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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***

Comoros

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 United Nations 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. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated.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.

* Late submission.

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	27 September 2004	None	Individual complaints (article 14): No
CEDAW	31 October 1994	None	-
CRC	22 June 1993	-	-
OP-CRC-SC	23 February 2007	-	-

Core treaties to which Comoros is not a party: ICESCR (signature only, 2008), OP-ICESCR,³ ICCPR (signature only, 2008), ICCPR-OP 1, ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CEDAW, CAT (signature only, 2000), OP-CAT, OP-CRC-AC, ICRMW (signature only, 2000), CRPD (signature only, 2007), CRPD-OP, CED (signature only, 2007).

<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 ⁴	No
Refugees and stateless persons ⁵	No
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁶	Yes, except Additional Protocol III
ILO fundamental conventions ⁷	Yes
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	No

1. In 2000, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) encouraged Comoros to accede to main international human rights instruments, such as ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT.⁸
2. According to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2008-2012, the process of ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is currently under way in the Comoros, but the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has not yet been ratified.⁹

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

3. In 2005, the Security Council Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CTC) received a report from the Government mentioning that under article 10 of the Constitution of the Union of the Comoros, treaties or agreements which have been duly ratified or adopted take precedence, following their application, over the laws of the Union and its islands, subject to the application by the other party of each agreement or treaty. The report also mentioned the existence of a draft law on the prevention and suppression of terrorism.¹⁰
4. In 2000, concern was expressed by CRC about the lack of harmonization between domestic legislation and the Convention. It recommended that Comoros take all appropriate measures to complete the process of law review and, where appropriate, adopt or amend legislation so as to ensure the harmonization of applicable provisions of the different jurisdictions (traditional, Islamic and civil law), ensuring their conformity with the provisions and principles of the Convention.¹¹

5. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted that the Constitution proclaims equality of rights and duties for all, without distinction based on sex, origin, race, religion or belief.¹²

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

6. As of 20 February 2009, Comoros does not have a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.¹³ In 2004, OHCHR annual report indicated that the Comoros initiated a process to establish a national human rights commission.¹⁴ UNDAF 2008-2012 noted that the process of establishment of a national human rights commission was still under way.¹⁵

7. In 2000, CRC recommended that Comoros consider the establishment of an independent body to monitor the implementation of the Convention, with the authority to receive and investigate individual or collective complaints regarding lack of compliance with the Convention and to make recommendations in that regard.¹⁶

D. Policy measures

8. In 2000, CRC remained concerned that the text of the Convention has not yet been translated into all national languages and that professionals working with and for children, parents, and the public at large are generally not aware of the Convention and of the human rights it enshrines. CRC recommended that Comoros develop an ongoing programme for the dissemination of information regarding the Convention and pursue efforts to promote child rights education in the country, including initiatives targeting the most vulnerable groups.¹⁷

9. Concern was also expressed at the lack of information on the current allocation of resources in favour of children, particularly in a context of widespread poverty.¹⁸ CRC urged Comoros to develop as soon as possible a policy for the allocation of resources in favour of children, including resources provided by international agencies or through bilateral assistance, and to establish how these resources will be used in future, ensuring that priority is given to the alleviation of poverty.¹⁹

10. According to UNDAF 2008-2012, the Comoros has a Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS), which was updated in 2005, and a “National Plan of Action for Education for All (NPA-EFA)” covering the period up to 2015.²⁰

11. In 2008, UNICEF indicated that the Ministry of Health is developing a health sector development plan in order to address maternal and child deaths and that a national policy on gender equality and equity was adopted in 2007.²¹ In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to provide information, inter alia, on the steps taken to ensure that this national policy contains measures for the promotion of gender equality in employment and occupation.²²

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<i>Treaty body</i> ²³	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2005
CEDAW	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 1995
CRC	1998	2000	-	Second and third reports overdue since 2000 and 2005 respectively
OP-CRC- SC	-	-	-	Initial report due in 2009

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<i>Standing invitation issued</i>	No
<i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>	-
<i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>	-
<i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>	-
<i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>	-
<i>Follow-up to visits</i>	-
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	One letter of allegation was sent during the period under review regarding a journalist. The Government did not reply to this communication.
<i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issue</i> ²⁴	Comoros responded to none of the 13 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders during the period under review, ²⁵ within the deadlines.

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

12. Developments in Comoros are followed by the OHCHR regional office in Pretoria. The Office engages with Governments, regional and sub-regional organizations and civil society to address institutional human rights needs, provide advice and assistance, and raise awareness of human rights principles. Throughout the region, it works closely with United Nations Country Teams to integrate a rights-based approach into United Nations development programming and to secure more support and assistance for human rights capacity-building work.²⁶

13. For example, in 2008, the OHCHR regional office worked with the United Nations Country Team in Comoros to develop a strategy integrating human rights to assist the Government in peace building.²⁷ In 2004, the Office undertook an advocacy mission to Comoros to support the Government's efforts to establish a national human rights commission and strengthen the rule of law with the newly established national Parliament.²⁸

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

14. According to UNDAF 2008-2012, a study revealed that women are relegated in most roles to second rank and that, in general, they have lower socio-economic status. The study in question and several other studies showed that there is substantial inequality between the sexes in the economic, social and political spheres.²⁹ In 2000, CRC urged Comoros to pay particular attention to addressing discrimination against both girls and women, inter alia, by reviewing domestic legislation so as to ensure that discriminatory provisions are removed and that adequate protection from discrimination is provided.³⁰

15. UNICEF noted that, as of 2000, 16 per cent of children did not have a birth certificate, which varied quite a bit between islands, from 10 per cent in Grande Comore to 25 per cent in Anjouan.³¹ CRC recommended that Comoros establish as quickly as possible the practice of systematic birth registration for all children born within the national territory and that it proceed with the registration of those children who have not been registered.³²

16. Concern was expressed by CRC at the situation of children with disabilities who are marginalized and discriminated against and at the lack of legal protection, programmes, facilities and services for children with disabilities aimed at facilitating their development and full integration in society. It recommended that Comoros establish special education programmes for children with disabilities and actively seek their inclusion in society.³³

17. UNDAF 2008-2012 noted the high prevalence of discriminatory attitudes to persons living with HIV.³⁴

18. CRC expressed concern at patterns of discrimination on grounds of gender, religion, ethnic origin, disability and birth or other status (e.g., children born out of wedlock). It recommended that Comoros increase its efforts to ensure implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and address those cases which continue to occur affecting all vulnerable groups.³⁵

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

19. In 2008, by means of a note verbale referring to General Assembly resolution 62/149, entitled “Moratorium on the use of the death penalty”, Comoros, among 58 countries, wished to place on record their objection to any attempt to impose a moratorium on the use of death penalty or its abolition.³⁶

20. UNDAF 2008-2012 mentioned that, according to a survey conducted in 2006, acts of gender-based violence are extremely widespread in the Comoros.³⁷ A 2007 UNFPA report noted that violence against women and girls is a problem in Comoros.³⁸

21. CRC noted with concern that the practice of corporal punishment in the home is socially and legally accepted, particularly for boys. The practice of corporal punishment in Koranic schools was also noted as a matter of concern by CRC. It recommended that Comoros take effective measures to prevent and combat child abuse and ill-treatment of children within the family, at school and in other institutions, and in society at large. Furthermore, educational programmes should be established to combat traditional attitudes in society regarding this issue. In particular, CRC recommended that Comoros include in its legislation a specific prohibition on the use of corporal punishment within the family and at school.³⁹

22. In 2000, CRC stressed that as a result of the socio-economic crisis in Comoros, it is very likely that children may start to become victims of sexual exploitation, sale and pornography. It recommended that Comoros take all available measures, including legal ones, for the prevention and combat of this phenomenon.⁴⁰ The growing numbers of children who are forced to live and work on the streets were also matter of concern. CRC recommended that Comoros establish special programmes to address the situation of children living and/or working in the streets. Moreover, Comoros should ensure that these children have access to health care, rehabilitation services for physical, sexual and substance abuse, services for reconciliation with families, comprehensive education, including vocational and life-skills training, and legal aid.⁴¹

23. UNICEF noted that legislation relating to child welfare was adopted in December 2005 and that an amendment of the Penal Code to include criminalization of sexual abuse of children was approved by the National Assembly in August 2007.⁴²

3. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

24. According to UNDAF 2008-2012, there is still widespread corruption in the public sector. This phenomenon is largely due to the lack of supervisory rules and machinery in the area of public administration and to impunity stemming from the weakness of the judicial system.⁴³

25. In 2000, CRC expressed its concern at the limited measures taken for children in conflict with the law. In particular, it noted with concern the detention of children in prisons with adults, the deteriorating living conditions in detention centres and the lack of rehabilitation programmes. CRC recommended that Comoros take effective measures to ensure that the juvenile justice system is in full conformity in practice, as well as in the legislation, with the provisions of the Convention and of other United Nations standards in this field.⁴⁴ UNICEF informed that legislation relating to juvenile delinquency and the organization of juvenile courts was adopted in December 2005.⁴⁵

26. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts noted that the Government had indicated that in practice, remand prisoners are not required to perform any kind of labour, either in or outside correctional institutions. The Committee expressed hope that the Government will indicate that Order No. 68-353 of 6 April 1968 has been repealed or amended to ensure that persons detained without having been convicted shall work only on a voluntary basis and at their request.⁴⁶

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

27. In 2000, CRC recommended that Comoros increase the legal minimum age for marriage and ensure non-discrimination against girls in this regard. It also recommended considering the need for effective public information and sensitization activities to discourage early marriage.⁴⁷ UNICEF noted that the Family Code adopted in 2005 sets the legal age of marriage at 18 years for both boys and girls.⁴⁸

28. According to UNDAF 2008-2012, the Family Code adopted in 2005 represents a real step forward in legal terms, but it cannot be properly implemented without a major communication effort and vigorous action to enhance the capacity of existing legal structures.⁴⁹

29. While noting the positive aspects of the placement of children in informal foster care, in particular of children from rural areas, for educational reasons, CRC expressed concern at the lack of adequate monitoring to prevent possible abuse of these children, such as their use as domestic workers. It recommended that Comoros take the necessary measures to establish outside supervision of these placements, in order to prevent the child from being abused by his/her foster family.⁵⁰

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

30. In 2007, the ILO Committee of Experts referred to sections 79, 94, 99, 252 and 254 of the Penal Code, which provide for terms of imprisonment for offences relating to the exercise of the freedom of expression and assembly. The Committee recalled that ILO Convention No. 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour prohibits the use of any form of forced or compulsory labour as a punishment for persons holding or expressing political views or views ideologically opposed to the established political, social or economic system. It requested the Government to take the necessary measures to ensure that persons protected by the Convention may not be subjected to punishment which includes the obligation to work.⁵¹

31. According to UNDAF 2008-2012, the new institutional structure calls for the holding of elections almost every year. It follows that the country must develop an efficient legal, institutional and technical framework to facilitate the organization of elections on a routine basis.⁵²

32. UNICEF noted that participation of women in decision making remains inconspicuous.⁵³ According to the United Nations Statistics Division, the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament was 3 per cent in 2008.⁵⁴ According to a 2007 UNFPA report, only one of every 10 government posts is occupied by a woman.⁵⁵

33. In 2000, CRC was seriously concerned at the way in which the principle of respect for the views of the child (art. 12) is interpreted in the State, especially since according to the report, a child needs to be “trained” to become a human being. CRC encouraged Comoros to promote public awareness of the participatory rights of children. It also urged the adoption of effective measures to ensure respect for the views of the child within schools, families, social institutions and in the care and judicial systems, in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of the Convention.⁵⁶

6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

34. In 2008, the ILO Committee of Experts noted the Government’s commitment to bring section 97 of the Labour Code into conformity with ILO Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.⁵⁷ The same year, the Committee requested Comoros to indicate, inter alia, what procedures are available for bringing complaints in cases of discrimination in employment and occupation under the Constitution, and to provide information on any cases of discrimination addressed through labour inspection or by the courts.⁵⁸

35. In 2007, the ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to take measures to promote collective bargaining.⁵⁹

36. In 2000, concern was expressed by CRC at the allegedly growing number of children involved in labour activities, including in the informal sector, in agriculture and in the family context, and at lax law enforcement. The Committee urged Comoros to make urgent efforts to monitor and address the use of child labour. It recommended that Comoros improve its monitoring mechanisms to ensure the enforcement of existing labour laws and protect children from economic exploitation.⁶⁰

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

37. In a report to the General Assembly in 2004, the Secretary General noted that approximately 60 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line and that the high level of cash poverty goes hand in hand with poor human development performance.⁶¹ As noted by UNICEF, access to clean water, electricity and services such as health care is very limited and inequalities between regions and between households are marked.⁶²

38. According to the United Nations Statistics Division in 2008, 62 per cent of the population was undernourished in 2002 and 24.9 per cent of children under five were moderately or severely underweight in 2004.⁶³ UNICEF indicated that high malnutrition rates among children under five are due on one hand to poverty, food insecurity and high prevalence of diseases, and on the other to inadequate knowledge about nutrition.⁶⁴

39. UNICEF noted that although infant and under-five mortality rates are declining since the 1990s, the figures continue to be high, especially in rural areas.⁶⁵ CRC expressed similar concerns and added that a large number of births take place outside the hospital system. It urged Comoros to adopt, in cooperation with international agencies, effective plans to combat childhood and maternal mortality, such as the WHO/UNICEF Integrated Management of Childhood Illness scheme.⁶⁶

40. A 2007 UNFPA report stressed that existing health resources, including personnel, facilities, equipment and drugs, are inadequate, making it difficult for the Government to respond to the health needs of the population.⁶⁷ Concern was expressed by CRC at the limited access of children to health services, especially with regard to the shortage of medication and technical equipment, and of medical and public health personnel. The general lack of attention to the health problems of adolescents was also a matter of concern.⁶⁸ CRC encouraged Comoros to increase its efforts in the health sector, including through the strengthening of data collection and disease surveillance mechanisms, the allocation of adequate resources and the reinforcement of training and support for health sector staff. It also recommended that Comoros ensure equitable access to existing health-care services and that it make every effort to increase vaccination coverage.⁶⁹

41. In 2008 the United Nations Statistics Division indicated that in 2007, the proportion of people living with HIV, 15-49 years old, was 0.1 per cent.⁷⁰ UNDAF 2008-2012 stated that, notwithstanding the low prevalence of HIV in the Comoros, national projections show that the prevalence rate could reach 15 per cent by 2018 in the absence of an early and vigorous response on a massive scale.⁷¹ CRC recommended that Comoros continue taking effective measures for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, including awareness-raising and educational campaigns.⁷²

42. CRC expressed concern at the problems of environmental degradation in Comoros, including very limited access to drinkable water, and at the precarious conditions of housing facilities for families.⁷³ In 2008 the United Nations Statistics Division indicated that the total proportion of population using an improved drinking water source decreased from 89 per cent in 2000 to 85 per cent in 2006.⁷⁴

43. CRC recommended that the State party take all appropriate measures, including through international cooperation, to prevent and combat the damaging effects of environmental degradation on children, including pollution and contamination of water supplies. CRC also recommended that Comoros take effective measures, including through international cooperation, to improve housing facilities for families.⁷⁵

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

44. In 2000, CRC expressed concern that school enrolment ratios are low and equal access to education is not ensured. It was also concerned at the high level of illiteracy in the country, gender disparities in school attendance and high drop out rates. CRC added that the education system is affected by a general lack of facilities and equipment, insufficient qualified teachers, and a drastic shortage of text books and other learning materials. The Committee recommended that Comoros continue its efforts to promote and facilitate school attendance, particularly among girls. It also recommended taking effective measures to ensure that primary education is available to all, to improve the quality of teaching and to reduce drop-out rates.⁷⁶

45. UNICEF submitted that over the past five years, the Comorian education system has not grown at the same pace as the school age population, implying that the system could not have been able to physically accommodate the totality of children in school age. As a result, the net enrolment rate has stagnated at 73 per cent between 2003 and 2007, with significant disparities between islands. The gender gap has considerably dropped from 13.3 in 2003 to 4.1 percentage points in 2007.⁷⁷

46. A 2006 UNDP report noted that the rate of adult education of women remained below 50 per cent.⁷⁸

9. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

47. UNICEF noted the issue of falsification of identity documents to facilitate migration abroad seeking education and/or job opportunities. It also indicated that migration by precarious boats under highly risky circumstances puts thousands of lives in danger every year, including those of children and women.⁷⁹

10. Situation in or in relation to specific regions or territories

48. In 2000, CRC took note of the ongoing peace negotiations with the separatist forces in the island of Anjouan and of the embargo imposed on that island. CRC was concerned at the negative effects of the State's political instability and the socio-economic crisis on children.⁸⁰ It expressed concern at the reported use of child soldiers by the different militias in the island and encouraged Comoros to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.⁸¹ In its resolution 58/120, the General Assembly welcomed the signing of the Fomboni Agreement of February 2001, which created prospects for a peaceful resolution of the separatist crisis.⁸²

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES⁸³ AND CONSTRAINTS

49. UNICEF noted that Comoros has reduced the under five mortality rate by 3.5 per cent points over the last decade, and that the same trend is reported for the infant mortality rate, which dropped from 86 per thousand live births to 52 over the same period.⁸⁴

50. According to UNICEF, progress in promoting and protecting human rights was held back by several years of political crisis and economic difficulties that resulted in financial, budgetary deficits and high levels of overdue salaries of the public civil servants, as well as accumulation of debt service arrears.⁸⁵

51. CRC was deeply concerned at the State's resource limitations, which constrain its ability to implement the principles and provisions of the Convention.⁸⁶ UNICEF considered that the harmonization of, *inter alia*, customary and civil laws related to children, and the implementation and enforcement of those laws already harmonized and adopted are among the challenges facing the implementation of international human rights obligations in Comoros.⁸⁷

52. In a 2004 report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General stressed that the national reconciliation process remains a challenge, in terms of continuing the dialogue between the Comorian parties, in order to complete the institutional structure without delay and deal firmly with urgent development problems, and that Comoros is greatly in need of multifaceted support from the international community if it is to pursue national reconciliation and reconstruction.⁸⁸

53. According to UNDAF 2008-2012, the Comoros face serious natural risks from climatic and geological changes. The risks of epidemics, especially cholera epidemics, are also very serious. The main challenge consists in reducing disaster risks, which depends in turn on the existence of an appropriate legal and institutional framework, action to reduce risks in the sectors concerned, the right to information regarding the sources and characteristics of major risks, and provision for emergency assistance.⁸⁹

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

N/A.

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

54. On 25 June 2008, the Secretary-General declared that the Comoros is eligible to receive assistance from the Peace Building Fund.⁹⁰

55. UNDAF 2008-2012 has identified four priority areas for cooperation: economic growth and the fight against poverty; governance; basic social services; the environment and sustainable development.⁹¹

56. UNICEF submitted information on capacity-building and technical assistance provided to, *inter alia*, delivering quality basic social services for children and women and advocating against sexual violence and all forms of abuse and exploitation of children.⁹²

57. In 2000, CRC encouraged the Comoros to seek technical assistance to: accede to the international and regional human rights instruments to which it is not yet party;⁹³ complete the process of law review;⁹⁴ disseminate the Convention and raise awareness about it;⁹⁵ combat discrimination against children with disabilities;⁹⁶ prevent and combat child abuse and ill-treatment of children;⁹⁷ combat economic exploitation of children;⁹⁸ ensure that the juvenile justice system is in full conformity with the provisions of the Convention and of other United Nations standards in this field;⁹⁹ take measures for the prevention of HIV/AIDS;¹⁰⁰ address the situation of children living and/or working on the streets;¹⁰¹ and strengthen the educational system.¹⁰²

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of 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://treaties.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
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
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
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008, in which the General Assembly recommended that a signing ceremony be organized in 2009. Article 17, para. 1, of OP-ICESCR states that “The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant.”

⁴ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); 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 www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.141), paras. 7-8.

⁹ UNCT Comoros, Plan-cadre des Nations Unies pour l'aide au Développement (UNDAF) 2008-2012, Moroni, 2007, p. 22, available at <http://www.undg.org/docs/7375/Undaf%20Comores%202008-2012.pdf>.

¹⁰ S/2005/501, pp. 4, 5 and 6.

¹¹ CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 9-10.

¹² ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILOLEX Doc. No. 092008COM111, para. 2.

¹³ For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/10/55, annex I.

¹⁴ OHCHR, 2004 Annual Report, p. 111.

¹⁵ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 20.

¹⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 13.

¹⁷ Ibid., paras. 19 and 20.

¹⁸ Ibid., para. 14.

¹⁹ Ibid., para. 16.

²⁰ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., pp. 5 and 20.

²¹ UNICEF submission to the UPR on Comoros, pp. 2 and 3.

²² ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILOLEX Doc. No. 092008COM111, para. 4.

²³ The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child

²⁴ The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate-holder.

²⁵ See (a) 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; (b) 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 2006; (c) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons sent in 2006; (d) 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; (e) 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 people sent in August 2007; (f) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in 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; (g) 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; (h) report of the Working Group on mercenaries (A/61/341), questionnaire concerning its mandate and activities sent in November 2005; (i) 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 on July 2006; (j) 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; (k) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/7/8), questionnaire on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation sent in July 2007; (l) 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; (m) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/8/10), questionnaire on the right to education in emergency situations sent in 2007.

- ²⁶ OHCHR, 2007 Report on Activities and Results, p. 73.
- ²⁷ OHCHR, 2008 Report on Activities and Results.
- ²⁸ OHCHR, 2004 Annual Report, pp. 110-111.
- ²⁹ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 23.
- ³⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 24.
- ³¹ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 3.
- ³² CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 27-28.
- ³³ Ibid., paras. 37-38.
- ³⁴ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 32.
- ³⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 23-24.
- ³⁶ A/62/658.
- ³⁷ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 23.
- ³⁸ UNFPA, Country programme document for Comoros, 2007 (DP/FPA/CPD/COM/5), p. 2.
- ³⁹ CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 31-32.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid., paras. 50-51.
- ⁴¹ Ibid., paras. 39-40.
- ⁴² UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 1.
- ⁴³ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 19.
- ⁴⁴ CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 52-53.
- ⁴⁵ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 1.
- ⁴⁶ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILOLEX Doc. No. 062006COM029, p. 1.
- ⁴⁷ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 22.
- ⁴⁸ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 2.
- ⁴⁹ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 20.
- ⁵⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 29-30.
- ⁵¹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILOLEX Doc. No. 092007COM105, para. 2.
- ⁵² UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 18.
- ⁵³ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 2.
- ⁵⁴ United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, available at <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/SeriesDetail.aspx?srid=557&crd=>.
- ⁵⁵ UNFPA, op. cit., p. 2.
- ⁵⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 25-26.
- ⁵⁷ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILOLEX Doc. No. 092008COM100, para. 1.
- ⁵⁸ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILOLEX Doc. No. 092008COM111, para. 2.

- ⁵⁹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, ILOLEX Doc. No. 062007COM098, p. 1.
- ⁶⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 48-49.
- ⁶¹ A/59/293, para. 19.
- ⁶² UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 2.
- ⁶³ United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, op. cit.
- ⁶⁴ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 2.
- ⁶⁵ Ibid., pp. 2-3.
- ⁶⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.141, paras. 33-34.
- ⁶⁷ UNFPA, op. cit., p. 2.
- ⁶⁸ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 33.
- ⁶⁹ Ibid., para. 34.
- ⁷⁰ United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, op. cit.
- ⁷¹ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 32.
- ⁷² CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 35.
- ⁷³ Ibid., para. 41.
- ⁷⁴ United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, op. cit.
- ⁷⁵ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 42.
- ⁷⁶ Ibid., paras. 43 and 44.
- ⁷⁷ UNICEF submission, op. cit.
- ⁷⁸ UNDP, *UNDP Arab Human Development Report 2005*, p. 80, available at <http://www.pogar.org/publications/other/ahdr/ahdr2005e.pdf>.
- ⁷⁹ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 3.
- ⁸⁰ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 6.
- ⁸¹ Ibid., para. 47.
- ⁸² General Assembly resolution 58/120 on the special emergency economic assistance for the recovery and the development of the Comoros, para. 1.
- ⁸³ The status of the Island of Mayotte is referred to in General Assembly resolution 49/151.
- ⁸⁴ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 3.
- ⁸⁵ Ibid., p. 4.
- ⁸⁶ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 17.
- ⁸⁷ UNICEF submission, op. cit., p. 4.
- ⁸⁸ A/59/293, para. 31.
- ⁸⁹ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., p. 23.
- ⁹⁰ United Nations Peace Building Fund, available at <http://www.unpbf.org/Comoros/Comoros.shtml>.
- ⁹¹ UNCT Comoros, op. cit., pp. 5-10.
- ⁹² UNICEF submission, op. cit., para. 3.
- ⁹³ CRC/C/15/Add.141, para. 8.
- ⁹⁴ Ibid., para. 10.

⁹⁵ Ibid., para. 20.

⁹⁶ Ibid., para. 38.

⁹⁷ Ibid., para. 32.

⁹⁸ Ibid., para. 49.

⁹⁹ Ibid., para. 53.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid., para. 35.

¹⁰¹ Ibid., para. 40.

¹⁰² Ibid., para. 44.
