

Responses to Recommendations

GABON

Third Review Session 28

Review in the Working Group: 7 November 2017
Adoption in the Plenary: 15 March 2018

Gabon's responses to recommendations (as of 04.04.2018):

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Summary:
129 recs have been supported, 22 have been left pending and 15 have been noted.	Out of the 22 recs left pending, 14 have been supported while 8 have been noted.	No additional information provided.	Supported: 143 Noted: 23 Total: 166

Paragraph headers are as in the Report of the Working Group, but the nature of responses to recommendations may have subsequently been changed.

List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/37/6:

118. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Gabon and enjoy the support of Gabon:

S - 118.1 Fully implement the outcomes of the 2017 political dialogue, particularly measures to improve health and social protection, gender equality, education, training and job creation (South Africa);

S - 118.2 Continue its efforts to implement the outcomes from the political dialogue in 2017 (Sudan);

S - 118.3 Favour national unity through dialogue as a guarantor for security, without which there can be no development (Central African Republic);



- S - 118.4 Facilitate the development, in law and practice, of a safe and enabling environment in which both civil society and human rights defenders can operate free from fear, hindrance and insecurity (Ireland);
- S - 118.5 Continue to promote programmes for human rights education and awareness-raising (Pakistan);
- S - 118.6 Fully implement certain recommendations to which it has committed itself (Madagascar);
- S - 118.7 Continue to mobilize resources and necessary support to enhance its capacity to fulfil its human rights obligations (Nigeria);
- S - 118.8 Establish a National Action Plan for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (Portugal);
- S - 118.9 Make efforts to accelerate the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Burundi);
- S - 118.10 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mali) (Portugal) (South Africa);
- S - 118.11 Ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (Honduras) (Togo);
- S - 118.12 Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol) (Honduras);
- S - 118.13 Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity (Armenia);
- S - 118.14 Consider the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire) (Namibia);
- S - 118.15 Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Ghana);
- S - 118.16 Ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled (Ghana);
- S - 118.17 Proceed with measures to ensure transparent and credible legislative elections no later than 2018 (Australia);
- S - 118.18 Adopt the draft law amending the Penal Code, which incorporates the sanctions related to domestic violence and trafficking in persons which is currently in Parliament (Côte d'Ivoire);
- S - 118.19 Continue the dynamic of aligning the national legislation with a number of United Nations human rights instruments, such as the launching of the process to develop the Children's Code (Chad);
- S - 118.20 Complete the process of adopting the Children's Code currently under examination by the State Council and the criminal laws sanctioning domestic violence and trafficking in persons (Burkina Faso);

- S - 118.21 Take all necessary measures for the optimal application of these texts (Burkina Faso);
- S - 118.22 Approve the Children's Code and give greater diffusion to the new regulatory and legislative measures for the protection of widows and orphans (Cuba);
- S - 118.23 Finalize the Children's Code, which is aimed at, among others, curbing child marriages and ritual crimes (Namibia);
- S - 118.24 Continue national efforts to ensure harmonization of national legislation with international human rights law (Libya);
- S - 118.25 Continue implementing the designed road map, with a view to putting in place a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Ethiopia);
- S - 118.26 Finalize the process of establishing a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Georgia);
- S - 118.27 Assign the necessary economic, technical and financial resources to accelerate the implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture (Honduras);
- S - 118.28 Accelerate the establishment of a national preventive mechanism against torture and the process of creating an integrated and permanent national anti-trafficking structure (Mali);
- S - 118.29 Speed up the process of setting up the national mechanism on the prevention of torture (Togo);
- S - 118.30 Set up the national mechanism for prevention of torture (Morocco);
- S - 118.31 Take measures to limit the use of pretrial detention and improve conditions of detention (France);
- S - 118.32 Take further measures to protect the rights of detainees, above all those on pretrial detention (Brazil);
- S - 118.33 Put an end to overcrowding and bad prison conditions, by building new prison facilities and restricting the use of pretrial detention (Spain);
- S - 118.34 Improve detention and prison conditions by, among other things, ensuring detainees receive adequate nutrition, and by reducing overcrowding in places of detention (Canada);
- S - 118.35 Redouble efforts to improve prison conditions, significantly reduce prison overcrowding and ensure that minors are separated from adults and that remand prisoners are separated from convicted prisoners, and women are separated from men (Zambia);
- S - 118.36 Improve the conditions in prisons and review the extraordinarily long period of investigation (up to 18 months) as well as the limited access to visit prisoners, as previously recommended (Germany);
- S - 118.37 Seek to improve prison conditions in Gabon including the availability of appropriate medical care for prisoners and access of prisoners to legal counsel and family (Australia);

S - 118.38 Continue the reforms of the judicial system already initiated and strengthen measures aimed at combating behaviour in the judiciary that may impede independent, impartial and adequate investigations and trials (Guatemala);

S - 118.39 Abide by its international obligations with regard to the procedures for arrest and detention, to guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and to exercise the task of governing with due respect for the rule of law (Netherlands);

S - 118.40 Adopt laws to combat ritual crimes, punish appropriately the instigators and perpetrators of such offences, and put in place a comprehensive strategy to eliminate them (Sierra Leone);

S - 118.41 Intensify the fight to put an end to ritual crimes, including through long-term awareness-raising campaigns (Spain);

S - 118.42 Ensure fair trial guarantees for prisoners subject to criminal prosecution, including those detained after last year's presidential election (United States of America);

S - 118.43 Continue undertaking measures to fight against trafficking in human beings (Azerbaijan);

S - 118.44 Deepen anti-trafficking measures, in particular by ensuring investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes (Argentina);

S - 118.45 Ensure to all child and adolescent victims of trafficking the protection of their rights, access to justice and psychosocial rehabilitation (Chile);

S - 118.46 Continue working actively for the creation of an integrated and permanent national structure to combat trafficking in persons (Cuba);

S - 118.47 Finalize the measures undertaken for the amendment of the national legislation related to trafficking in children (Egypt);

S - 118.48 Improve enforcement and coordination of national legislation and policies on the trafficking of persons, especially women and children, and to raise the awareness of this issue amongst the public (Iceland);

S - 118.49 Take effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking in women and children and to provide an adequate legal framework to protect victims and prosecute traffickers (Belgium);

S - 118.50 Develop the necessary legislation to criminalize all forms of human trafficking, especially for sexual exploitation, forced labour or slavery (Iraq);

S - 118.51 Reach bilateral agreements with the countries of origin of the children who are victims of trafficking, particularly Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Togo, and reinforce the internal legal framework to effectively combat this crime (Mexico);

S - 118.52 Increase efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (Italy);

S - 118.53 Intensify its efforts in combating and preventing trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Nigeria);

S - 118.54 Continue efforts to combat all forms of human trafficking (Lebanon);

- S - 118.55 Expedite the adoption of the national legislation on human trafficking and the draft national policy on special protection that was finalized in 2013 (Botswana);
- S - 118.56 Establish a permanent, integrated, national structure for combating trafficking in persons (Sudan);
- S - 118.57 Take all necessary measures to fight internal trafficking of children (Portugal);
- S - 118.58 Expand the remit of the interministerial child trafficking committee to include adults, ensuring adequate human and financial resources to support national efforts (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- S - 118.59 Criminalize human trafficking, especially child trafficking, while providing protection and assistance to the victims (Republic of Korea);
- S - 118.60 Ensure protection and assistance to all victims of trafficking (Timor-Leste);
- S - 118.61 Act more intensively against trafficking of children for sexual exploitation and guarantee their separate detention from adults (Spain);
- S - 118.62 Adopt a law that combats discrimination comprehensively and guarantees effective protection and equal opportunities for all people (Honduras);
- S - 118.63 Enhance efforts in achieving gender equality (Zambia);
- S - 118.64 Further widen its scope of assistance to women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, in this regard (State of Palestine);
- S - 118.65 Take measures to better protect vulnerable populations, by promoting the integration of young people and by combating violence against women and gender disparities in terms of professional integration — in line with the development of the framework for the organization of the justice system (France);
- S - 118.66 Further strengthen measures aimed at combating all forms of discrimination against women (Georgia);
- S - 118.67 Better fight against discrimination against women (Senegal);
- S - 118.68 Implement policies that reverse the inequality of opportunities and treatment between women and men in terms of access to employment (Mexico);
- S - 118.69 Fast-track the implementation of Acts Nos. 09/2015 and 010/2016, on setting quotas for women's access to senior civil service posts and on combating harassment in the workplace, respectively (Namibia);
- S - 118.70 Adopt the necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that all branches of the government, Parliament and judiciary apply the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and harmonize domestic legislation with that Convention ensuring that discriminatory dispositions against women are repealed (Uruguay);
- S - 118.71 Adopt concrete measures, in the form of national awareness programmes and campaigns, to eradicate stereotypes, cultural practices and traditions contrary to the fundamental rights of women and girls (Chile);

S - 118.72 Adopt measures to combat discrimination against women in rural areas and to tackle the high mortality rate during childbirth (Spain);

S - 118.73 Enhance efforts to implement the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Equity, including addressing the underrepresentation of women in decision-making bodies and eliminating harmful traditional practices (Rwanda);

S - 118.74 Continue efforts to fight against discrimination against women and all violence against women, especially domestic violence (Tunisia);

S - 118.75 Take all necessary measures to combat violence against women, including discrimination in employment (Djibouti);

S - 118.76 Take the necessary measures to ensure that the Gabonese laws regarding violence against women, including those prohibiting rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence, are implemented and that those responsible are brought to justice (Canada);

S - 118.77 In line with the 2030 Agenda, adopt a policy aimed at putting an end to harmful practices against girls, such as forced early marriage and genital mutilation, among others (Honduras);

S - 118.78 Continue efforts to strengthen the prevention of and fight against female genital mutilation (Angola);

S - 118.79 Continue its efforts on further eradicating poverty and empowering women (Azerbaijan);

S - 118.80 Continue enhancing women's economic empowerment, particularly in the arrangements of income-generating activities (Ethiopia);

S - 118.81 Continue efforts for the promotion and protection of rights of women and devise policies for their empowerment (Pakistan);

S - 118.82 Continue to promote the equal representation of women in political and public life (Turkey);

S - 118.83 Provide free legal aid to women without sufficient means in order to facilitate their access to justice (Sierra Leone);

S - 118.84 Strengthen the measures taken to provide free legal aid to women without sufficient means (Timor-Leste);

S - 118.85 Intensify efforts to provide easy and free access to registration of birth to all children (India);

S - 118.86 Continue its good cooperation with civil society organizations and United Nations agencies, especially UNICEF, for the full registration of children at birth (Burkina Faso);

S - 118.87 Continue efforts to support the rights of the child and protect children from sexual exploitation and trafficking (Tunisia);

S - 118.88 Combat sexual violence and exploitation, particularly through the implementation of procedures and policies to prevent such offences, facilitate their reporting and provide care to child victims (Belgium);

- S - 118.89 Clearly prohibit all forms of corporal, cruel or degrading punishment in all contexts and promote non-violent forms of education and discipline (Belgium);
- S - 118.90 Expressly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at school and at home (Luxembourg);
- S - 118.91 Reform the law authorizing the punishment of children, in conformity with international standards (Madagascar);
- S - 118.92 Enact legislation with a view to prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);
- S - 118.93 Continue its awareness-raising programmes with a view to putting an end to the use of corporal punishment in schools (Turkey);
- S - 118.94 Adopt all legislative and policy measures to eradicate child and forced marriages (Chile);
- S - 118.95 Continue its efforts to improve legislation to ensure that it is in line with international best practices and standards on freedom of expression (Brazil);
- S - 118.96 Undertake further measures to ensure freedom of the press based on decriminalization of press offences and respect for the rights of the press (Iceland);
- S - 118.97 Ensure pluralism of the press and respect for freedom of expression and public assembly (France);
- S - 118.98 Respect the rights of all its citizens to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public and political life (Iceland);
- S - 118.99 Ensure the full exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and take steps to create a safe environment for human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);
- S - 118.100 Refrain from restricting freedom of expression, whether it is exercised online or offline, and ensure that journalists and media outlets are able to carry out their work without harassment (United States of America);
- S - 118.101 Respect freedom of peaceful assembly, including when exercised by the opposition (United States of America);
- S - 118.102 Enhance freedom of expression (Lebanon);
- S - 118.103 Take measures to guarantee a safe and transparent environment within which civil society can freely operate without fear of repercussions, including by lifting restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- S - 118.104 Ensure that the right to participate in public and political life as well as the freedom of the press are not submitted to undue limitations (Portugal);
- S - 118.105 Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents against acts of violence or intimidation (Luxembourg);

- S - 118.106 Continue promoting economic and social sustainable development to improve steadily the standard of living and to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of human rights (China);
- S - 118.107 Continue efforts to combat poverty (Lebanon);
- S - 118.108 Strengthen anti-poverty policies (Algeria);
- S - 118.109 Continue to enhance its social protection programmes, which provide assistance to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Gabonese (State of Palestine);
- S - 118.110 Continue to strengthen its social programmes with a special emphasis on the fields of education, nutrition, and health, in order to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly those who are most in need, for which international cooperation and technical assistance demanded by the country are important (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- S - 118.111 Continue efforts to guarantee better access to education and to health care for the people, including for indigenous peoples (Algeria);
- S - 118.112 Take measures to guarantee access to health care for all, and strengthen the public sector, which suffers from difficulties in operating as well as from strong territorial inequalities (France);
- S - 118.113 Continue to expand the coverage of the National Health Insurance and Social Protection Fund to include more disadvantaged persons and those previously without coverage, in accordance with its national plan (Singapore);
- S - 118.114 Step up efforts in order to ensure the right of access to health for all (Viet Nam);
- S - 118.115 Strengthen measures to reduce the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women and mother-to-child transmissions (Indonesia);
- S - 118.116 Take effective measures to cope with the high rate of HIV transmission by strengthening the national strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS (Malaysia);
- S - 118.117 Take further measures to ensure the accessibility of HIV/AIDS-related health services (Malaysia);
- S - 118.118 Strengthen public policies aimed at addressing the high number of people living with HIV/AIDS and not receiving treatment, particularly women, in order to reduce the rates of HIV transmission from mothers to children during childbirth; as well as for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, guaranteeing medical care without discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);
- S - 118.119 Continue enhancing investment in education to reduce the school dropout rates (China);
- S - 118.120 Establish a strategy to reduce children's school dropout (Angola);
- S - 118.121 Address the root causes of its high school-dropout rates, particularly among girls, inter alia by enforcing a zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual violence and sexual harassment (Slovenia);

S - 118.122 Take all necessary measures to significantly increase the enrolment rates and decrease the dropout rates of girls at all levels of education, by the end of the third universal periodic review cycle (Montenegro);

S - 118.123 Guarantee access to education for all, and in particular to strengthen the public sector, while access to a continuous and quality education curriculum is deteriorating (France);

S - 118.124 Continue to take further measures towards inclusive and quality education (Armenia);

S - 118.125 Continue to take necessary measures to ensure the provision of inclusive quality education to all children including children with disabilities and adopt legislation in this regard (Maldives);

S - 118.126 Continue its information campaign across the country on the rights of disabled persons in order to ensure the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and their integration into society (Mauritius);

S - 118.127 Continue to provide persons with disabilities with equal access to health including free and informed consent with health interventions and take necessary measures to repeal legislation restricting these (Maldives);

S - 118.128 Promote and protect more the rights of people with disabilities, in particular of children (Senegal);

S - 118.129 Continue to implement policies, and ensure that adequate resources are allocated, to support the integration and active participation of all persons with disabilities in Gabonese society (Singapore).

119. The following recommendations will be examined by Gabon, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:

S - 119.1 Continue its capacity-building activities and human rights training for defence and security forces by utilizing various international cooperation, including South-South cooperation (Indonesia);

S - 119.2 Expand further the efforts and resources allocated to programmes devoted to promoting youth employment, particularly of young people with disabilities (Viet Nam);

N - 119.3 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Guatemala);

N - 119.4 Adhere and adapt its national legislation to the Arms Trade Treaty and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);

N - 119.5 Develop the legal framework imposing a prior authorization regime, in order to allow the emergence of a modern civil society (France);

S - 119.6 Provide adequate resources to the National Human Rights Commission, regardless of the enactment of an amended bill for the establishment and organization of the Commission (Republic of Korea);

S - 119.7 Provide adequate budget for the National Human Rights Commission (Timor-Leste);

S - 119.8 Empower the National Human Rights Commission, including by providing adequate budget and office space to conduct sensitization on trafficking and to handle complaints related to trafficking (Zambia);

S - 119.9 Strengthen the resources of the National Commission on Human Rights (Senegal);

S - 119.10 Continue efforts to ensure the proper functioning and full independence of the Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);

S - 119.11 Expedite its efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);

S - 119.12 Finalize the A-status accreditation and ensure functioning of the National Human Rights Commission (Georgia);

S - 119.13 Strengthen the role of the National Commission of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Morocco);

S - 119.14 Make further efforts to obtain "A" status in conformity with the Paris Principles for the National Human Rights Commission (Portugal);

S - 119.15 Accelerate its efforts towards adopting the new law on the organization and functioning of the National Human Rights Commission in order to make it more effective (Zimbabwe);

N - 119.16 Enact legislation and take the necessary measures to protect people from discrimination, especially women, pygmies and indigenous peoples (Iraq);

N - 119.17 Provide equal legal protections and access to public services to all its citizens, particularly its minorities and indigenous peoples (Republic of Korea);

N - 119.18 Ensure indigenous people's participation in decision-making at all levels, in all matters affecting them, including conservation efforts (Sierra Leone);

N - 119.19 Take the necessary measures to ensure the right to freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, among others, by holding responsible anyone who commits acts of intimidation, harassment or violence against individuals, including human rights defenders, for having exercised these rights (Canada);

N - 119.20 Accede to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Iraq);

S - 119.21 Continue efforts to ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and that this principle is applied to all situations, based on individual assessments, case by case and not collectively, particularly in the case of underage asylum seekers (Argentina);

S - 119.22 Guarantee that refugee and asylum-seeking children have access to appropriate medical services (Turkey).

120. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Gabon and have been noted by Gabon:

N - 120.1 Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty bodies elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

N - 120.2 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Congo) (Egypt) (Sierra Leone);

N - 120.3 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);

N - 120.4 Step up efforts in ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);

N - 120.5 Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Guatemala);

N - 120.6 Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);

N - 120.7 Expedite the current preparations in order to specify the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);

N - 120.8 Undertake an independent investigation into the post-electoral violence as well as allegations of human rights violations in the same context, in order to shed light on the involvement and responsibilities of the various actors and bring justice to victims (Luxembourg);

N - 120.9 Open a formal, independent and objective inquiry into the election-related violence and the allegations of serious violations of human rights (Netherlands);

N - 120.10 Investigate alleged arbitrary arrests of demonstrators and excessive periods of pretrial detention that reportedly took place following the election (Australia);

N - 120.11 Ensure effective and systematic application of the principle of prior consultation with indigenous peoples, inter alia in its conservation efforts, including by providing specific regulatory or legislative framework (Slovenia);

N - 120.12 Fully capacitate and support the National Women's Council to better protect and promote the rights of women (South Africa);

N - 120.13 Repeal or amend Law 19/06/2016, which entered into force at the beginning of 2017, in order to guarantee the constitutionally enshrined human rights to freedom of the press and of freedom of opinion and expression, as both are necessary preconditions for a democratic and active society (Germany);

N - 120.14 Review thoroughly and amend the Communications Code to ensure that it is in line with international best practices and standards on freedom of expression (Ireland);

N - 120.15 Ensure that all allegations of exploitation and sexual abuse of children in the Central African Republic by Gabonese soldiers are promptly and effectively investigated, and take steps to prevent this situation in the future (Guatemala).

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