use of GLIN (link between traditional and modern modes of communication)
- Media coverage of GLIN

Knowledge and transparency of the laws allows:

- Good governance
- Investment (legal security)
- Natural resource management (legal security)
- Facilitates the work of partners in development



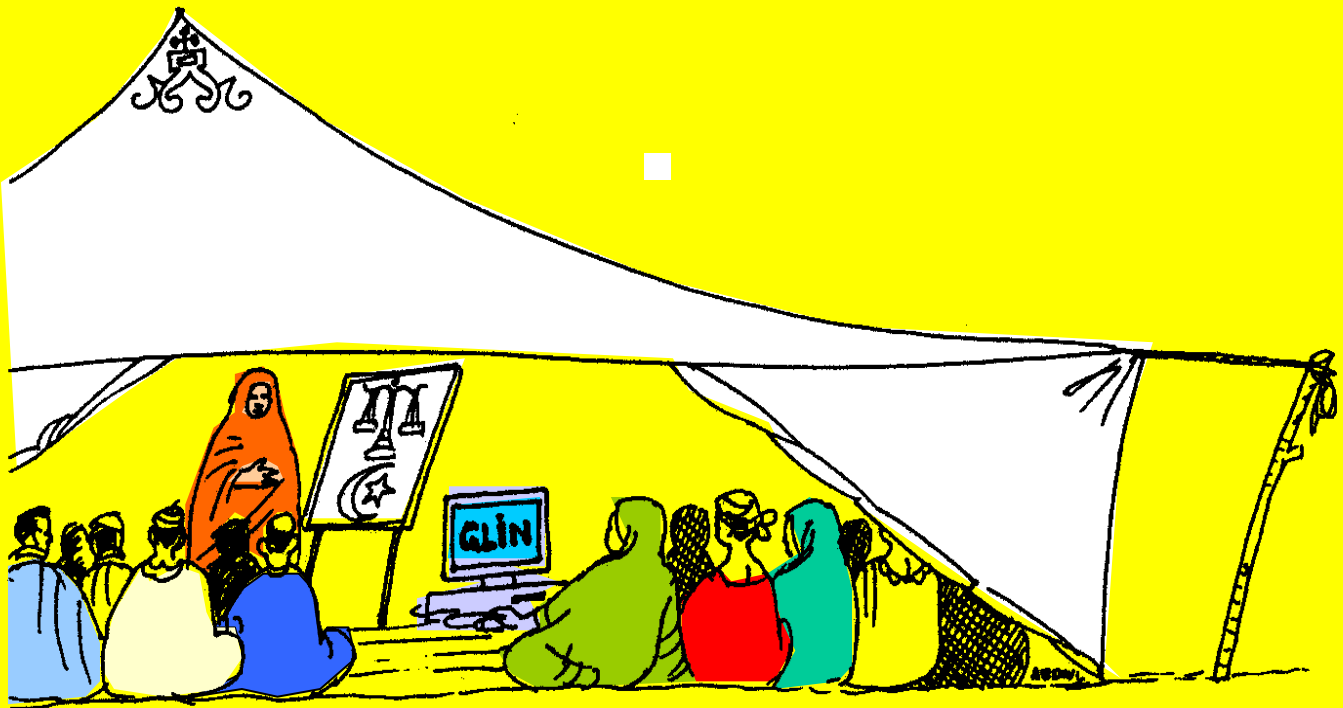
The GLIN could become a fabulous tool to help sustain democracy

- Fixing the rules of the game
- Rules = law
- Confusing laws = confusing rules
- No State of law



Without a state that honours its laws:

1. No sustainable democracy
2. The majority of the population feel abused
3. A minority is given the opportunity to abuse



A developed GLIN in Mauritania can become a revolutionary tool