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National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Chad

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

A. Background

1. This report is being published in a context marked by the death of the President of the Republic of Chad, Idriss Deby Itno, on 20 April 2021, as a result of a military offensive initiated by a rebel group that had been followed by a period of transition, the organization of a consultation process known as Inclusive National Dialogue and the adoption of a road map and a charter setting forth the main priorities of the transition.

2. In November 2018, the Government of Chad submitted its national report on the general situation of human rights in the country for the third cycle of the universal periodic review, in accordance with United Nations resolution 60/251 establishing the Human Rights Council. The review, which was conducted during the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, resulted in 204 recommendations being made, of which 195 were accepted and 9 were noted.

3. To facilitate the implementation of these recommendations, the Government of Chad formulated a follow-up plan with the support of the Country Office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

4. This report recounts progress made in implementing the recommendations made during the universal periodic review in the period 2018–2023. It also describes the measures taken in response to the recommendations and decisions resulting from the Inclusive National Dialogue that took place from 20 August to 8 October 2022.

B. Process and methodology for the preparation of the report

5. The report was prepared using a participatory, inclusive methodology coordinated by the Interministerial Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments. This Committee, which is overseen by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, is composed of representatives of the various ministries, the principal State institutions (namely the National Transitional Council, the National Human Rights Commission, the Audiovisual and Telecommunications Authority and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council) and civil society organizations.

II. Status of implementation of previous recommendations

6. The 195 recommendations accepted during the review of the aforementioned report are divided into three categories: recommendations implemented, recommendations in the process of being implemented and recommendations pending.

A. Recommendations implemented

Signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (recommendation No. 8)

7. Chad ratified the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child – the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography – on 28 August 2012. The Government has submitted both initial reports.

Continuing constructive collaboration with human rights bodies, mechanisms and relevant special procedures mandate holders (recommendations No. 24, 25, 26 and 27)

8. The Government continues to cooperate with the treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and the special procedures mandate holders. It submitted the following periodic reports to the secretariats of the relevant committees in the period covered by this report:

- On 21 August 2020, periodic report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the review of which is at the planning stage
- In 2023, periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the review of which at the planning stage
- On 13 September 2018, periodic report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was reviewed, with recommendations issued, in November 2022. A new report to this Committee is now due.

9. The Government of Chad extended a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders on 12 June 2012. As a result, the country has received two visits, one from the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice, in December 2017, and one from the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights, in April 2018.

Implementation of recommendations from the second universal periodic review and acceleration of the ratification process for recommended conventions (recommendation No. 22)

10. The Government has formulated and adopted a plan for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from the universal periodic review that encompasses the recommendations from the second cycle.

Open, merit-based process for the selection of national candidates for election to United Nations human rights treaty body (recommendation No. 21)

11. The Government of Chad is aware of the importance of putting forward competitive candidates and has already taken action to this end. Its commitment to the process resulted in the appointment, in November 2020, of Ms. Zara Ratou, formerly the Director of Child Protection at the Ministry of Women, the Family and Child Protection, to serve as an independent expert on the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Harmonization of national legislation with ratified international instruments (recommendations No. 28, 33, 37, 46, 70, 71, 72, 85, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 129, 142, 144, 148, 154, 157, 158, 163, 164, 169, 184 and 186)

12. Having demonstrated its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights by ratifying a number of conventions, the Government has transposed these conventions into the domestic legal order, harmonizing domestic and international provisions in the process. The conventions concerned are:

- The Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (arts. 18 and 19 of the Constitution of 14 December 2020, arts. 323 and 324 of the Criminal Code and the entirety of Act No. 012/PR/2018 of 20 June 2018, ratifying Ordinance No. 006/PR/2018 of 30 March 2018 on combating the trafficking of persons in the Republic of Chad)
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (art.286 (1) of the Criminal Code in force)
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (art. 370 of the Criminal Code in force)
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (arts. 362, 363, 364 of the Criminal Code in force)
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- The ILO Minimum Age (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 5)
- The ILO Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6)

- The ILO Minimum Age (Non-Industrial Employment) Convention, 1932 (No. 33). These ILO conventions have been transposed into national legislation through the provisions of articles 52 (1) and (2) and 206 of the Labour Code of Chad (Act No. 38/PR/96 of 11 December 1996) and Decree No. 55/PR-MJTS-DTMOPS of 8 February 1969, on child labour, as amended.

13. The Government has embarked on a raft of amendments to the national legal framework, including, in particular, to legislation on discrimination against women and adultery.

14. The provisions of article 385 of the Criminal Code, which makes adultery a criminal offence carrying a prison sentence, are not specific to women and accordingly cannot be considered discriminatory against women.

Amendment of the Press Act in order to guarantee full enjoyment of the relevant freedoms (recommendation No. 86)

15. With a view to guaranteeing freedom of the press, the Government intends to amend the Press Act in the near future to ensure the full enjoyment of the relevant freedoms. The Government has already promulgated Act No. 031 of 3 December 2018, ratifying Ordinance No. 025 of 29 June 2018, regulating the written press and electronic media in Chad, and Act No. 020/PR/2019 of 10 January 2019, on audiovisual communication.

Amendment of Ordinance No. 45/62, on public gatherings, and Decree No.193/62, on demonstrations on public roads, to bring them into line with international law and standards concerning freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (recommendation No. 90)

16. Freedom to demonstrate is recognized and the exercise of this right is guaranteed under article 28 of the Constitution of 14 December 2020. The Government will make every effort to ensure that Ordinance No. 45/62, on public meetings, and Decree No. 193/62, on demonstrations on public roads, are amended to bring them into line with international law and standards concerning freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

17. Government communiqué No. 041 of 7 May 2021, authorizing marches and demonstrations on public roads, has already reaffirmed this commitment.

18. Specifically, in response to this recommendation, the following ordinances have repealed the provisions of the aforementioned Ordinance and Decree: Ordinance No. 008/PT/2023 of 1 August 2023, on the state of emergency; Ordonnance No. 009/PT/2023 of 1 August 2023, on assemblies; Ordonnance No. 010/PT/2023 of 1 August 2023, on public gatherings; and Ordonnance No. 011/PT/2023 of 1 August 2023, on demonstrations on public roads.

Stepping up the implementation of policies and measures for the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law in order to ensure the effective enjoyment of human rights in these areas, in line with articles 19 and 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (recommendation No. 34)

19. The Government has developed a number of policies and adopted various measures to consolidate democracy and the rule of law and thus guarantee the full exercise of human rights. For example, a national framework for consultation between political parties was established by Decree No. 0446/PT/PMT/MATDBG/2023 of 20 March 2023 and the following institutions, all of which should contribute to the restoration of the constitutional order, have been created: the Independent National Electoral Commission, in December 2020; the Permanent Elections Office and the National Human Rights Commission, in November 2018; and the new National Commission for the Organization of Constitutional Referendums, in 2023.

20. In pursuit of the same ends, recommendations aimed at improving the human rights situation and strengthening democracy and the rule of law were adopted at the National Human Rights Forum held in N'Djaména from 27–29 April 2022. Prior to the start of the Forum, pre-meetings were organized in the regions to ascertain the concerns of the general

public in the field of human rights. The recommendations resulting from the Forum were discussed during the Inclusive National Dialogue.

21. It is important to bear in mind that these efforts were made in parallel with the organization of the presidential election in April 2021. The legislative and local elections scheduled for October 2021 and March 2022 could not take place as the preparations were suspended following the death of the President on 20 April 2021.

Continuing efforts to combat terrorism (recommendations No. 53, 54, 55 and 56)

22. At the national level, legislation has been adopted, including, notably, Act No. 03/PR/2020 of 20 May 2020, on the prevention of acts of terrorism in the Republic of Chad. For greater efficiency, the Government has established judicial pools specialized in this area.

23. At the regional level, the Government has deployed troops in Mali within the framework of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and the Group of Five for the Sahel. It has also taken part in operations of the multinational counter-terrorism force within the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and in operations in Cameroon and Nigeria as part of the fight against Boko Haram.

24. In Central Africa, the Task Force on Money-Laundering in Central Africa, which is a body of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, has been working to address the vulnerability of non-profit organizations and the financing of terrorism.

Measures taken to improve the living conditions of detainees, especially women (recommendations No. 73 and 74)

25. To improve living conditions for detainees, particularly women, the Government has made every effort to bring the country's prisons into line with standards. The Kléssoum prison in N'Djaména, which is built to international standards, opened in 2020. The prisons in Bol, Massakory, Bokoro, Abéché, Mao, Lai and Sarh have been renovated. These structural improvements all help to improve conditions of detention. For the transportation of detainees, two modern vans have been purchased as well as a bus that is used to transport children in conflict with the law.

26. To promote social reintegration, various training programmes have been introduced for detainees in general, including courses in carpentry, literacy, handicrafts and sewing. Particular emphasis has been placed on training women to work with local products, especially in Koumra and Moundou.

Establishment of mechanisms for monitoring the application of arrest and detention procedures and measure to ensure that detainees have access to a lawyer of their choice (recommendations No. 83 and 97)

27. Mindful of its international obligations, the Government of Chad has taken legislative and administrative steps to protect persons from arbitrary arrest and detention. To strengthen due process of law, it promulgated the Legal Aid and Legal Assistance Act (No. 021/PR/2019) on 15 April 2019. On the administrative front, BIOSIS software was installed in detention facilities in 2020 to allow for the application of arrest and detention procedures to be monitored. To date, 225 prison administrators and supervisors have been trained to use this software.

28. The Minister of Justice and Human Rights has issued several circulars for officers of the justice system. The most recently issued circular of 2023 regulates the use of stop-and-search procedures and establishes applicable safeguards.

Strengthening the development of the rural sector, as well as food and nutrition security (recommendations No. 117 and 118)

29. To strengthen rural development and food and nutrition security, the Government has awarded farmers subsidies towards the cost of tractors and other agricultural inputs. It increased the total area of cultivated land relative to total easily irrigated land from 48,000 hectares in 2016 to 4,665,953 hectares in 2020 and has implemented the Regional

Support Project for the Sahel Irrigation Initiative (PARIIS), which helped to increase agricultural production from 3,000,000 tons in 2016 to 6,365,064 tons in 2020. It has built micro-dams to store water for agriculture and livestock, increasing their number from 27 in 2018 to 127 in 2019, as well as livestock stations, with an increase in number from 49 in 2018 to 52 in 2019, livestock wells, with an increase in number from 4,314 in 2018 to 4,341 in 2019, and vaccination parks.

30. With the creation of the National Agency for Rural Development Aid, a specialized body created through the merger of three agencies, namely the National Office for Rural Development, the Lake Chad Development Company and the National Food Security Programme, pursuant to Act No. N°035/PR/2016 of 31 December 2016, as amended by Act No. 004/PR/2020 of 26 May 2020, the Government of Chad took an important step towards improving the rural sector and food security. The new agency's Food and Nutrition Security Support Programme has trained groups of agricultural producers and provided them with the means to increase production. The Government also adopted the National Investment Plan for the Rural Sector in Chad, the total cost of which, in the period 2016–2022, has been estimated at CFAF 2,431.744 billion. Financing needs are essentially concentrated on the infrastructure and equipment investment programme, that is, on major structural investments, but also on the area of food and nutrition security.

31. A 2019–2023 strategic plan for the country was drawn up with the support of the World Food Programme and is now being extended. The plan takes account of the cross-cutting issues of gender equality and women's empowerment, protection and responsibility towards affected population groups.

Legislative measures adopted to increase equitable access to sexual and reproductive health in development and egalitarian environments (recommendation No. 129)

32. To guarantee more equitable and equal access to sexual and reproductive health, the Government adopted the Universal Health Coverage Act (No. 035/PR/2019), the aim of which is to facilitate access to health-care services at lower cost. This Act rounded out the existing legal framework, consisting of the Reproductive Health Act (No. 06/PR/2006) and its implementing decree No. 2121/PR/2020.

33. As a prelude to the adoption of the Universal Health Coverage Act, on 24 April 2019, the Ministry of Health organized an information day for deputies concerning the introduction of universal health coverage.

Continuing measures to prohibit corporal punishment against children under all circumstances (recommendation No. 187)

34. Corporal punishment is prohibited in all State primary schools. To support this prohibition, article 307 of the Criminal Code establishes a prison term of between 5 and 30 years, depending on the circumstances, for attacks on physical integrity. To raise awareness, a number of training workshops on the prohibition of corporal punishment of children have been organized for Qur'anic teachers.

B. Recommendations in the course of being implemented

Adoption of the Personal and Family Code (recommendations No. 28, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115)

35. To better protect and promote the rights of individuals and the family, participants in the National Inclusive Dialogue held from 20 August to 8 October 2022 recommended that the draft Personal and Family Code should be reviewed. Accordingly, by Order No. 7124 of 11 July 2023, the Transitional Prime Minister established a commission to conduct the review. Views and beliefs from across the country's political and social spectrum are represented among the members of the commission, which will issue its observations before the deadline set for the next stage.

Adoption of the Child Protection Code (recommendation No. 114)

36. As part of its policy for promoting and protecting the rights of the child, the Government has formulated a draft children's code. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Gender and National Solidarity, the draft was reviewed at a workshop held on 14 and 15 June 2023.

Drafting and adoption of a law protecting human rights defenders against arbitrary arrest and intimidation and supporting their work, in line with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (recommendation No. 85)

37. Conscious of the importance of protecting human rights defenders against arbitrary arrest and acts of intimidation, the Government has drawn up a preliminary draft law on the protection of human rights defenders that will be submitted for expert approval and circulated among stakeholders prior to its adoption and is in line with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Pursuit of appropriate policies for making Chad an emerging country by 2030 (recommendation No. 30)

38. To further the implementation of appropriate policies for transforming Chad into an emerging country by 2030, the Government has formulated a strategy entitled "Vision 2030, the Chad we want" (Vision 2030, le Tchad que nous voulons) and the country's first National Development Plan, covering the period 2017–2021.

39. To ensure the effective implementation of these policies, two technical directorates have been created within the Ministry of Planning to take charge of monitoring and evaluating the 2017–2021 National Development Plan and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Continuing efforts to build upon social programmes to increase the living standards of the country's people, in particular the most needy, with the international assistance and cooperation that the country requires (recommendation No. 116)

40. To strengthen social programmes and improve standards of living, particularly among the most disadvantaged segments of the population, the Government launched a number of initiatives, including social safety net programmes that provide help for needy households in the form of cash transfers. The latter programmes have now been replaced by the Refugees and Host Communities Support Project, operating in the regions of Logone Oriental, Lac, Ouaddaï, Moyen Chari and Mandoul, which has the same objectives but a wider area of application that includes areas hosting refugees.

41. Because of their cross-cutting nature, social welfare needs are taken into account in the policies for various sectors, including, first and foremost, the education, health and nutrition, employment and social security sectors. The Government of Chad has developed strategic instruments addressing specific social welfare needs set forth in the 2016–2020 National Social Protection Strategy. These include:

- The National Gender Policy
- The Protection for Persons with Disabilities Act (implementing decree issued in 2019)
- The Strategic Plan for Ageing (2017–2021)

42. The Government implements its social welfare policies through ministerial departments and autonomous agencies placed under the oversight of different ministries. Sector-specific social welfare objectives are included within the remit of certain ministries. The main areas falling within the competency of specific ministerial departments include social security, microcredit, small trades and vocational training, the fight against child malnutrition, food security, reproductive health, access to water and sanitation, the rights of vulnerable people and housing.

43. Chad has a number of autonomous agencies with responsibilities for social welfare issues, the principal ones, and the activities for which they are responsible, being:

- The National Pension Fund, responsible for managing the pensions of retired civil servants and military officers
- The National Office for the Promotion of Employment, which has trained 200 persons with disabilities and granted CFAF 127 million in loans
- The National Support Office for Young Persons and Sport, an agency with legal personality and financial autonomy
- The National Food Security Office, which distributed 1,000 tons of cereals to disaster victims and the needy in 2022 and 2023 combined

44. The Government's efforts to meet social welfare needs are supported by the following multilateral technical and financial partners: the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration. The Government also has the support of bilateral partners including the Agence Française de Développement, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the United States Agency for International Development and SWISSAID.

45. Some of these partners support the Government by providing technical and financial assistance (grants and project loans) in specific areas such as child protection, maternal and child health, education, care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, care for refugees and displaced persons and, especially, the formulation of indicators for monitoring living conditions.

46. Other partners work directly with needy population groups through targeted action such as food distribution, cash transfers, the provision of basic social services (health, education, water and sanitation), support for community organizations working to support vulnerable groups (women, young people, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS) and the fight against poverty (Act No. 04/PR/2020, creating the National Solidarity Fund).

47. International non-governmental organizations (NGOs) including World Vision, Médecins sans Frontières Netherlands, Médecins sans Frontières Switzerland, Médecins sans Frontières France, Action against Hunger and Oxfam as well as national NGOs and humanitarian and development organizations are also key stakeholders in the implementation of strategies for protecting vulnerable groups. These partners usually work directly with the beneficiaries, as described above.

Strengthening the development of the rural sector, as well as food and nutrition security (recommendation No. 117 and 118)

48. To strengthen rural development and food and nutrition security, the Government has awarded farmers subsidies towards the cost of tractors and other agricultural inputs. It increased the total area of cultivated land relative to total easily irrigated land from 48,000 hectares in 2016 to 4,665,953 hectares in 2020 and has implemented the Regional Support Project for the Sahel Irrigation Initiative (PARIIS), which helped to increase agricultural production from 3,000,000 tons in 2016 to 6,365,064 tons in 2020. It has built micro-dams to store water for agriculture and livestock, increasing their number from 27 in 2018 to 127 in 2019, as well as livestock stations, with an increase in number from 49 in 2018 to 52 in 2019, livestock wells, with an increase in number from 4,314 in 2018 to 4,341 in 2019, and vaccination parks.

49. With the creation of the National Agency for Rural Development Aid, a specialized body created through the merger of three agencies, namely the National Office for Rural Development, the Lake Chad Development Company and the National Food Security Programme, pursuant to Act No. 035/PR/2016 of 31 December 2016, as amended by Act No. 004/PR/2020 of 26 May 2020, the Government of Chad took an important step towards improving the rural sector and food security. The new agency's Food and Nutrition Security Support Programme has trained groups of agricultural producers and provided them with the

means to increase production. The Government also adopted the National Investment Plan for the Rural Sector in Chad, the total cost of which, in the period 2016–2022, has been estimated at CFAF 2,431.744 billion. Financing needs are essentially concentrated on the infrastructure and equipment investment programme, that is, on major structural investments, but also on the area of food and nutrition security.

50. A 2019–2023 strategic plan for the country was drawn up with the support of the World Food Programme and is now being extended. The plan takes account of the cross-cutting issues of gender equality and women’s empowerment, protection and responsibility towards affected population groups.

**Continuing efforts to combat poverty, inequalities and social exclusion
(recommendation No. 119, 120, 121, 122 and 123)**

51. To combat poverty, inequalities and exclusion, through the Refugees and Host Communities Support Project, the Government of Chad and its partner the World Bank are working to ensure that refugees and host communities have access to basic services, livelihoods and social safety nets (2019).

52. In 2022, the Government of Chad implemented a cash transfer programme in N’Djamena as part of the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with technical and financial support from the Sahel Adaptive Social Protection Program (SASPP). Funding from SASPP was used to provide emergency cash transfers for 22,000 vulnerable households, which were transferred electronically via mobile phone. SASPP has also provided technical and financial support for a new adaptive response to help 14,000 new Cameroonian refugees and 9,000 households in their host communities in and around N’Djamena.

53. In addition, 42 per cent of the total cost of implementing the 2017–2021 National Development Plan, that is, an amount of CFAF 2,327,400,000, is being allocated to the fourth area of the Plan, corresponding to social protection policy. This demonstrates the importance that the Government attaches to improving the living conditions of the country’s population.

Improvements in access to drinking water and cooperation with bilateral and international partners towards this end (recommendation No. 124)

54. Continuing its efforts to improve access to drinking water for all, the Government commissioned the construction of 15,987 hand-operated pumps and 703 drinking water supply systems in 2019, increasing the rate of access to drinking water from 65 per cent of the population in 2018 to 66.50 per cent in 2019.

55. The Government has received additional funding in the amount of CFAF 5 billion (over €7.6 million) to implement the Semi-Urban and Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme. The funding was granted by the Global Environment Facility through its implementing agency, the African Development Bank. The funding agreement was signed on 20 January 2023 by the representative of the African Development Bank in Chad and the Minister of Economic Planning and International Partnerships. The funds allocated by the Global Environment Facility will make it possible to build a number of drinking water and sanitation facilities in Chad, specifically, 48 small-scale drinking water supply systems, partially powered by solar energy, in semi-urban centres and large grouped villages.

56. The African Development Bank estimates that the Programme will eventually benefit over 2 million people, 54 per cent of them women. According to the Bank, in 2021, barely 53 per cent of the country’s population had access to drinking water. The Government is continuing its efforts to achieve universal and equitable access to drinking water and hygiene and sanitation services by 2030.

Introduction of performance-based and results-oriented management in the health-care system in order to attain the goal of eradicating poliomyelitis and to increase immunization coverage (recommendation No. 126)

57. While more than 3.3 million children have been vaccinated against polio in Chad (one of the best levels of immunization in Africa) and Africa was declared free of wild poliovirus

in August 2020, another form of polio continues to infect children, namely circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2, or cVDPV2. This type of polio is rare and can only occur in areas where the number of vaccinated children is insufficient, meaning that the only way to stop its spread is through vaccination.

58. The immunization campaign was carried out in two rounds, targeting children in 91 districts in 16 of Chad's 23 regions. The first round took place between 13 and 15 November 2020 and the second from 27 to 29 November. The Government of Chad's response to date attests to the commitment of the partners and countries of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to stopping the spread of the virus in the most difficult regions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Access to health-care services, including emergency health-care services
(recommendation No. 127)**

59. To improve access to and the quality of health-care services for the entire population, particularly access to and the quality of emergency health-care services, the Government has made free emergency care available in health-care facilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it established a national health response coordinating office and regional coordination sub-offices, which publish the number of people infected, the number who have died and the number who have recovered on a daily basis. As of 29 March 2021, 4,510 persons had been infected, of whom 4,110 had recovered, 164 had died and 236 were undergoing treatment. In addition, 530 doctors and 2,068 paramedics were recruited in 2019. The Government has drawn up a national strategic plan for the roll-out of universal health coverage in Chad.

60. The National Health Policy formulated by the Government of Chad sets forth strategic guidelines based on the six pillars of the health-care system and is in line with the "Vision 2030" strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. All health programmes developed, without exception, must be based on and integrated with this policy. The National Health Policy will be implemented through national and regional health development plans and should ensure that, by 2030, the country has an efficient and resilient health system able to provide optimal care for all the health needs of its population, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable.

**Further reinforced efforts to promote maternal health and the education of girls
(recommendation No. 128)**

61. The Government had created a department dedicated to promoting the rights and the education of girls within the Ministry of Education. In addition, two sub-programmes have been launched under the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) initiative, the first focused on equal access to reproductive health care for adolescent girls and young women and reproductive rights and the second on girls' enrolment in school and continuing education. The aim of these two sub-programmes is to promote the sexual and reproductive health and education of girls, and to help to keep them in school.

62. The sub-programme focused on achieving equal access to reproductive health care for adolescent girls and young women and reproductive rights has achieved the following results:

- 360 health professionals trained in reproductive health adapted to the needs and rights of adolescent girls and young women of childbearing age
- 360 community safe spaces set up by the NGOs in charge of activities under the reproductive health-care sub-programme
- 360 mentors recruited to run the safe spaces and mentor participants. These mentors have been trained on the modules to be taught, which include life skills, reproductive health, gender and human rights
- 360 peer educators have been trained in the areas of intervention to raise awareness among members of the various communities about the components of the SWEDD initiative and the use of reproductive health-care services

- 27,906 young and adolescent girls attended awareness-raising events on the subjects of girls' schooling, child marriage, women's empowerment, early pregnancy and the demographic dividend in the Reading and Cultural Activity Centres in Mao, Am-Timan and Bol
- 120 local networks have been identified and have received support under the SWEDD initiative for awareness-raising campaigns on girls' schooling, child marriage, women's empowerment, early pregnancy and the demographic dividend. All these results were achieved in the period 2018–2020

63. The Government of Chad has revised its health policy to adapt it to the new contexts that the “Vision 2030” strategy, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the introduction of universal health coverage should make it possible.

64. It has also formulated a number of other national policies, including the Community Health Strategy. Some of the Ministry of Health's technical units have been elevated to the status of technical directorates and several programmes have been reinforced, including those related to communicable and non-communicable diseases (specifically tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria), reproductive health and neglected tropical diseases. To translate the 2016–2030 National Health Policy into action, the Ministry of Health has formulated the fourth National Health Development Plan.

65. With regard to the education of girls, partners including the World Food Programme, Jesuit Refugee Services and Humanity and Inclusion, working in conjunction with three Government ministries, are fully engaged in the implementation of programme activities that foster gender equality in education. The three ministries are the Ministry of Education (teacher and parent training, non-formal basic education), the Ministry of Women and Early Childhood (pre-school education) and the Ministry of Vocational Training (vocational training).

66. The education of girls has a prominent place in government policy, especially the question of access and how to keep girls in school in order to increase completion rates in primary, middle and secondary education.

Adoption of legislative measures to increase equitable access to sexual and reproductive health in development and egalitarian environments (Recommendation No. 129)

67. To guarantee more equitable and equal access to sexual and reproductive health, the Government adopted the Universal Health Coverage Act (No. 035/PR/2019), the aim of which is to facilitate access to health-care services at a lower cost. This Act rounded out the existing legal framework, consisting of the Reproductive Health Act (No. 06/PR/2006) and its implementing decree No. 2121/PR/2020.

68. As a prelude to the adoption of the Universal Health Coverage Act, on 24 April 2019, the Ministry of Health organized an information day for deputies concerning the introduction of universal health coverage.

Continuing improvements to the situation in the field of education, particularly the education of girls (recommendation No. 130)

69. With regard to the education of girls, partners including the World Food Programme, Jesuit Refugee Services and Humanity and Inclusion, working in conjunction with three Government ministries, are fully engaged in the implementation of programme activities that foster gender equality in education. The three ministries are the Ministry of Education (teacher and parent training, non-formal basic education), the Ministry of Women and Early Childhood (pre-school education) and the Ministry of Vocational Training (vocational training).

70. The education of girls has a prominent place in government policy, especially the question of access and how to keep girls in school in order to increase completion rates in primary, middle and secondary education.

Continuing measures to ensure universal primary education and eradicate illiteracy, especially in rural areas (recommendation No. 131)

71. With the aim of guaranteeing primary education for all and eradicating illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, the Government of Chad launched various literacy campaigns in the period 2019–2020 and opened 4,132 literacy centres, which have assisted 155,210 persons, of whom 104,816, or 67 per cent, were women. The Government of Chad has also launched projects in the education sector.

72. It has drawn up a training plan for school principals and members of parents' associations and associations of mother educators in conjunction with the National Federation of Parents of Schoolchildren of Chad. In addition, it has been working to renovate existing buildings and build new infrastructure in schools and non-formal basic education centres, has trained 314 teachers and members of parents' associations in the four regions covered by the project and has made 11,000 self-teaching booklets available in digital format to 2,000 community teachers in the three pilot regions. The Ministry of Education has recruited and deployed 1,436 science teachers in various middle and secondary schools.

73. For the 2021/22 school year, there will be 11,976 primary schools (basic education level I) compared with 11,829 in the previous academic year, equivalent to an increase of 1.2 per cent. This increase is explained by an improvement in the coverage rate, which rose from 91 per cent in the 2000/21 school year to 94 per cent in the current year, and the opening or reopening of 1,406 schools. The total number of primary school pupils nationwide rose by 4.2 per cent, from 2,719,364 in 2021 to 2,832,890 in 2022, with girls accounting for 44.6 per cent of the total – a proportion almost identical to the previous year's figure of 44.3 per cent.

74. The gross intake rate, which is an indicator of the general level of access to primary education, reflects the capacity of the education system to guarantee access to the first grade of education for all children at the official primary school-entrance age. Nationwide, the gross intake rate was 119.0 per cent, compared with 115.8 per cent the previous year. The gross intake rate for girls was 110.4 per cent and, for boys, 127.2 per cent. This rate of over 100 per cent means that, in theory, the system has the capacity to accept all 6-year-olds in the first grade of primary education.

75. The gross enrolment ratio is an indicator of the proportion of the population of a given age that is enrolled in the corresponding level of education. It reflects the capacity of the education system to accept pupils in a given age group. The gross enrolment ratio was 91.5 per cent nationwide, compared with 91.2 per cent the previous year. The figure for girls was 82.1 per cent and, for boys, 100.9 per cent.

76. The basic literacy cycle is divided into two levels of training: (i) the initial literacy level and (ii) the supplementary basic training level. The initial literacy level covers the teaching and learning of core subjects (reading, writing and mathematics) while the supplementary basic training extends this basic knowledge, focusing specifically on psycho-social and professional skills. Training is given in national languages, with a transition into the official languages. For the 2021/22 literacy campaign, there were 2,756 centres, compared with 2,461 in 2020/21, an increase of 12.0 per cent. The number of learners was 120,358, of whom 83,769, or 69.6 per cent, were women, compared with 110,772 in the previous campaign, an increase of 8.6 per cent.

Continuing efforts to improve the quality of education and combat school dropout rates (recommendations No. 133, 134, 135, 136, 137 and 138)

77. The national school dropout rate was 16.9 per cent, compared with 17.1 per cent the previous year, an improvement of 0.2 per cent.

Promotion, repetition and dropout rates by level of study and gender

<i>Rate</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>CP1</i>	<i>CP2</i>	<i>CE1</i>	<i>CE2</i>	<i>CM1</i>	<i>CM2</i>	<i>Total</i>
Promotion	Boys	68.1	70.6	71.1	69.3	73.9	62.8	69.5
	Girls	66.7	70.1	70.6	69.4	73.1	58.2	68.4

<i>Rate</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>CP1</i>	<i>CP2</i>	<i>CE1</i>	<i>CE2</i>	<i>CM1</i>	<i>CM2</i>	<i>Total</i>
Repetition	Boys	16.3	13.9	13.8	13.2	11.9	10.0	13.9
	Girls	16.0	14.4	14.1	14.1	12.9	10.6	14.4
Dropout	Boys	15.6	15.5	15.2	17.6	14.2	27.2	16.6
	Girls	17.3	15.5	15.2	16.5	14.0	31.2	17.2

Source: Education Statistics Yearbook 2021/22.

Continued action to promote and protect the right to education, especially for young children (recommendations No. 139, 140 and 141)

78. To facilitate access to education for children and vulnerable groups, 57.1 per cent of schools are located in urban areas and 42.9 per cent in rural areas. In the case of literacy centres, 56.3 per cent are in rural areas and 43.7 per cent in urban areas. There are a total of 4,367 facilitators providing pedagogical support for learners, of whom 1,563, or 35.8 per cent, are women.

79. Non-formal basic education for children between the ages of 9 and 14 who are not in school is structured into four levels, namely first, second, third and fourth grades. Learning takes place in the official languages as well as in several national languages. In the 2021/22 school year, a total of 290 non-formal basic education centres were registered as operational, compared with 224 in the previous year, an increase of 29.5 per cent. Such centres are operating in 14 of the country's 23 regions. The majority (50.7 per cent) of these non-formal basic education centres were community-run centres, 14.1 per cent were operated by the State and 35.2 per cent were operated by private sector actors. Compared to the previous year, the number of community-run centres increased while the number of State- and privately-operated centres decreased. In terms of location, 160 centres are in rural areas and 130 in urban areas.

Strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of the most vulnerable groups, such as women, young persons and persons with disabilities (recommendation No. 33)

80. In order to promote and protect the most vulnerable population groups, specifically women, young people and persons with disabilities, the Government of Chad, through the ministries responsible for women and youth, adopted the National Gender Policy and a related five-year plan of action, and the National Youth Policy, also with a related five-year plan of action.

81. Towards the same end, on 20 June 2019, the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to strengthen its domestic legal arsenal, consisting of Act No. 007/PR/2007 of 9 May 2007, on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, and its implementing decree No. 1521/PR/MFPPE/2019 of 11 September 2019.

82. During the Inclusive National Dialogue, eight resolutions benefiting persons with disabilities were adopted. Some of these are already being implemented, as follows:

- A centre for training and the manufacture of tricycles opened on 9 January 2023
- An agency for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities was created under Act No. 013/PT/2023 of 19 June 2023
- A Braille translation centre has been created for the visually impaired
- Issuance of national disability cards began on 9 May 2023
- A sign language interpretation service has been created for the media

Continuing efforts to empower women through various initiatives, including awareness-raising programmes (recommendations No. 143 and 144)

83. The Government has developed and implemented a project entitled “Economic empowerment of teenage girls and women for reducing gender inequality and achieving equity and equality”. The following actions have been taken as part of this project:

- 1,119 girls and women have been given technical training in agriculture, livestock breeding and arboriculture to enable them to carry out farming activities in the Lac, Kanem, Salamat and Hadjer Lamis regions
- 825 persons engaged in income-generating activities, all of them women, were trained in processing, preserving and selling produce in the Lac, Kanem, and Hadjer Lamis regions
- Recipients of agricultural equipment, including 112 women, were trained to drive, operate and maintain tractors, power tillers and other equipment made available to them in the Lac, Kanem and Hadjer Lamis regions
- 57 teenage girls from Salamat were trained to install satellite dishes, solar panels and electrical wiring. Today, these young women are able to install and repair solar panels and electrical wiring, disproving the popular belief that these trades are the sole preserve of men
- Four awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns were organized for traditional authorities and communities in order to highlight the importance of empowering women and advocate greater access to land for women belonging to groups that have proven their effectiveness, to enable them to carry out their activities.
- Eight awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of empowering women were organized by NGO implementing partners in the Hadjer Lamis, Kanem and Salamat regions
- 181 enterprising women’s groups with 4,050 members were given modern agricultural equipment to enable them to improve their production capacity. The equipment in question consisted of 8 tractors, 16 power-driven pumps, 12 two-wheeled carts, 10 husking tools, 8 18-disc ploughs, 8 power tillers and 3 combine harvesters
- 750 women are engaged in income-generating activities across the area covered by the project.

84. The Government has also established a project entitled “Action for women’s leadership in community institutions in the Borkou and Tibesti regions”.

85. In the field of education, the Ministry of Education and the Promotion of Civic Values, through the directorate leading the SWEDD initiative, namely the Directorate for the Development of Girls’ Education and Gender Promotion, and with funding from the World Bank, has provided support to help to keep disadvantaged girls in the education system in the four pilot regions (Lac, Kanem, Hadjer-Lamis and Salamat). This project was extremely successful and phase I of the SWEDD initiative (SWEDD I), which ended in 2020, achieved significant results. Particular achievements were as follows:

- 10,000 girls in the four regions covered by the SWEDD initiative, namely Lac, Kanem, Hadjer Lamis and Salamat, had their school fees paid in full by the project
- 10,000 girls from needy families received dry ration assistance in foster homes
- School kits and hygiene kits were distributed
- Uniforms were distributed to 30,000 girls in need
- 24 reception centres (boarding schools) were established for girls in the above-mentioned regions, helping a total of 600 vulnerable girls
- 54 school latrines were upgraded to provide for girls’ hygiene needs
- Excellence awards for best girls in science subjects awarded to 200 girls each year

86. The positive impact of these results for girls resulted in a second phase being initiated. This second phase (SWEDD II) covers twelve regions: Lac, Hadjer-Lamis, Kanem, Salamat, Batha, Wadi-Fira, Borkou, Mayo-Kebbi-Est, Mayo-Kebbi-Ouest, Tandjilé, Chari-Baguirmi and Enedi Est. It was launched on 7 November 2020 at Pala, in Mayo-Kebbi-Ouest, by the late President of the Republic, Marshal Idriss Deby Itno, and was scheduled to run for four years, from 2020 to 2024.

87. The Ministry of Gender and National Solidarity has set up a national programme to promote women's economic and social empowerment. The Government injects CFAF 2 billion into this programme each year. The United Nations Development Programme made a one-off contribution to the programme on 16 September 2021.

88. Another project run by the Ministry of Gender and National Solidarity is the Zuhur Al Mara (Women's Talent) project, which rewards innovative projects by girls and women, including those with disabilities.

89. Several women's organizations in 21 regions have benefited from material and financial support. These include the cooperative of women's organizations established to process local produce in the Lac region, the network of women's organizations established to develop the Mandoul region, and the network of women's organizations established to develop the Mandoul region.

Improved delivery of family planning services, with a special emphasis on guaranteeing access for adolescent girls, without discrimination on the basis of their marital status and without the need for the consent of a third party (recommendation No. 145)

90. To improve the delivery of family planning services and guarantee access for adolescent girls without the consent of a third party, the Government of Chad passed the Reproductive Health Act (No. 06/PR/2002) and its implementing decree No. 2121/PR/2020 on 15 April 2022. To address the shortage of health-care staff, in 2019 and 2020 combined, it recruited 100 nurses, 30 contract midwives for the Sahelian band, 530 general practitioners and 2,068 paramedics.

91. In addition, the second phase of the Health Sector Support Project was launched, State-contracted midwives and male midwives (*maïeutique*) were recruited and awareness-raising campaigns were organized by various specialized institutions and organizations including the Chadian Family Welfare Association, Chadian Social Marketing Association, Association of Female Lawyers of Chad, Network of Women's Organizations, SWEDD-Tchad, the Ministry of Health and National Solidarity and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Development Planning and International Cooperation.

92. To reinforce these awareness-raising campaigns, the Government established the "Voice of Women" (Voix de la Femme) radio station within the National Women's Centre (Maison Nationale de la Femme). The radio station works to raise national awareness of gender equality and the adverse effects of harmful traditional practices. To improve the delivery of family planning services and guarantee access for adolescent girls without the consent of a third party, the Government of Chad passed the Reproductive Health Act (No. 06/PR/2002) and its implementing decree No. 2121/PR/2020 on 15 April 2022. To address the shortage of health-care staff, in 2019 and 2020 combined, it recruited 100 nurses, 30 contract midwives for the Sahelian band, 530 general practitioners and 2,068 paramedics.

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94. In 2020 and 2021, the Government organized training workshops for persons working in the criminal justice system in N'Djaména, Bol and Sarh. In addition, through

Act No. 008/PR/2020 of 9 June 2020, amending the Code on the Organization of the Judiciary in Chad (Act No. 011/PR/2013 of 17 June 2013), it established permanent criminal chambers attached to the Courts of Appeal. This reorganization allowed for criminal proceedings to be held in March 2020, in Sarh, during which 15 rape cases were heard with a lawyer systematically present to represent all the victims who had joined the proceedings as civil parties. In addition, 40 social workers from the Ministry for Women and Early Childhood and 45 officers of the criminal investigation police were trained in how to support victims of gender-based violence.

Increased efforts to combat gender-based violence and discrimination (recommendation No. 151)

95. A national forum on gender-based violence was organized in December 2020 to provide a space for dialogue and the exchange of experience with a view to improving the quality of gender-based violence prevention measures and ensuring an appropriate response to the needs of survivors of gender-based violence (report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2020). A total of 1,175 persons, 80 per cent of them women and young persons from schools and universities, took part in awareness-raising activities to learn about mechanisms for preventing and combating gender-based violence in 2020 (United Nations Development Programme report, 2020).

Appropriate and pragmatic solutions for the inclusion of women and socially vulnerable groups in the development of the country (recommendation No. 166)

96. The Government of Chad has implemented the social safety nets programme and the Support Programme for Local Development and Inclusive Finance in Chad in some regions of the country and has created a micro-credit department within the Ministry of Finance.

Continued efforts to address the causes of girls' low school enrolment, paying special attention to combating early and forced marriages (recommendation No. 168)

97. The Government of Chad has adopted several strategies aimed at protecting children's rights, particularly those of young girls. These include:

- An interim child justice strategy, in 2016
- A sectoral policy for the justice system in Chad, covering the period 2018–2027
- A road map for combating early marriage and female genital mutilation, covering the period 2019–2021
- As part of capacity-building efforts, 170 officers working in juvenile justice were trained between early 2019 and March 2021

Measures taken to guarantee access to justice for victims of female genital mutilation, child marriage, gender-based violence and violence against girls, boys and adolescents, and ensure that allegations of such acts are investigated and the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished (recommendation No. 173)

98. With the aim of guaranteeing access to justice for victims of female genital mutilation, child marriage, gender-based violence and violence against girls, boys and adolescents, and ensuring that allegations of such acts are investigated and that the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, the Government has addressed and established penalties for such acts in the provisions of articles 318, 341, 350, 357, 359, 360, 361, 368 and 369 of the Criminal Code. For example, rape carries a prison term of 8 to 30 years, depending on the circumstances.

Accelerated implementation of specific measures to combat early marriage for girls and facilitate their access to education, especially in rural areas (recommendation No. 174)

99. To step up the implementation of specific measures to combat early marriage for girls and facilitate girls' access to education, particularly in rural areas, the Government adopted the Reproductive Health Act (No. 06/PR/2006) and its implementing decree No. 2121/PR/2020. It has also drawn up a road map for the prohibition of child marriage and

has implemented projects under the SWEDD initiative as well as a programme promoting quality basic education in Chad (ProQEB).

Reinforcement of efforts to investigate and punish those responsible for female genital mutilation, child marriage and forced marriage (recommendation No. 175)

100. The Government has implemented a programme aimed at improving legal protection against all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls in the Guera and Tandjilé regions.

Practical measures taken to put an immediate end to the use of child labour (recommendation No. 186)

101. In 2018, the Government of Chad sent three labour inspectors to spend 45 days at the ILO African Regional Labour Administration Centre. It also put forward a plan of support for the migrant community envisaging improved access to health care for refugees, including children, who have experienced the worst forms of labour.

C. Recommendations pending

Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (recommendation No. 5, 6, 7, 62, 64, 65 and 67)

102. The Government of Chad is working towards the ratification of conventions to which it is not yet a party. After having abolished the death penalty, it decided that it would ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The procedure was initiated by the submission of a bill to the Council of Ministers for examination and subsequent referral to the National Assembly.

Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (recommendation No. 8)

103. The Government has agreed to the ratification of this protocol and is preparing to initiate the ratification process.

Finalization of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (recommendations No. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 72)

104. Having already incorporated the provisions of the Convention against Torture into its current Critical Code, the Government accepts this recommendation and commits to its ratification.

Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (recommendations No. 8, 9 and 10)

105. The Government has accepted the ratification of this protocol and intends to initiate the ratification process.

Ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (recommendation No. 19)

106. The Government has incorporated the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide into articles 296 to 299, Title 2, of the current Criminal Code and is working towards ratification.

Ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (recommendation No. 17 and 82)

107. The Government has agreed to the ratification of this Convention and is working towards its ratification.

**Ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education
(recommendation No. 20)**

108. The Government has accepted this recommendation and is preparing to initiate the ratification process. It should be noted that national legislation prohibits discrimination in the field of education (article 40 of the Constitution of 4 May 2018).

III. Challenges, achievements, difficulties, vision and expectations**A. Challenges in the implementation of the recommendations**

109. There have been multiple, persistent challenges to the implementation of the recommendations, attributable to terrorism and transnational organized crime.

110. On the political front, a process of transition is under way that includes a timetable for the organization of elections to re-establish the constitutional order.

111. Lastly, the period was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted all aspects of political, economic and social life.

B. Achievements in the implementation of the recommendations

112. Despite the unfavourable context, significant progress has been made in implementing the recommendations, particularly in the areas of political and institutional reform, restoring peace and strengthening national reconciliation, access to justice and combating impunity, and the empowerment of women.

C. Restoring peace and strengthening national reconciliation

113. The Doha Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation and the recommendations from the Inclusive National Dialogue are being implemented.

D. Difficulties

114. Difficulties include:

- Insufficient capacity-building for members of the interministerial committee
- Insufficient technical and financial resources for real-time data collection

E. Vision

115. With a view to cementing the foundations for good governance and the rule of law, the vision of the Government of Chad is to:

- Reinforce national unity
- Reinforce good governance and the rule of law
- Develop a diversified economy
- Improve standards of living for the country's people
- Support and maintain basic social services
- Improve environmental protection
- Step up the fight against terrorism and trafficking in persons

F. Government expectations of the international community

116. With its resources limited by the global economic and financial crisis that is also affecting the country and its commitment to the fight against terrorism, the Government of Chad is seeking support from its partners for:

- Developing and implementing a national human rights policy
 - Implementing the sector policy for the justice system (PSJ 2018–2027)
 - Building the technical and operational capacities of the members of the interministerial committee.
-