



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
19 February 2019  
English  
Original: French

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**Human Rights Council**  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Thirty-third session  
6–17 May 2019

## **National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21\***

### **Côte d'Ivoire**

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## Introduction

1. This national report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review is submitted subsequent to the recommendations arising from the second cycle review held on 29 April 2014. Côte d'Ivoire attaches great importance to endorsing these recommendations in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21.
2. Accordingly, of the 186 recommendations made, Côte d'Ivoire accepted 181, or 97.31 per cent.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the objectives set out in the National Development Plan 2016–2020, Côte d'Ivoire must now meet the challenge of implementing these recommendations.
3. It should be borne in mind that the National Development Plan provides, inter alia, for a strengthening of the rule of law and establishes that human rights are to be respected and promoted.
4. The purpose of the present report is to describe the progress made in implementing the recommendations accepted by Côte d'Ivoire.
5. In this regard, it should be noted that, despite the many efforts made by Côte d'Ivoire, much remains to be done to improve the protection of human rights.

## I. Methodology and the national follow-up process

6. In order to strengthen its cooperation with the treaty bodies, Côte d'Ivoire developed a national plan of action to implement the recommendations and commitments made during the second cycle of the universal periodic review. The action plan was prepared with input from civil society organizations and the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, whose mission came to an end in June 2017.
7. In addition, all stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of the report, including the Government, the National Assembly, the Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Council, the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication, the Commission on Access to Information of Public Interest and Official Documents, the National Press Authority and the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire.
8. In order to prepare the universal periodic review midterm report, an interministerial committee composed of representatives of the technical ministries concerned was established under Decree No. 2017-303 of 17 May 2017 amending Decree No. 2001-365 of 27 June 2001 on the establishment of an interministerial committee to monitor the implementation of international human rights instruments.
9. In accordance with paragraph A of the guidelines referred to in section II of decision 17/119 of 17 June 2011 on follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 with regard to the universal periodic review, the present report was prepared taking into account the recommendations included in the implementation action plan and the progress achieved in the field of human rights between 2014 and 2018.

## II. Changes in the normative and institutional framework (2014–2018)

### A. Constitution

10. Pursuant to Act No. 2016-886 of 8 November 2016, Côte d'Ivoire adopted a new Constitution. With a view to building a State governed by the rule of law in which human rights, civil liberties and the dignity of the individual are better protected, Côte d'Ivoire reaffirms its commitment to cultural, spiritual and moral values in the context of its ethnic and religious diversity. Article 3 of the new Constitution confirms, among other things, the abolition of the death penalty.

## **B. International instruments**

11. In accordance with its international commitments, has ratified the main international human rights instruments.

12. Between 2014 and 2018, Côte d'Ivoire ratified various international instruments regarding respect for human dignity. They include:

- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/106), adopted on 13 December 2006, and ratified by Côte d'Ivoire on 10 January 2014
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 15 February 2015<sup>2</sup>
- The Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption of 29 May 1993, adopted in The Hague (Netherlands), whose ratification was authorized by Act No. 2014-806 of 16 December 2014
- The Labour Administration Convention, 1978 (No. 150), adopted 26 June 1978 in Geneva (Switzerland), whose ratification was authorized by Act No. 2015-825 of 18 December 2015
- The Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), adopted on 22 June 1981 in Geneva (Switzerland), whose ratification was authorized by Act No. 2015-826 of 18 December 2015
- The Night Work Convention, 1990 (No. 171), adopted on 26 June 1990 in Geneva (Switzerland), whose ratification was authorized by Act No. 2015-829 of 18 December 2015
- The Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), adopted on 15 June 2006 in Geneva (Switzerland), whose ratification was authorized by Act No. 2015-830 of 18 December 2015
- The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, signed at London, Moscow and Washington on 10 April 1972, to which Côte d'Ivoire acceded pursuant to Act No. 2015-831 of 18 December 2015

13. Côte d'Ivoire has begun the process of ratifying other international instruments, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty in line with the commitment made to that effect at the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council.

14. Regarding the rights of migrant workers, a memorandum has been prepared with a view to ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.<sup>3</sup>

15. Discussions are also ongoing regarding the ratification of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>4</sup> and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.<sup>5</sup>

16. Lastly, Côte d'Ivoire was a participant at the United Nations summit on sustainable development in September 2015, at which the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted.

## **C. Harmonization of national legislation with international instruments**

17. Côte d'Ivoire has developed and adopted a number of new laws to strengthen its national normative framework. They include in particular:

- The instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on 10 January 2014
- Act No. 2014-131 of 24 March 2014 on the establishment of universal health coverage

- Act No. 2014-335 of 5 June 2014 amending Act No. 2001-634 of 9 October 2001 on the composition, organization, powers and functioning of the Independent Electoral Commission
- Act No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders and Decree No. 2017-121 of 22 February 2017 on implementation procedures
- Act No. 2014-428 of 14 July 2014 on the status of traditional kings and chiefs
- Act No. 2015-133 of 9 March 2015 amending and supplementing Act No. 60-366 of 14 November 1960 on the establishment of a Code of Criminal Procedure
- Act No. 2015-134 of 9 March 2015 amending and supplementing Act No. 81-640 of 31 July 1981 on the establishment of the Criminal Code
- Act No. 2015-216 of 2 April 2015 amending articles 7, 9, 11, 15, 21, 35, 37, 52, 56, 59, 60, 68, 80, 86, 101, 116 and 144 of Act No. 2000-514 of 1 August 2000 on the Electoral Code and repeal of provisions relating to the post-crisis elections
- Act No. 2015-494 of 7 July 2015 establishing the powers, composition, organization and functioning of the Court of Auditors
- Act No. 2015-493 of 7 July 2015 on the suppression of terrorism
- Act No. 2015-532 of 20 July 2015 on the Labour Code
- Act No. 2014-137 of 24 March 2014 on the status of wards of the nation
- Act No. 2015-539 of 20 July 2015 on the status of wards of the State
- Act No. 2016-414 of 15 June 2016 on the organization of the defence and the armed forces of Côte d'Ivoire
- Act No. 2015-635 of 17 September 2015 amending the Education Act, No. 95-696, of 7 September 1995
- Act No. 2016-1111 of 8 December 2016 on the suppression of trafficking in persons
- Decree No. 2014-290 of 21 May 2014 concerning procedures for the implementation of Act No. 2010-272 of 30 September 2010 on the prohibition of child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour
- Order No. 2017-016 MEBS/CAB of 2 June 2017 establishing the list of types of light work authorized for children aged 13 to 16
- Order No. 2017-017 MEBS/CAB of 2 June 2017 establishing hazardous types of work prohibited for children

18. As part of this legislative reform process and in order to take account of the country's international commitments, Côte d'Ivoire has also included in the draft bill on the Criminal Code provisions on the definition and criminalization of torture<sup>6</sup>.

### **III. Administration of justice and fair trial**

19. Côte d'Ivoire has undertaken to reform its judicial and prison system.
20. The reforms are both legislative and structural in nature.
21. In terms of legislation, the National Assembly has adopted:
  - Act No 2015-492 of 7 July 2015 on the status of court officials and Decree No. 2016-134 of 9 March 2016 concerning the procedures for implementing Act No. 2015-492 of 7 July 2015 on the status of court officials
  - The Act on the protection of witnesses, victims, informants, experts and other concerned persons, in plenary session on 7 June 2018
  - In its plenary session of 19 December 2018, five bills on:
    - The composition, organization and functioning of the Supreme Court

- The powers, composition, organization and functioning of the Court of Cassation
  - The powers, composition, organization and functioning of the Council of State
  - The powers, composition, organization and functioning of the Court of Auditors
  - The ratification of Ordinance No. 2018-669 of 6 August 2018 concerning amnesty
  - The status of court commissars
- On 21 December 2018, the new Code of Criminal Procedure establishing new procedural mechanisms to strengthen the rights of parties during proceedings; alternatives to imprisonment; simplified criminal procedures; a reduction in procedural time limits; improved supervision of police custody and preventive detention; criminal courts and criminal courts of appeal to replace assize courts.
22. In addition, steps have been taken to develop new provisions aimed at strengthening the protection of minors, including:
- The preparation of a bill on the Supreme Council of Justice under article 146 of the Constitution
  - The adoption by the Council of Ministers on 11 October 2017 of a bill authorizing the President of the Republic to proceed with the accession of Côte d'Ivoire to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
  - The submission of a bill on the Court of Auditors to the National Assembly with a view to determining the bill's conformity with the Constitution of 8 November 2016
23. As regards structural reforms, the following measures are noteworthy:
- The inauguration on 15 May 2014 of the Saliakro prison farm with a view to testing alternatives to imprisonment
  - The refurbishment and construction of correction and detention centres in line with international standards<sup>7</sup> and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules)
  - The establishment of minors' quarters in detention facilities without such areas
  - Improvements in the quality of the food (the amount allocated to food rose from 3 billion CFA francs in 2011 to 4 billion CFA francs in 2017) and hygiene and health care services provided to detainees<sup>8</sup>

#### **IV. Governance (democracy and reconciliation, elections, judicial system, impunity)**

24. In accordance with Act No. 2015-902 of 30 December 2015 concerning the national development plan, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted a new national development plan for the period 2016–2020. The Plan has five strategic pillars:

- (a) Strengthening the quality of institutions and good governance;
- (b) Accelerating the development of human capital and the promotion of social well-being;
- (c) Accelerating the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization;
- (d) Developing a harmoniously distributed infrastructure throughout the country and the preservation of the environment;
- (e) Strengthening regional integration and international cooperation.

## A. Democracy and reconciliation

25. Côte d'Ivoire has adopted numerous legislative and regulatory instruments in order to strengthen the country's democratic framework.

26. For example, the Constitution of 8 November 2016 established the office of vice-president and a senate, supplementary to existing political institutions.

27. As part of the national reconciliation process, Côte d'Ivoire has set up two commissions:

- The Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2012–2013)
- The National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims (2014)

28. On 7 June 2017, Côte d'Ivoire adopted a national strategy for reconciliation and social cohesion for the period 2016–2020 and established a special fund with an allocation of 10 billion CFA francs for compensating victims of the crises that took place in Côte d'Ivoire.

29. On 6 August 2018, the Government adopted Ordinance No. 2018-669 concerning amnesty in order to strengthen social cohesion and national reconciliation.

30. On 31 January 2019, as part of the national reconciliation process, 54 refugees, making up the 146th convoy, returned to Côte d'Ivoire; the refugees included some leading figures of the regime of former President Laurent Gbagbo.

## B. Elections

31. As a result of changes made in the composition of the Independent Electoral Commission pursuant to Act No. 2014-335 of 18 July 2014, representatives of opposition parties and civil society actors have been able to join the Commission.

32. The Commission, in its new consensual composition, organized presidential elections in 2015 and legislative elections in 2016, the results of which were recognized by both the national and international communities.<sup>9</sup>

33. The Commission also organized the joint municipal and regional elections of 13 October 2018.

34. Following the judgment of 18 November 2016 of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights regarding application No. 001/2014 filed by the non-governmental organization Actions pour la Protection des Droits de l'Homme (Actions for the Defence of Human Rights) and in line with the commitment made on 6 August 2018 by the President of the Republic to embark on reform of the Independent Electoral Commission, on Monday 21 January 2019 a political dialogue was initiated between the Government and all stakeholders.

## C. Judicial system

35. On 31 July 2018, the Government adopted the justice sector policy (2016–2020) guideline document. Measures taken in line with the document include:

- The reorganization of the judicial system through the establishment of administrative and civil and criminal branches
- The establishment of the Commercial Courts and the Commercial Court of Appeal pursuant to Act No. 2016-1110 of 8 December 2013 on the establishment, organization and functioning of commercial courts
- The establishment of the Court of Auditors<sup>10</sup>

## **D. Impunity**

36. As part of its efforts to combat impunity, Côte d'Ivoire has established various bodies, such as the Special Inquiry Unit; in accordance with Order No. 020 of 24 June 2011, the Unit is responsible for legal proceedings relating to the post-election crisis.

37. In accordance with Decree No. 2013-93 of 30 December 2013, the Unit's mandate was broadened to include greater investigative powers; the Unit was renamed the Special Inquiry and Investigation Unit.

38. The Unit's investigations into gross human rights violations and abuses have resulted in a number of trials, some of which have led to convictions.

39. It should also be noted that Côte d'Ivoire cooperates with the International Criminal Court and that it ratified the Court's statute on 15 February 2013.

40. Various measures have also been adopted to facilitate care for victims of sexual violence, including:

- Circular No. 005 of 18 March 2015 on the procedure for handling complaints made in police stations by victims of physical abuse
- Interministerial Circular No. 016/MJ/MEMIS/MPRD of 4 August 2016 on the procedure for handling complaints of gender-based violence

41. In addition, 32 gender desks have been set up in police stations with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the Embassy of the United States of America in Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>11</sup>

42. Thanks to the strengthening of the capacity of the Inspectorate General of Judicial and Prison Services, the quality of the services provided by the public bodies under its supervision has improved.

## **V. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights**

43. In order to promote and protect human rights, Côte d'Ivoire has created a number of new bodies and strengthened the capacity of existing organs. These bodies include:

(a) The National Human Rights Council, which was created pursuant to Act No. 2018-900 of 30 November 2018, in accordance with the Paris Principles, to replace the National Human Rights Commission;

(b) The Office of the Ombudsman (art. 165 of the Constitution);

(c) The National Press Authority, created pursuant to Act No. 2017-867 of 27 December 2017 on the regulation of the press;

(d) The Constitutional Council (art. 126 of the Constitution);

(e) The Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Council (art. 163 of the Constitution);

(f) The National Chamber of Traditional Kings and Chiefs (art. 175 of the Constitution);

(g) The Commission on Access to Information of Public Interest and Official Documents, established under Act No. 2013-867 of 23 December 2013 on access to information of public interest (art. 18 of the Constitution).

44. Côte d'Ivoire has also strengthened its cooperation with international promotion and protection mechanisms.<sup>12</sup> This has resulted in:

- The submission of reports during the period under review
- The opening of an office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in Abidjan



- Acceptance of various visits of special rapporteurs and independent experts

## **VI. Civil and political rights**

### **A. Right to life**

45. Article 3 of the Constitution of 8 November 2016 enshrines the inviolability of the right to life and reaffirms the abolition of the death penalty, which was set out in the Constitution of 1 August 2000.<sup>13</sup>

### **B. Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, conditions of detention and the death penalty**

46. On 11 October 2017, the Government adopted a bill authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

## **VII. Economic, social and cultural rights**

### **A. Right to food and access to safe drinking water/right to a healthy environment**

47. Article 27 of the Constitution of 8 November 2016 enshrines the right to a healthy environment.

48. Accordingly, it is now possible for relevant environmental bodies to carry out monitoring and supervision activities. Under the above-mentioned constitutional provision, United Nations environmental experts conducted a study from May 2017 to January 2018 which found that sites affected by the dumping of toxic waste had been completely decontaminated and no longer posed a public risk, in accordance with national and international decontamination thresholds.<sup>14</sup>

49. As regards access to safe drinking water, Côte d'Ivoire has constructed 794 pumping stations and 76 water towers, carried out maintenance on 11,446 hand-operated pumps and increased the storage capacity of the reservoir at the Abidjan water treatment works, which now has a capacity of 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

### **B. Poverty alleviation**

50. In accordance with the National Development Programme, Côte d'Ivoire has put in place a programme to support efforts to strengthen social inclusion and cohesion with assistance from the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project and the Reintegration Project for Former Combatants.

51. The goal of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project is to fight poverty and to promote women's empowerment and the demographic dividend.

52. The aim of the Reintegration Project for Former Combatants is to promote the reintegration of former combatants and to provide conflict victims with psychosocial assistance.

53. In addition, the programme to support efforts to strengthen social inclusion and cohesion has led to greater rural land security, thanks to the delimitation of 99 sub-prefectures and 1,771 districts.

54. Various road transport infrastructure renewal projects have been completed, including the northern motorway, the Riviera 2 interchange and the Henri Konan, Bouaflé and Jacqueville bridges.

55. In addition, 5,000 km of rural roads have been upgraded throughout the country.

56. As regards efforts to combat unemployment, the number of jobs in the formal sector has risen from 722,567 to 756,597 in 2013 and 799,890 in 2014.

57. Côte d'Ivoire has implemented the Productive Social Safety Net Project. So far under this Project, quarterly cash transfers of 35,000 CFA francs have been made to 35,000 poor families, totalling 225,944 persons, with a view to reducing the vulnerability of these households.

58. The Government has also reactivated the National Solidarity Fund in order to reduce regional disparities and, on 10 July 2018, created a ministry tasked specifically with combating poverty.

### **C. Right to education**

59. Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire of 8 November 2016 enshrine the right to quality education. Accordingly, pursuant to Act No. 2015-635 of 17 September 2015 amending the Education Act, No. 95-696, of 7 September 1995, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has made schooling compulsory up to the age of 16.<sup>15</sup>

60. With regard to school infrastructure, a total of 9,291 primary school classrooms and 3,500 secondary school classrooms have been built and 45 secondary schools have been opened.

61. This new infrastructure has facilitated the implementation of quality education, with pass rates increasing from 73.4 per cent in 2008 to 97.8 per cent in 2014 and enrolment rates from 76.2 per cent to 94.7 per cent during the period under review.

62. The effectiveness of the efforts made in this area is reflected in increase in baccalaureate pass rates, from 36.23 per cent in 2014 to 46.09 per cent in 2018.

### **D. Right to health**

63. As to the realization of the right to health, Côte d'Ivoire has developed a national family planning action plan. The Government has also adopted a national maternal and child health programme. The aim of the programme, which was launched in 2015, is to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate from 13.9 per cent to 36 per cent by 2020.

64. With regard to accessibility to health care, 300 new health centres have been built, thereby strengthening efforts to combat maternal and child mortality.

65. Lastly, mention should be made of several new facilities, including Bingerville Mother and Child Hospital, Angré University Hospital, Gagnoa General Hospital, Saint Jean-Baptiste Hospital in Tiassalé, Adjamé General Hospital, Saint Joseph Moscati Hospital in Yamoussoukro, the Cocody Radiotherapy Centre, the Nuclear Medicine Centre and the Mohamed V Multisectoral Centre in Yopougon.<sup>16</sup>

66. The introduction of free targeted health care has made it possible to make consultations for children up to the age of 5 free of charge, to supply women with free delivery kits and to provide a number of anti-malaria services free of charge, including certain medical analyses and the distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

## **VIII. Rights of specific groups**

### **A. Women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment**

67. In accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Maputo Protocol, Côte d'Ivoire has established several programmes with a view to promoting and protecting women's rights.

68. Articles 35, 36 and 37 of the Ivorian Constitution place particular emphasis on parity.<sup>17</sup>

## **B. Rights of the child**

69. Côte d'Ivoire has adopted a national child protection policy. It has implemented an action plan to address statelessness and is conducting various programmes for children and adolescents.<sup>18</sup>

70. The National Assembly has adopted Act No. 2018-863 of 19 November 2018 on the establishment of a special procedure for registering births, restoring identity and transcribing birth certificates.

## **C. Internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers**

71. With regard to the protection of the above-mentioned persons, Côte d'Ivoire has signed five agreements with host countries and established a mechanism for the reintegration of refugees who have returned voluntarily.<sup>19</sup>

## **D. Vulnerable persons**

72. Côte d'Ivoire has developed a national strategy and programme to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities. It has also taken specific steps to protect the rights of persons with albinism.<sup>20</sup>

73. In 2015, the Government authorized the recruitment of 300 persons with disabilities to the public service on the basis of special regulations.

74. In the November 2018 session, a further 158 persons with disabilities were recruited.

75. In addition, on 9 May 2018, the Government adopted a decree concerning the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector.

## **IX. Table of recommendations made under the universal periodic review**

76. The table below gives a thematic summary of the state of implementation of the measures and actions in progress or already undertaken by Côte d'Ivoire. Essentially, it covers the recommendations accepted, those already taken into account and those noted following the interactive dialogue of April 2014.

<i>Action/Results Recommendation</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Measures taken/planned</i>	<i>Indicators of results Impact of measures for implementation of recommendations and commitments</i>
<b>I. National legislative measures, policies, strategies and initiatives</b>			
<b>1. National human rights institution</b>			
127.45–48	In progress	Act No. 2018-900 of 30 November 2018 on the establishment, powers, organization and functioning of the National Human Rights Council.	Decree implementing the Act currently under preparation.

## 2. National policies and strategies

## (a) Human rights awareness-raising, education and training

127.56–57, 127.59, 127.63, 127.65, 127.68–69, 127.88, 127.125, 127.153, 127.158, 127.160, 127.162, 127.166	In progress	Awareness-raising, training and education and prevention campaigns on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic violence</li> <li>• Sexual violence</li> <li>• The practice of excision</li> <li>• Rape, sexual harassment, forced marriages, early marriages</li> <li>• Non-registration of births.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption in 2014 of a national programme and a national strategy to combat violence against women.</li> <li>• Establishment of the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children pursuant to Decree No. 2000-133 of 23 February 2000 with a budget of 14 million CFA francs (€21,309).</li> <li>• Establishment of a national centre to support women victims of violence.</li> <li>• Capacity-building for religious and community leaders, judicial police officials, civil society organizations, judges and court officials.</li> <li>• Training for defence and security forces on humanitarian law.</li> <li>• Broadcasting of public service announcements to raise awareness of human rights.</li> <li>• Inclusion of human rights modules in the curricula of education and training establishments.</li> </ul>
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## (b) National strategy/initiatives

Completed	Decree No. 2017-303 of 17 May 2017 amending Decree No. 2001-365 of 27 June 2001 on the establishment of an interministerial committee to monitor implementation of international human rights instruments.	The interministerial committee is made up of 16 members.
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## 3. Legislative measures/compliance with international instruments

127.15–19, 127.21–24, 127.26–29	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of the process to harmonize national legislation with the provisions of international human rights treaties.</li> </ul>	The bill to amend the criminal code criminalizes and defines torture as a separate offence and includes the definition of crimes of aggression as set out in the Rome Statute.
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- Preliminary draft of a new criminal code in the process of being adopted.
- Act No. 2015-134 of 9 March 2015 amending the provisions of the Criminal Code of 1981 in force in Côte d'Ivoire.
- New Code of Criminal Procedure adopted by the National Assembly on 21 December 2018.

It also defines crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of genocide, and provides for the non-applicability of statutory limitations to those crimes.

## II. Governance (democracy, elections, judicial system, impunity, etc.)

### 1. Democracy and reconciliation

127.20, 127.30,  
127.50–51,  
127.70–81,  
127.83–84,  
127.116–117,  
127.140,  
127.149–150

In progress

- Adoption of Act No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders and Decree No. 2017-121 of 22 February 2017 on implementation procedures.
- The Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- The National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims.
- Establishment of the National Programme for Social Cohesion and the National Community Development Programme.
- Establishment of the National Security Council.
- Establishment of a political dialogue with the opposition parties.
- Establishment of the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Poverty Reduction.
- Establishment and capacity-building of 17 regional commissions of the Solidarity and Social Cohesion Observatory.
- Establishment of a reparations mechanism for victims and/or beneficiaries of victims.
- Establishment of a special fund with an initial allocation of 10 billion CFA francs for compensating victims of the crises that took place in Côte d'Ivoire

Improvement in the social climate in Côte d'Ivoire since the end of the post-election crisis.

Establishment of:

- 17 regional commissions of the Solidarity and Social Cohesion Observatory
- The Chamber of Kings and Chiefs and their representatives
- Compensation for 4,800 victims and/or their beneficiaries, including sick persons.
- Organization of intercommunity dialogue days with a view to strengthening social cohesion (5 in 2015, 8 in 2016, 11 in 2017 and 5 thus far in 2018).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of intercommunity and socio-security dialogues in localities with a history of conflict and potentially at risk.</li> <li>• Adoption of the National Reconciliation and Social Cohesion Strategy 2016–2020.</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Elections</b>			
127.90, 127.146–148, 127.151	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act No. 2014-335 of 18 June 2014 amending Act No. 2001-334 of 9 October 2001 on the composition, organization, powers and functioning of the Independent Electoral Commission, as amended by Act No. 2004-642 of 14 December 2004 and Decisions Nos. 2005-06/PR of 15 July 2005 and 2005-11/PR of 29 August 2005.</li> <li>• Adoption of Act No. 2016-886 of 8 November 2016 establishing the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.</li> <li>• Adoption by the Government in March 2018 of a bill on the participation of women in elected assemblies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures have been taken to ensure that elections are inclusive, open to all and democratic.</li> <li>• Change in the composition of the Independent Electoral Council with the inclusion of representatives of the opposition and civil society actors.</li> <li>• Staging of presidential elections in 2015, legislative elections in 2016, senatorial elections on 24 March 2018 and joint municipal and regional elections on 13 October 2018.</li> <li>• Opening on 21 January 2019 of the political dialogue on reform of the Independent Electoral Commission in accordance with the commitment made by the President of the Republic on 6 August 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Judicial system</b>			
127.89	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption by the Government on 31 July 2016 of a justice sector policy (2016–2020) guideline document.</li> <li>• Adoption of Act No. 2016-1110 of 8 December 2016 on the establishment, organization and functioning of commercial courts.</li> <li>• Decree No. 2016-781 of 12 October 2016 regulating the implementation of the Code of Civil, Commercial and Administrative Procedure Act (No. 72-833 of 21 December 1972) in respect of articles 27 to 31 on legal assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abolition of the Office of the President of the Supreme Council of Justice by the President of the Republic pursuant to article 145 of the Constitution of 8 November 2016.</li> <li>• Preparation of a preliminary bill on the organization of the Supreme Council of Justice.</li> <li>• Building of new courts.</li> <li>• Building of correction and detention centres.</li> <li>• Opening of local legal assistance offices in all trial courts.</li> </ul>

## 4. Impunity

127.25, 127.64, 127.85–86, 127.113–115, 127.118–124, 127.126–127, 127.133–139, 127.141–143.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Côte d'Ivoire ratified the Rome Statute on 15 February 2013 and it cooperates with the International Criminal Court.</li> <li>• Establishment of 32 gender desks in police stations with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the Embassy of the United States of America in Côte d'Ivoire.</li> <li>• Investigative procedures relating to all gross human rights abuses and violations committed during the post-election period opened on a confidential basis before Ivorian courts and the International Criminal Court.</li> <li>• The Constitution of 8 November 2016 guarantees an impartial and fair justice system through a strengthening of the separation of powers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order No. 020 of 24 June 2011 on the creation of a special investigation unit to examine the post-election crisis.</li> <li>• Broadening of the powers of the Special Inquiry Unit, which became the Special Inquiry and Investigation Unit in accordance with Decree No. 2013-915 of 30 December 2013 concerning the establishment of the Unit and its powers, composition and functioning.</li> </ul>
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**III. International instruments and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms**

## 1. Improved cooperation with treaty bodies

## (a) Signature, accession and ratification

127.1, 127.10, 127.12, 128.1.	Completed	<p>Côte d'Ivoire has ratified the main international instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 4 January 1973</li> <li>• Convention on the Rights of the Child, 4 February 1991</li> <li>• International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 26 March 1992</li> <li>• International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 26 March 1992</li> <li>• Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 18 December 1995</li> <li>• Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 18 December 1995</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceptible progress in implementation of commitments by Côte d'Ivoire to ratifying/acceding to international human rights instruments</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 10 January 2014</li> <li>• Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 15 February 2015</li> <li>• Maputo Protocol, 5 October 2011.</li> </ul>	
(b) Signature, accession and ratification			
127.6–9, 127.11, 127.13–14, 128.2.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of a memorandum with a view to ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.</li> <li>• Discussions regarding ratification of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.</li> <li>• Discussions regarding ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.</li> <li>• Discussions regarding ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.</li> </ul>	
(c) Special procedures and cooperation with treaty bodies			
127.91–94, 128.3.	Completed	<p>Cooperation with treaty bodies is reflected in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The submission of various reports during the reporting period.</li> <li>• The adoption of Decree No. 2017-303 of 17 May 2017 amending Decree No. 2001-365 of 27 June 2001 on the establishment of an interministerial committee to monitor implementation of international human rights instruments.</li> <li>• The opening of an office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in Abidjan.</li> <li>• Acceptance of various visits of special rapporteurs and independent experts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial report to the Human Rights Committee, 18 and 19 May 2015, Geneva (Switzerland).</li> <li>• Periodic report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 26 and 27 October 2016, Banjul (Gambia).</li> <li>• Report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, May 2017, Maseru (Lesotho)</li> <li>• Periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 29 November 2017.</li> <li>• Periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.</li> <li>• Establishment of the interministerial committee for the monitoring implementation of international human rights instruments.</li> </ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent experts Doudou Diène and Mohammed Ayat visited Côte d'Ivoire on several occasions and submitted reports on the human rights situation until the completion of the special procedure mandate in June 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Technical assistance</b>			
127.95	Completed	Strengthened cooperation of Côte d'Ivoire with bilateral and multilateral partners on human rights has made it possible to reach the targets set regarding the promotion and protection of those rights.	<p>Technical assistance from the European Union, the French Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Freedom House/ Côte d'Ivoire, United Nations system organizations, the National Democratic Institute, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Save the Children, UPR Info, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the International Service for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, ProJustice, Friedrich Neumann, the World Bank Group, the Embassies of France, the United States of America, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support from the International Organization of la Francophonie for the final drafting of the universal periodic review report.</li> </ul>

#### IV. Civil and political rights

##### 1. Right to life and the death penalty

127.8–9.	Completed	Côte d'Ivoire has not acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, but a provision on the abolition of the death penalty was included in the Constitution on 1 August 2000.
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##### 2. Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments or treatment and conditions of detention

127.2–5.	In progress	On 11 October 2017, the Government adopted a bill authorizing the President of the Republic to proceed with the accession of Côte d'Ivoire to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
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## 3. Administration of justice and fair trial

127.105–109, 127.128–132, 127.144–145, 127.156–157.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of a new Code of Criminal Procedure, 21 December 2018.</li> <li>• Circular No. 005/MJDH/CAB of 6 April 2017 concerning preventive detention.</li> <li>• Circular No. 018/MJ/CAB of 25 August 2016 concerning the functioning of prisons.</li> </ul>	<p>The new Code of Criminal Procedure introduces a number of innovations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New procedural mechanisms that strengthen the rights of the parties to proceedings</li> <li>• Alternative measures to imprisonment</li> <li>• Simplified criminal procedures</li> <li>• Reduction in procedural time limits</li> <li>• Measures to supervise police custody and preventive detention</li> <li>• Establishment of criminal courts to replace assize courts</li> <li>• Increased protection for minors</li> <li>• Refurbishment and construction of correction and detention centres in Korhogo, San Pedro, Guiglo and Sinfra</li> <li>• Improvements in the quality of the food and health care services provided to detainees</li> <li>• Increase in the amount allocated to food and health services for detainees (from 3 billion CFA francs in 2011 to 4 billion CFA francs in 2017)</li> <li>• Establishment of minors' quarters in detention facilities without such areas</li> <li>• Inauguration on 15 May 2014 of the Saliakro prison farm with a view to testing alternatives to imprisonment</li> <li>• Implementation of measures to facilitate care for victims of sexual violence</li> <li>• Determination of legal regimes and care arrangements for children in conflict with the law subject to an interim custody order or a committal order</li> <li>• Granting of collective pardons, sentence reductions and penalty remissions</li> <li>• Appointment of sentence enforcement judges.</li> </ul>
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## V. Economic, social and cultural rights

### 1. Right to food and access to drinking water/right to a healthy environment

127.169, 127.177.	Completed	Article 27 of Act No. 2016-886 of 8 November 2016 establishing the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire provides for monitoring and supervision by relevant environmental bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the extension of operations to decontaminate sites affected by the dumping of toxic waste from the Probo Koala in the district of Abidjan ordered on 14 September 2016 by the Government, a study conducted by UN-Environment experts found that the sites affected by toxic waste had been completely decontaminated.</li> <li>• Signing of an agreement with WESSLING laboratories (France) to analyse treated soil, subsoil, water (surface, wells and groundwater) and air.</li> <li>• Regarding the policy on access to drinking water in the period under review (National Development Plan 2012–2015), 794 pumping stations and 76 water towers were built and 11,446 hand-operated pumps underwent maintenance.</li> </ul>
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### 2. Poverty alleviation

127.49, 127.161, 127.170–176, 127.178.	In progress	Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project	<p>In 2015, Côte d'Ivoire implemented the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project. The aim of the Project, which has a budget of \$30 million, is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combat poverty</li> <li>• Promote women's empowerment and the demographic dividend.</li> <li>• The Project, which benefits from financing from the World Bank Group, allows women and young girls to have access to health and reproductive services.</li> <li>• It also aims to improve supply chains for maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition commodities.</li> <li>• The Project is part of the priority action plan "Support Programme for Poverty Reduction Millennium Development Goals".</li> </ul>
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Reintegration Project for Former Combatants	<p>The aim of the project is to provide support for the development of agricultural value chains in areas in the north of the country and the financing of income-generating activities for vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Project cost: 30 million units of account</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social cohesion</li> <li>• Reintegration of former combatants</li> <li>• Psychosocial support for conflict victims.</li> </ul>
Support programme to strengthen inclusion and social cohesion	<p>Greater rural land security through land delimitation (99 sub-prefectures and 1,771 districts to be delimited).</p> <p>Implementation of the National Development Programme (2012–2015), culminating in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of the first major infrastructure projects under the plan to achieve emerging country status by 2020 (350 km stretch of the northern motorway, the Riviera 2 interchange and the Henri Konan, Bouaflé and Jacquerville bridges).</li> </ul>
National Development Plan 2012–2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 5,000 km of rural roads upgraded</li> <li>• Increase in the number of jobs in the formal sector from 722,567 in 2012 to 756,597 in 2013 and 799,890 in 2014.</li> <li>• These achievements are the result of efforts to find solutions to youth unemployment.</li> <li>• Construction of 9,291 primary school classrooms and 3,500 secondary school classrooms and 45 secondary schools</li> <li>• The completion of the above-mentioned building projects and the recruitment of supervisors has led to an increase in school places.</li> <li>• Increase in primary school admission rates (from 73.4 per cent in 2008 to 97.8 per cent in 2014). Increase in school enrolment rates (from 76.2 per cent to 94.7 per cent during the same period).</li> </ul>

- Construction of various health facilities, including Bingerville Mother and Child Hospital, Angré University Hospital, Gagnoa General Hospital, Saint Jean-Baptiste Hospital in Tiassalé, Adjamé General Hospital, Saint Joseph Moscati Hospital in Yamoussoukro, the Cocody Radiotherapy Centre, the Nuclear Medicine Centre and the Mohamed V Multisectoral Centre in Yopougon.
- Refurbishment, equipping and upgrading of various first-contact, referral and community health centres.
- Implementation of exemption from health-care costs for pregnant women and children under 5.
- Free malaria treatment (increase in the number of visits to health facilities, from 19 per cent in 2010 to 50 per cent in 2016).
- Access to drinking water (794 pumping stations and 76 water towers built and 11,446 hand-operated pumps maintained).
- Increase in the storage capacity of the reservoir at the Abidjan water treatment plant, which now has a capacity of 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- The work carried out has significantly improved access to water.
- 71 social housing building projects started throughout the country with a view to eventually delivering 150,000 new housing units.
- 3,060 hectares set aside for the social and economic housing programme for the period 2015–2020.

		National Development Plan 2016–2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some 800 localities in rural areas connected to the electricity distribution network.</li> <li>• Reduction in the cost of social tariffs for electricity.</li> <li>• Private sector investments (energy, mining, oil, coffee/cacao production facilities) for the period 2012–2014, amounting to 4,669 billion CFA francs, as against a predicted level of 3,946 billion CFA francs, i.e. a delivery rate of 118.3 per cent.</li> </ul>
		Implementation of the Productive Social Safety Net Project	35,000 vulnerable households benefit from cash transfers and support as a pathway out of poverty.
3. Right to education			
127.163–165.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Constitution of 8 November 2016 enshrine the right to quality education.</li> <li>• Act No. 2015-635 of 17 September amending the Education Act, No. 95-696, of 7 September 1995.</li> <li>• Decree No. 2014-678 of 5 November 2014 on the organization of the Ministry of National Education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act No. 2017-150 of 1 March 2017 on the organization of the Ministry of National Education, Technical Education and Vocational Training.</li> <li>• Order No. 0112 ENET/CAB of 24 December 2014 on the establishment, organization and functioning of the Working Group on the protection of children in the school environment.</li> </ul>
4. Right to health			
127.154–155.	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of a national family planning action plan.</li> <li>• Implementation of the National Maternal and Child Health Programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented since 2015. The objective is to raise the contraceptive prevalence rate from 13.9 per cent to 36 per cent by 2020.</li> <li>• Proposal for a ministerial order requiring public health-care service providers to furnish medical certificates free of charge.</li> <li>• Strengthening of children's right to health through free targeted care.</li> <li>• Since 2016, expansion of the target population of the National School and University Health Programme, which became the National School and University Health Programme for Adolescents and Youth (Order No. 888/MSHP/CAB of 16 December 2016) in order to allow children attending school to receive free treatment.</li> </ul>

## VI. Rights of specific groups

### 1. Women's rights and gender perspective

127.32–42,  
127.52–55,  
127.58, 127.60–62,  
127.66–67,  
127.82, 127.97–102,  
127.159.

In progress

In accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Maputo Protocol, Côte d'Ivoire has developed:

- A national gender policy, since 2009
- A national programme to combat the practice of excision
- National programmes for the empowerment of women
- An action plan for implementation of resolution 1325, peace and security
- A national agricultural land policy on women's access to land.
- Articles 35, 36 and 37 of the Constitution of 8 November 2016 enshrining the protection and promotion of women's rights
- The Rural Land Act of 23 December 1998 (No. 98-750), as modified by Act No. 2004-412 of 14 August 2004 and Act No. 2013-655 of 13 September 2013.
- Act No. 2013-33 of 25 January 2013 repealing article 53 and amending articles 58, 59, 60 and 67 of Act No. 64-375 of 7 October 1964 on marriage, as amended by Act No. 83-800 of 2 August 1983.
- Act No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 on the punishment of certain forms of violence against women.
- Drafting of a bill against gender-based violence.
- A national strategy to promote the employment of vulnerable sectors of the population.

- Construction and commissioning of a hospital for mothers and children in Bingerville, 16 March 2018.

- Establishment of gender units in all ministerial bodies and departments.
- Establishment of the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children pursuant to Decree No. 2000-133 of 23 February 2000 with a budget of 14 million CFA francs.
- Celebration of 16 days of activism against violence against women.
- Establishment of 55 platforms against gender-based violence.
- Technical and financial support to organize civil society to combat genital mutilation.
- Legal, psychological and social assistance for victims.
- Support for NGOs assisting victims of sexual violence.
- Monitoring cases of sexual violence against women.
- Amended Criminal Code defines rape and establishes punishments for domestic violence.
- Circular No. 015-MJ/CAB of 13 July 2016 concerning the punishment of rape.
- Establishment of gender desks in 32 police stations with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the Embassy of the United States of America in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Establishment of the Equity and Gender Observatory.
- Creation of the National Women's Council in March 2015.
- African Women Leaders Network, Côte d'Ivoire section, 2018.
- Conviction on 16 July 2017 of five practitioners of female circumcision in Danané.

- Conviction in Man of five practitioners of female circumcision, three on 27 July 2017 and two on 1 February 2018.
- Statement by the Ivorian Government denouncing and deploring the situation of 14 young girl victims of female genital mutilation in Adiaké on 31 August 2018.
- Establishment of the Compendium of Women's Skills.
- Women's Fund, with a budget of 500 million.
- Côte d'Ivoire Women's Support Fund, with a budget in excess of 10 billion CFA francs.
- Establishment of 119 training and education establishments for women
- Ongoing overhaul of training and education establishments for women in order to take account of the needs of the job market and digital literacy techniques.
- Incubation centres for women entrepreneurs, including the Attécoubé centre inaugurated in November 2017.
- Elaboration of structural programmes regarding the development of shea, cashew and manioc food value chains.
- Commitment undertaken by the Head of State in November 2017 regarding the HeForShe Campaign.
- Implementation of projects and programmes of activities for women, as part of the National Employment Policy 2016–2020.
- One such project is the project for the integration of vulnerable sectors of the population, which enables the creation of income-generating activities, in partnership with UNACOOPEC-CI.
- A growing number of groups are being established to increase women's participation in decision-making, including the Réseau Ivoirien des Organisations Féminines (Ivorian Network of Women's Organizations) ((RIOF) and the Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWECO).



## 2. Rights of the child

127.43–44, 127.87,  
127.96, 127.110–112,  
127.152, 127.165.

In progress

- National Child Protection Policy
- Statelessness Action Plan
- Programme for the protection of vulnerable children and adolescents established in 2005.
- National Programme for HIV/AIDS Orphans and Vulnerable Children, established pursuant to Decree No. 2003-383 of 9 October 2003.
- Act No. 2014-806 of 16 December 2014 authorizing the President of the Republic to ratify the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, adopted at The Hague on 29 May 1993.
- Act No. 2015-635 of 17 September 2015 amending the Education Act, No. 95-696, of 7 September 1995.
- Act No. 2016-1111 of 8 December 2016 on the suppression of trafficking in persons.
- Act No. 2010-272 of 30 September 2010 prohibiting the trafficking of children and the worst forms of child labour in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Act No. 2014-137 of 24 March 2014 on the status of wards of the nation in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Act No. 2015-539 on the status of wards of the State.
- Act No. 2018-863 of 19 November 2018 on the establishment of a special procedure for registering births, restoring identity and transcribing birth certificates.

- The representation of women in the main institutions is as follows:

Parliament (11 per cent), Government (18 per cent), Economic and Social Council (30 per cent), heads of diplomatic missions (13 per cent), regional councillors (11.33 per cent), municipal councillors (14.97 per cent), Senate (11 per cent), traditional kings and chiefs – 8 women out of 8,000 (1 per cent).

- Decree No.2016-1103 of 7 December 2016 concerning the establishment of a multisectoral committee to combat the problem of children in situations of social exclusion.

Construction of:

- Social reintegration centres in Dabou and M'Bahiakro
- Educational centres (Man, Korhogo, Bouaké)
- Reception centre for victims of sexual violence
- Reception centre for child victims of trafficking and exploitation in Soubré, inaugurated by the First Lady on 7 June 2018.
- Decree No. 2014-8007 of 16 December 2014 on the ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, adopted on 29 May 1993 at The Hague.
- Establishment of the “116” helpline.
- Organization of a campaign to promote civil registration targeting 1,156,000 primary school pupils.
- Decree No. 2017-227 of 13 April 2017 establishing the powers, composition, organization and functioning of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons.
- Decree No. 2014-290 of 21 May concerning procedures for the implementation of Act No. 2010-272 of 30 September 2010 on the prohibition of child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of an interministerial committee to address statelessness.</li> <li>• Two police operations (NAWA and AKOMA) carried out in the cocoa producing region to combat trafficking and the worst forms of child labour.</li> <li>• In 2015, a total of 22 persons were arrested and brought before the courts.</li> </ul>
3. Internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers		
127.167–168	In progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signing in 2015 of five tripartite agreements with countries hosting Ivorian refugees (Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Mali and Guinea).</li> <li>• Establishment of reintegration mechanisms for refugees who return voluntarily.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 July 2018: return to Côte d'Ivoire of 280,000 Ivorian refugees out of the 300,000 identified in 2011 in all host countries by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.</li> <li>• 31 January 2019: return to Côte d'Ivoire of 54 refugees, including some leaders of the Laurent Gbagbo regime.</li> <li>• Reintegration of 5,647 refugee children into the Ivorian school system through equivalence mechanisms.</li> <li>• Definitive settlement of 1,267 cases, out of a total of 1,825, of arbitrary occupation of private property.</li> <li>• Reinstatement in the civil service of 48 senior officials close to the former regime before the Amnesty Ordinance of 6 August 2018.</li> <li>• “Come and Tell” and “Go and See” awareness-raising visits undertaken in various refugee camps between 2015 and 2018.</li> </ul>
	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act No. 98-594 of 10 November 1998 on guidance for persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Act No. 2016-1111 of 8 December 2016 on the suppression of trafficking in persons.</li> <li>• National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities.</li> <li>• National Social Protection Strategy 2017–2020.</li> <li>• Preparation of a five-year action plan (2016–2020) to combat trafficking in persons, together with a national strategy.</li> <li>• Recruitment support programme for persons with disabilities in private establishments.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project for the integration of vulnerable sectors of the population (Ministry of Employment and Social Protection in partnership with UNACOOPEC-CI).</li> <li>• Financing of 5 collective projects and 10 individual projects for vulnerable persons.</li> <li>• Implementation of a project to enhance employability at a total cost of 140.25 million, financed by the Vocational Training Development Fund, for 304 persons with disabilities during the first quarter of 2018.</li> <li>• Recruitment of 11 persons with albinism into the public service in 2015 on the basis of special regulations.</li> </ul>

- Employment promotion for persons with disabilities.
- Policy for the protection of the rights of persons with albinism.
- Promotion of the rights of older persons.
- Preparation of a compendium of skills of persons with disabilities.
- Awareness-raising campaigns on the rights of persons with albinism.
- Establishment of the “142” helpline for reporting all abuses and violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- National support project for older persons included in public investment projects, 2018–2020.
- Recruitment of 300 persons with disabilities to the Côte d’Ivoire public service in 2015 on the basis of special regulations and a further 158 recruited on 8 December 2017.
- Adoption on 9 May 2018 of a decree on the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector in Côte d’Ivoire.

## **X. Cooperation with the international community in the framework of follow-up of the recommendations and commitments resulting from the universal periodic review**

77. With regard to technical assistance, Côte d’Ivoire has benefited from enhanced cooperation with technical and financial partners that has enabled it to achieve the goals set with a view to promoting and protecting human rights.<sup>21</sup>

78. The Government has cooperated closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights through the Human Rights and Protection Division of the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire, which has provided support for:

- Drafting the midterm report on implementation of the recommendations of the second cycle of the universal periodic review
- Organizing various training and capacity-building sessions between 2014 and 2018

## **XI. Progress and best practices**

79. The Government of Côte d’Ivoire has displayed a genuine commitment to promoting and protecting human rights through:

- The adoption of a new law governing the National Human Rights Council in accordance with the Paris Principles
- The distribution of National Human Rights Council annual reports on the situation of human rights in Côte d’Ivoire
- The establishment, on 10 July 2018, of a State secretariat for human rights
- The preparation of training manuals and collections of international and regional human rights law

## **XII. Difficulties and constraints**

80. In implementing the recommendations made, Côte d’Ivoire has encountered a number of difficulties and constraints:

- Poor mobilization of both domestic and international resources to contribute to poverty reduction
- Sociocultural factors that affect the promotion of the rights of women and the fight against harmful practices
- Lack of training of State and non-State actors working in the human rights field
- Weak institutional and normative human rights framework governing State and non-State actors working in the human rights field
- Inadequate funding of the National Support Programme for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

### **XIII. Expectations in terms of capacity-building and technical assistance**

81. In the light of the challenges associated with the consolidation of the rule of law and the strengthening of social cohesion, the authorities require technical assistance to enable them to continue their efforts to promote and protect human rights, draft reports within the allotted time frames and implement the recommendations of the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review.

82. The National Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations deserve particular attention with regard to capacity-building and technical assistance in view of the role they are called upon to play in promoting and protecting human rights.

### **XIV. Conclusion**

83. Côte d'Ivoire accepted 181 of the 186 recommendations made during the previous universal periodic review, thereby demonstrating its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

84. Accordingly, the international community is called upon to increase support for Côte d'Ivoire in its efforts to further mainstream human rights in public policies; such projects will have to be accompanied by a proper plan for the dissemination of a human rights culture and education among the public as a whole.

85. This means paying particular attention to mobilizing the resources necessary for the promotion and protection of human rights.

#### *Notes*

- <sup>1</sup> Se référer aux rapports et recommandations issus de la 19<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme du 29 avril 2014.
- <sup>2</sup> Recommandations 127.1, 127.11, 128.1, 127.1.
- <sup>3</sup> Recommandations 127.6–7, 127.10.
- <sup>4</sup> Recommandations 127.13 et 128.2.
- <sup>5</sup> Recommandation 127.4.
- <sup>6</sup> Recommandations 127.15–18, 127.19–24, 127.29, 127.31.
- <sup>7</sup> Le manuel de directives techniques pour la planification de la construction de prison des Nations Unies.
- <sup>8</sup> Recommandations 127.105–109, 127.128–132, 127.144–145, 127.156–157.
- <sup>9</sup> Recommandations 127.90, 127.146–148, 127.151.
- <sup>10</sup> Recommandation 127.89.
- <sup>11</sup> Recommandations 127.25, 127.64, 127.85–86, 127.113–115, 127.118–124, 127.133–139, 127.141–143.
- <sup>12</sup> Recommandations 127.25–127.28.
- <sup>13</sup> Recommandations 127.8–9.
- <sup>14</sup> Recommandations 127.169, 127.177.
- <sup>15</sup> Recommandations 127.163–165.
- <sup>16</sup> Recommandations 127.49, 127.161, 127.170–176 et 127.178.

- <sup>17</sup> Recommendations 127.32–42, 127.52–55, 127.58, 127.60–62, 127.66–67, 127.82, 127.97–102 et 127.159.
- <sup>18</sup> Recommendations 127.43–44, 127.87, 127.96, 127.110–112, 127.152 et 127.165.
- <sup>19</sup> Recommendations 127.67–68.
- <sup>20</sup> Recommendations 127.31, 127.103–104.
- <sup>21</sup> Recommendations 127.95.
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