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**COMPILATION PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15(B) OF THE
ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1**

Gabon

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The periodicity of the review for the first cycle being four years, most of the documents used as reference are dated after 1 January 2004. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have also been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of international obligations¹

<i>Core universal human rights treaties²</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations/ reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>
ICERD	29 Feb. 1980	None	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
ICESCR	21 Jan. 1983	None	-
ICCPR	21 Jan. 1983	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No
CEDAW	21 Jan. 1983	None	-
OP-CEDAW	5 Nov. 2004	None	Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): Yes
CAT	8 Sept. 2000		Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No Individual complaints (art. 22): No Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes
CRC	9 Feb. 1994	None	-
CRC-OP-SC	1 Oct. 2007	None	-
CPD	1 Oct. 2007	None	-
<i>Core treaties to which Gabon is not a party: ICCPR-OP 1, ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CAT (signature, 2004), CRC-OP-AC (signature, 2000), ICRMW (signature, 2004), ICED (signature, 2007), CPD-OP (signature, 2007).</i>			
<i>Other main relevant international instruments</i>		<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide		Yes	
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court		Yes	
Palermo Protocol ³		No	
Refugees and stateless persons ⁴		Yes, except 1954 and 1961 Conventions	
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁵		Yes, except Additional Protocol III	
ILO fundamental conventions ⁶		Yes, except 138	
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education		No	

1. In 2005, Gabon was encouraged by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to consider ratifying ICRMW.⁷ Gabon was encouraged by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), in 2002, to ratify CRC-OP-SC, which it did in 2007.⁸ CRC also recommended ratifying the Palermo Protocol.⁹ Furthermore it recommended, as highlighted by UNHCR, ratifying the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹⁰ It welcomed the ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 concerning the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour,¹¹ and took note of the approval of the Act on the status of refugees (Act No. 5/98), also highlighted by UNHCR.¹²

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. In 2000, the HR Committee noted with satisfaction that ICCPR is directly applicable in Gabon.¹³ The Committee was pleased that individuals may submit appeals directly to the Constitutional Court, which could additionally strengthen the remedies available to them.¹⁴

3. In 2005, CEDAW noted with satisfaction that international conventions, including CEDAW, prevail over national laws and are directly applicable at the national level.¹⁵ CEDAW welcomed the adoption of Law No. 09/2004 to prevent and combat trafficking in children; of Law No. 1/2000, which, among other matters, liberalized contraception; and of Act No. 37/98 on the new Nationality Code establishing equal rights of men and women in regard to nationality.¹⁶

4. CRC welcomed the adoption of the Ordinance on Health Policy (1995); the Act on social welfare for disabled children (1996); the Act on general organization of education (1996); the Act on general measures for health and social welfare (2000); and the Act enacted in 2001 which establishes the offence of trafficking of children.¹⁷ It remained concerned at the weak implementation of legislation and encouraged Gabon to take all necessary measures to ensure that its domestic legislation, including customary law, conforms fully to the principles and provisions of the Convention.¹⁸ UNICEF mentioned that in 2004 the National Assembly ratified an anti-trafficking law that protects children under 18 against all forms of trafficking and provides for prison sentences of 5 to 15 years and fines. It also noted that forced labour, slavery, abduction, and pimping are outlawed by the Criminal Code.¹⁹

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

5. The HR Committee noted, in 2000, the establishment of a ministry with responsibility for human rights and welcomed the creation of an inter-ministerial commission to identify and remove discriminatory legislative provisions, particularly with regard to women.²⁰ It also noted the establishment of a 14-member national human rights commission (NCHR) as an official body to promote and protect human rights with jurisdiction to consider applications from individuals. CRC expressed concern at the lack of clarity between the role of the NCHR and the National Committee for Children, a body under the authority of the Minister of Justice, which is, inter alia, in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Convention.²¹ It also welcomed the establishment of the Children's Parliament.²²

D. Policy measures

6. CRC welcomed the 20/20 initiative for budgeting and the National Plan of Action against Poverty.²³ The 20/20 initiative calls for the allocation of, on average, 20 per cent of the budget of developing countries and 20 per cent of official development assistance to basic social services (health, sanitation, education, nutrition, water).²⁴

7. In July 2005, Gabon adopted the Plan of Action (2005-2009) for the World Programme for Human Rights Education focusing on the national school system.²⁵

8. UNICEF informed that in 2007 the Government launched a campaign for the survival of the child throughout the country,²⁶ and referred to the national policy and standards on the mother-to-child transmission of HIV adopted in 2006, and that a new national strategy in Gabon is to be finalized in early 2008.²⁷

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<i>Treaty bodies²⁸</i>	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	1997	August 1998		Tenth to fourteenth reports overdue (1999 to 2007)
CESCR				Initial to fourth reports overdue (1990 to 2005)
HR Committee	1998	November 2000		Third report overdue since 2003
CEDAW	2003	February 2005		Combined sixth and seventh report is due in 2008
CAT				Initial and second reports overdue (2001 to 2005)
CRC	2000	February 2002		Second report overdue since 2001

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<i>Standing invitation issued</i>	No
<i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>	None
<i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>	None
<i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>	Special Rapporteur on the right to education - requested in 2007
<i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>	N/A
<i>Follow-up to visits</i>	N/A
<i>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</i>	Between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007, three communications were sent to the Government of Gabon. Apart from one communication sent regarding a particular group (e.g. journalists) two individuals were concerned by these communications.
<i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues²⁹</i>	Out of the 12 questionnaires sent by the special procedures mandate-holders ³⁰ between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007, Gabon responded to none within the deadlines.

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

9. The OHCHR Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa recently developed several activities in Gabon. In April 2007, it organized a targeted training on human rights and democracy issues, which included consultations with journalists on press freedom and the right to information. The Centre also organized a regional training of trainers on gender issues in Gabon at which participants from other African countries attended, and a workshop focusing on discrimination faced by people affected by AIDS, attended by representatives of the Government, academia, civil society, the diplomatic corps and the United Nations Country Team.³¹

10. A Regional Seminar of member States of the Economic Community of Central African States on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance through inclusive involvement in public life was held in Gabon, from 27 to 29 July 2005, organized by OHCHR in cooperation with the Government.³²

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

11. In 2005, CEDAW expressed concern that, while article 2 of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law to all citizens without distinction, neither a definition of discrimination nor the principle of equality between women and men had been included in the Constitution or other appropriate legislation,³³ and at the persistence of discriminatory legal provisions, particularly pertaining to marriage and family relations in the Civil and Criminal Codes.³⁴ In this connection, an ILO Committee of Experts noted in 2006 its concern about the discriminatory effect of sections 253 and 254 of the Civil Code, which provides that the husband is the head of the family and determines the place of residence where the wife is obliged to live, unless she obtains a different arrangement through court authorization.³⁵ The Committee of Experts also noted concern about the discriminatory effect of section 261 of the Civil Code, which provides that the husband may ask the court to prohibit a woman from exercising the profession of her choice in the interest of the family.³⁶

12. CEDAW made several recommendations: (i) that a definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention and the principle of equality of women and men be included in the Constitution or in other appropriate domestic legislation; (ii) that the State elaborate and implement a comprehensive national strategy and plan of action for the full implementation of the Convention; (iii) that it include a gender perspective in existing policies and plans and enhance programmes for the advancement of women with temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25;³⁷ (iv) that it accelerate the process of legal reform to eliminate discriminatory provisions, especially from the Civil and Criminal Codes and step up its efforts to increase awareness of the importance of legal reform for achieving de jure and de facto equality for women in accordance with its obligations under the Convention.³⁸

13. The HR Committee and CEDAW noted the persistence of customs, traditions and stereotypes that constitute a violation of women's human rights and may hamper the process toward equality between men and women. CEDAW was concerned about the State's limited efforts to address directly discriminatory practices and stereotypes and its position that the current widespread support for and adherence to these practices would prevent compliance with legislative measures designed to eliminate them.³⁹ In 2000, the HR Committee recommended that the State review its legislation and practice to ensure that women have the same rights as men, including rights of ownership and inheritance.⁴⁰ CEDAW urged the introduction of measures, including legislation, to modify or eliminate customs and cultural and traditional practices that discriminate against women. It called upon the State to develop and implement comprehensive educational measures and awareness-raising campaigns to facilitate an enhanced understanding of equality between women and men and to challenge cultural traditions and stereotypical attitudes.⁴¹

14. The HR Committee, CRC⁴² and CEDAW⁴³ were concerned that polygamy was still practised in Gabon. The HR Committee referred to its general comment No. 28, which states that polygamy is incompatible with equality of treatment with regard to the right to marry, and recommended that polygamy be abolished and article 252 of the Civil Code repealed.⁴⁴ CRC recommended that Gabon undertake an in-depth study on the impact of polygamy on the upbringing of the child.⁴⁵

15. CEDAW expressed concern at forced and early marriages,⁴⁶ while CRC was concerned at the difference between the minimum legal ages for marriage of boys (18 years) and girls (15 years), which is gender discriminatory and allows for the practice of early marriages, and recommended that the same minimum age for marriage be set by increasing the minimum age for girls, and that Gabon develop sensitization programmes to curb the practice of early marriage.⁴⁷

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

16. In 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomed the decision of the Government to abolish the death penalty and urged it to take all necessary measures to transform it into law as soon as possible. While noting that the death penalty was the object of a moratorium since 1980, the High Commissioner encouraged Gabon to ratify the ICCPR-OP 2.⁴⁸ In 2000, the HR Committee made the same recommendation.⁴⁹ UNICEF pointed out that Gabon had not applied the death penalty for over 20 years.⁵⁰

17. CRC recommended Gabon to take all necessary measures to immediately put an end to torture or violence against children by law enforcement personnel, and to prevent the recurrence of these acts through, inter alia, the establishment of an independent mechanism to investigate reports of torture to bring to justice the persons responsible, and the systematic training of police forces, prison staff and the judiciary on the rights of the child.⁵¹

18. CRC was also concerned about the increasing number of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography, and recommended that Gabon implement appropriate policies and programmes to prevent this practice and for the rehabilitation and recovery of child victims.⁵²

19. CEDAW called upon Gabon to enact, as soon as possible, legislation on violence against women, including domestic violence, so as to ensure that violence against women constitutes a criminal offence. It recommended that Gabon implement educational and awareness-raising measures aimed at law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health providers, social workers, community leaders and the general public, and also introduce measures to provide medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims of violence.⁵³

20. In 2002, CRC was deeply concerned at the high incidence of child abuse within the family and in schools and recommended that Gabon, inter alia, take necessary steps to introduce the legal prohibition of the use of corporal punishment in schools, other institutions and at home; properly investigate cases of violence and apply sanctions to perpetrators; provide services for the physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of the victims of rape, abuse, violence or exploitation; and take measures to prevent the criminalization and stigmatization of victims.⁵⁴

21. CRC expressed concern at the increasing number of children who live and work on the streets and at the lack of specific mechanisms and measures to address this situation. In addition to providing those children with adequate assistance, it recommended Gabon develop a comprehensive strategy aimed at preventing and reducing this phenomenon.⁵⁵

22. CRC was concerned at the fact that child labour is still widespread and recommended that Gabon adopt and implement the national plan of action to prevent and combat child labour and provide adequate resources and training to the labour inspectorate and other law enforcement agencies in order to strengthen their capacity to effectively monitor the implementation of child

labour legislation.⁵⁶ CRC was further concerned at the large number of trafficked children, particularly children coming from abroad, who are still exploited, mostly in the informal labour market, or enslaved, and encouraged Gabon to pursue its efforts to, inter alia, set up a comprehensive programme to prevent and combat this phenomenon.⁵⁷

3. Administration of justice and the rule of law

23. The HR Committee, in 2000, was particularly concerned about the length of time of police custody and pretrial detention, and detainees' access to lawyers.⁵⁸ It recommended that Gabon bring detention and prison conditions into line with articles 9 and 10 of ICCPR and with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, making those rules available to the police, the armed forces, prison staff and anyone else responsible for conducting interrogations, as well as to persons deprived of their liberty.⁵⁹

24. In 2002, CRC was concerned at the absence of juvenile courts and juvenile judges, and the limited number of social workers working in this field. It was also deeply concerned at the failure to separate children from adults in jails, with the exception of the central jail in the capital, and other shortcomings affecting the administration of juvenile justice. It recommended that Gabon take more steps to reform the legislation concerning juvenile justice in line with the Convention and other relevant United Nations standards.⁶⁰

25. In 2005, CEDAW noted that women's access to justice and redress for alleged violations, though provided for by law, might be inhibited by economic or cultural obstacles. CEDAW recommended that Gabon should remove impediments and ensure access to affordable and expeditious means of redress for women, including through awareness-raising efforts on the availability of remedies against discrimination, and the provision of legal aid.⁶¹

4. Freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

26. In 2000, the HR Committee deplored the harassment of journalists and invited the State to bring its legislation into line with article 19 of ICCPR by doing away with censorship and penalties against organs of the press and ensuring that journalists may safely exercise their functions.⁶²

27. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression sent communications to the Government concerning the arrest and the detention of journalists in Gabon. He also sent an urgent appeal concerning the arrest of a journalist who wrote on allegations of corruption of Gabonese officials and was subsequently sentenced on charges of "*diffamation par voie de presse*".⁶³ According to the Special Rapporteur, a number of newspapers have reportedly been the object of suspension and confiscation orders, as the Government believed that their journalists threatened State security and incited to destabilize State institutions.⁶⁴ The Special Rapporteur and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention sent a communication concerning the case of another journalist imprisoned in the capital on charges of defamation.⁶⁵

28. The Special Rapporteur and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention sent a communication asking for comprehensive information on the arrest, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and lack of legal representation of a number of BDP-Gabon Nouveau opposition party members who were allegedly detained for an undetermined period without the possibility of meeting their families. To date, the Government sent no reply on this case.⁶⁶

29. While CEDAW commended Gabon for introducing temporary special measures to increase the number of women in public life and decision-making, it was concerned at the low level of women's participation, particularly in the National Assembly and the Senate, and at the international level. It urged the State to implement and strengthen training and awareness-raising programmes in this regard.⁶⁷ A United Nations Statistics Division coordinated analysis indicated that the seats held by women in the national parliament increased from 9.2 per cent in 2004 to 12.5 per cent in 2007.⁶⁸

5. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

30. While noting the establishment of a National Health Plan of Action, CRC remained concerned at the high infant and under-5 mortality rates and low life expectancy. It was also concerned that the survival of children continues to be threatened by early childhood diseases and about the regular outbreaks of epidemics of diseases such as the Ebola virus. The Committee recommended that Gabon reinforce its efforts to allocate appropriate resources and develop programmes to improve the health situation of children, particularly in rural areas, and pursue additional avenues for cooperation and assistance with, among others, WHO and UNICEF.⁶⁹ It was further concerned at the situation of children with physical and mental disabilities and recommended that Gabon develop policies and programmes and allocate resources to strengthen services for these children.⁷⁰ A 2006 UNFPA report noted that the health sector is of concern, due to a lack of investment in basic social services, and referred to the lack of a national strategy to ensure reproductive health commodity security.⁷¹

31. CRC was concerned at the insufficient attention given to adolescent health issues, and at the high percentage of teenage pregnancies and its consequences. It recommended that Gabon formulate adolescent health policies and programmes with particular attention to the prevention of early pregnancies, and strengthen mental health counselling services.⁷²

32. CRC took note of the National Anti-AIDS Programme and the efforts of the State in that respect (e.g. agreement with pharmaceutical companies to secure access to low-priced AIDS drugs). CRC and CEDAW⁷³ remained extremely concerned at the high incidence and increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS amongst adults and children and the resulting number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. In this regard, CRC was concerned at the lack of alternative care for these children and recommended the State, inter alia, to prevent and urgently consider ways of minimizing the impact upon children of HIV/AIDS-related deaths.⁷⁴

33. UNICEF pointed to evidence of structural poverty, and noted the estimation that almost 40 per cent of the population lives under the threshold of poverty. In its 2003 report on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, the Government noted progress while also indicating that the authorities are conscious of existing inequalities and that over 60 per cent of the population lives on less than US\$ 2 a day.⁷⁵ UNICEF mentioned that the lack of adequate housing and sanitation affects poor households in urban areas, while the rural poor suffer from the lack of clean drinking water.⁷⁶ CRC was concerned at the poor situation of sanitation and insufficient access to safe drinking water and at the increasingly high number of children who do not enjoy their right to an adequate standard of living.⁷⁷ It recommended that Gabon provide support and material assistance to economically disadvantaged families, notably in suburban and rural areas, guarantee the right of children to an adequate standard of living, and provide financial resources to the social security system to restore free access to health services for children.⁷⁸

34. CEDAW was concerned about the situation of rural women, and urged Gabon to implement measures to ensure that rural women have full access to adequate nutrition and sanitation, health-care services, education and income-generating opportunities.⁷⁹

6. Right to education

35. UNICEF submitted that, despite being a high priority of the Government in terms of expenditures, the Gabonese education system is in general characterized by poor performance as measured in terms of high repetition rates and low examination success rates at all levels.⁸⁰ CRC was concerned at the high illiteracy rate, which affects more women than men, the low quality of education, the low enrolment in early childhood education, the high teacher-pupil ratio, the very low percentage of children that complete primary education and the important regional disparities.⁸¹ CEDAW urged Gabon to raise awareness of the importance of education as a fundamental human right and as a basis for the empowerment of women and to ensure equal access of girls and young women to all levels of education and to increase their rates of enrolment and retention.⁸²

7. Minorities and indigenous peoples

36. In 2000, the HR Committee was concerned that the State denied the existence of minorities in its territory, and that steps taken to guarantee the rights of people belonging to minorities were inadequate, particularly with regard to the Baka people.⁸³

37. CRC was concerned about the poor situation of indigenous children and their limited access to social services, including health care, immunization and education, and about the violation of their right to development and to enjoy their own culture. It urged Gabon to assess the needs of indigenous children and to elaborate a plan of action to protect their rights.⁸⁴ UNICEF mentioned Government plans to establish new budget lines for indigenous children and families, and that a solid knowledge base is being established on issues affecting health and education to reach these villages.⁸⁵

8. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

38. CRC took note, also highlighted by UNHCR,⁸⁶ of the adoption of the Act on the status of refugees and the creation of the National Commission for Refugees, and welcomed Gabon's policy with regard to refugee children.⁸⁷ A 2007 UNHCR report mentioned that in September 2006 the Government issued refugee identity cards, and that the prospects for more work opportunities and reductions in protection problems have improved.⁸⁸

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

39. In 2000, the HR Committee welcomed Gabon's shift towards a multi-party democracy, particularly since the amendments made to the Constitution in 1994 and 1997.⁸⁹

40. While noting the challenging socio-economic situation and the sixth debt-rescheduling deal with the Paris Club in 2000,⁹⁰ CRC in 2002 acknowledged that the external debt and the limited availability of skilled human resources have had a negative impact on social welfare and on the situation of children. Furthermore, the coexistence of customary law and statutory law also affects the implementation of the Convention where traditional practices are not conducive to children's rights.⁹¹

41. UNICEF pointed out that the HIV/AIDS situation is a formidable challenge for Gabon, and that girls are five times more affected than boys. It considered that limited access to treatment drugs and lack of effective educational campaigns remain serious challenges.⁹²

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

A. Pledges by the State

42. Gabon submitted its voluntary pledge in support of its candidacy to the membership of the Human Rights Council on 26 April 2006, in which it affirmed its readiness to reinforce mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights at national, regional and international levels.⁹³

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

43. CRC recommended that Gabon expedite the activities aimed at establishing an office, e.g. within the NCHR, to monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of the Convention at the national and local level, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and to seek technical assistance from, among others, OHCHR and UNICEF.⁹⁴ With regard to child abuse, it recommended that, Gabon seek technical assistance from, among others, UNICEF and WHO;⁹⁵ with regard to juvenile justice, to seek technical assistance from, among others, OHCHR, the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention, the International Network on Juvenile Justice and UNICEF, through the United Nations Coordination Panel on Technical Advice and Assistance on Juvenile Justice;⁹⁶ with regard to refugee children, to continue its cooperation with international agencies such as UNHCR and UNICEF;⁹⁷ and with regard to the struggle against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to seek technical assistance from, among others, UNAIDS.⁹⁸

44. CEDAW recommended that, with regard to matters of discrimination against women, Gabon avail itself of technical and financial assistance as indicated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.⁹⁹

45. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2007-2011 listed United Nations programming in areas of cooperation including the following: reduction of infant and maternal mortality, reduction of mortality as a result of diseases, improving governance in the political, economic and social spheres, sustainable development, and reduction of poverty.¹⁰⁰

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of the instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006* (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://untreaty.un.org/>.

² The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child

OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CPD	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁴ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

⁵ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html>.

⁶ International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

⁷ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5), para. 45.

⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.171), para. 72.

⁹ Ibid., para. 61.

¹⁰ Ibid., para. 56. See also UNHCR submission to the UPR on Gabon, p. 1, available at http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session2/GA/UNHCR_GAB_UPR_S2_2208_UnitedNationsHighCommissionerforRefugees_uprsubmission.pdf.

¹¹ Ibid., para. 57.

¹² Ibid., para. 55. UNHCR submission to UPR on Gabon, p. 1, citing *ibid.*

¹³ Concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/CO/70/GAB), para. 4.

¹⁴ Ibid., para. 5.

¹⁵ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 14.

¹⁶ Ibid., para. 15.

¹⁷ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 3.

¹⁸ Ibid., paras. 6 and 7.

¹⁹ UNICEF submission to UPR on Gabon, p. 3, available at http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session2/GA/UNICEF_GAB_UPR_S2_2008_UnitedNationsChildrensFund_uprsubmission.pdf.

²⁰ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 6.

²¹ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 10.

²² Ibid., para. 3.

²³ Ibid., para. 3 (g) and (h).

²⁴ UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and the World Bank, *Implementing the 20/20 initiative*, September 1998, p. 4

²⁵ See General Assembly resolution 59/113B of 14 July 2005 and Human Rights Council resolution 6/24 of 28 September 2007. See letters from the High Commissioner for Human Rights dated 9 January 2006 and 10 December 2007.

²⁶ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Gabon, p. 3.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 4.

²⁸ The following abbreviations have been used in this document:

CERD - Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
CESCR - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
HR Committee - Human Rights Committee;
CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
CAT - Committee against Torture;
CRC - Committee on the Rights of the Child.

²⁹ The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate-holder.

³⁰ See (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006;

(ii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants sent in September 2006;

(iii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons sent in July 2006;

(iv) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders (E/CN.4/2006/95 and Add.5), questionnaire on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms sent in June 2005;

(v) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/HRC/6/15), questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous peoples sent in August 2007;

(vi) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July 2005;

(vii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (E/CN.4/2006/45), questionnaire on the right to education for girls sent in 2005;

(viii) report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/61/341), questionnaire concerning its mandate and activities sent in November 2005;

(ix) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children's organs sent in July 2006;

(x) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2005/78), questionnaire on child pornography on the Internet sent in July 2004;

(xi) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2004/9), questionnaire on the prevention of child sexual exploitation sent in July 2003;

(xii) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices.

- ³¹ See A/62/317, paras. 19, 22, 23 and 26.
- ³² E/CN.4/2006/21.
- ³³ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 18.
- ³⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 22.
- ³⁵ See ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Doc. No. 092006GAB111, para. 1.
- ³⁶ See *Ibid.*
- ³⁷ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 19.
- ³⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 23.
- ³⁹ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 9, and CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 30.
- ⁴⁰ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 9.
- ⁴¹ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 31.
- ⁴² CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 33.
- ⁴³ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 30.
- ⁴⁴ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 9.
- ⁴⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 34.
- ⁴⁶ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 30.
- ⁴⁷ CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 20 and 21.
- ⁴⁸ OHCHR, Press Release, 21 September 2007.
- ⁴⁹ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 12.
- ⁵⁰ UNICEF submission to UPR on Gabon, p. 3.
- ⁵¹ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 32.
- ⁵² *Ibid.*, paras. 64 and 65.
- ⁵³ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, paras. 24-27.
- ⁵⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 39 and 40 (b), (c) and (d).
- ⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 62-63.
- ⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 57-58.
- ⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, paras. 59-60.
- ⁵⁸ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, paras. 13 and 14.
- ⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 13 and 14.
- ⁶⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 66-67.
- ⁶¹ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, paras. 40-41.
- ⁶² CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 19.
- ⁶³ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁴ E/CN.4/2004/62/Add.1, paras. 324-325.
- ⁶⁵ E/CN.4/2005/64/Add.1, para. 368.
- ⁶⁶ E/CN.4/2004/62/Add.1, paras. 322-323.
- ⁶⁷ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, paras. 34-35.

⁶⁸ Official United Nations Site for Millennium Development Goals Indicators, available at <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx>.

⁶⁹ Ibid., paras. 41-42.

⁷⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 49-50.

⁷¹ United Nations Population Fund Country Programme for Gabon, see DP/FPA/CPD/GAB/5, para. 2, available at http://www.unfpa.org/exbrd/2007/firstsession/dpfpa_gab_5_eng.doc.

⁷² CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 45-46.

⁷³ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 36.

⁷⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 47-48.

⁷⁵ 2003 Gabon Millennium Development Goals Report, see http://mirror.undp.org/gabon/publications/RAPPORT_%20NATIONAL_SUR_LES_OMD.pdf.

⁷⁶ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Gabon, op. cit., p. 1.

⁷⁷ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 51.

⁷⁸ Ibid., para. 52.

⁷⁹ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, paras. 36-39.

⁸⁰ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Gabon, op. cit., p. 2.

⁸¹ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 53.

⁸² CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, para. 33.

⁸³ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 17.

⁸⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 69-70.

⁸⁵ See UNICEF submission to the UPR on Gabon, op. cit., p. 4.

⁸⁶ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Gabon, p. 1, citing CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 55.

⁸⁷ CRC/C/15/Add.171, paras. 55-56.

⁸⁸ *2007 UNHCR Global Appeal Report, Strategies and Programmes*, Geneva, 2007, p. 94.

⁸⁹ CCPR/CO/70/GAB, para. 3.

⁹⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 51.

⁹¹ Ibid., para. 5.

⁹² UNICEF submission to the UPR on Gabon, op. cit., p. 2.

⁹³ Voluntary pledge undertaken by Gabon before the Human Rights Council, as contained in the letter dated 26 April 2006 and attached aide-memoire from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, available at: <http://www.un.org/ga/60/elect/hrc/gabon.pdf>.

⁹⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.171, para. 11.

⁹⁵ Ibid., paras. 39-40.

⁹⁶ Ibid., paras. 66-67.

⁹⁷ Ibid., paras. 55-56.

⁹⁸ Ibid., paras. 47-48.

⁹⁹ CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, paras. 40-41.

¹⁰⁰ United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) - Gabon 2007-2011, p. 6, available at http://mirror.undp.org/gabon/publications/UNDAF_Gabon_2007_2011.pdf.