



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 November 2013
English
Original: English/French

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Eighteenth session
27 January–7 February 2014

Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21

Comoros

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

International human rights treaties²

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (2004) CEDAW (1994) CRC (1993) OP-CRC-SC (2007)		ICESCR (signature only, 2008) ICCPR (signature only, 2008) ICCPR-OP 2 CAT (signature only, 2000) OP-CAT OP-CRC-AC ICRMW (signature only, 2000) CRPD (signature only, 2007) CPED (signature only, 2007)
<i>Reservations, declarations and/or understandings</i>			
<i>Complaint procedures, inquiry and urgent action³</i>		ICERD, art. 14 OP-ICESCR ICCPR ICCPR-OP 1 OP-CEDAW CAT OP-CRC-IC ICRMW OP-CRPD CPED	

Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II ⁴ ILO fundamental conventions ⁵		Palermo Protocol ⁶ Conventions on refugees and stateless persons ⁷ UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 ⁸ Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions ⁹

1. In 2012, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) encouraged Comoros to consider ratifying ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, ICRMW, CPED and CRPD.¹⁰ CEDAW also encouraged Comoros to ratify OP-CEDAW.¹¹
2. UNHCR recommended that Comoros accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as well as the 1969 African Union Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa.¹²
3. UNHCR recommended that Comoros accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹³
4. UNESCO recommended that Comoros be encouraged to ratify the 1960 UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education.¹⁴

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. CEDAW noted that the Convention took precedence over domestic law and that a 2007 comparative study of Comorian legislation and the Convention had been carried out with the aim of harmonizing the national legal framework with the Convention. It urged Comoros to prioritize the revision of its laws and the proposals emanating from the comparative study.¹⁵
6. CEDAW recommended that Comoros expedite the adoption of the bill on the protection of persons living with HIV/AIDS.¹⁶

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

Status of national human rights institutions¹⁷

<i>National human rights institution</i>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle¹⁸</i>
Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés (CNDHL)	No status	No status

7. The United Nations country team in Comoros noted that Comoros had introduced a national human rights policy in October 2012.¹⁹
8. The country team indicated that the Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés (National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms) (CNDHL) has been in place since October 2012. It is responsible for all activities to raise awareness among and provide information for the public for the purpose of developing a human rights culture. Its 15 members were appointed by the President of the Union in July 2012.²⁰
9. CEDAW recommended that Comoros ensure the independence of the national human rights institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles) and provide it with human and financial resources, and a broad human rights mandate and a specific mandate on gender equality; and ensure that its composition and activities were gender-sensitive.²¹
10. CEDAW was concerned at the general lack of awareness of the Convention at all levels of the government and the judiciary. It was further concerned at the lack of dissemination measures targeting women about their rights under the Convention and their lack of capacity to claim the full respect, promotion, protection and fulfilment of their rights on an equal basis with men.²²

11. CEDAW recommended that Comoros translate the Convention into Comorian and ensure an adequate understanding of the Convention by all government ministries, parliamentarians, the judiciary, law enforcement officers and community leaders. It also recommended that Comoros undertake awareness-raising campaigns targeted at women so that they were aware of their rights.²³

12. CEDAW urged Comoros to continue its collaboration with NGOs and involve them, in particular women's associations, in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and measures aiming at the advancement of women.²⁴

13. UNESCO recommended that Comoros be encouraged to include human rights education in the curricula.²⁵

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

14. The Comoros country team found that despite the progress made in the ratification of a number of international treaties and agreements, Comoros still faces numerous persistent constraints in effectively implementing those international commitments it has ratified. The obstacles include the lack of follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations from international agreements and the shortage of specialized human resources and the strapped budgets of the institutions responsible for implementing the agreements.²⁶

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies²⁷

15. The country team noted that Comoros lacked a permanent institutionalized system for coordinating its commitments towards the international mechanisms as regards the implementation of the recommendations, follow-up of performance and the preparation of national reports. As a result, several periodic reports on the conventions ratified by the country have not been submitted on time.²⁸

1. Reporting status

Treaty body	Concluding observations included in previous review	Latest report submitted since previous review	Latest concluding observations	Reporting status
CERD	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 2005
CEDAW	–	2011	October 2012	Fifth report due in 2016
CRC	September 2000	–	–	Second to fourth reports overdue since 2000, 2005 and 2010/Initial report to OP-CRC-AC overdue since 2009

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

Treaty body	Due in	Subject matter	Submitted in
CEDAW	2014	National machinery for the advancement of women; temporary special measures ²⁹	–

B. Cooperation with special procedures³⁰

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	None	None
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	None	None
<i>Visits requested</i>	None	Mercenaries (2011–2013)
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, no communication was sent	

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

16. The Regional Office for Southern Africa in Pretoria covered 14 countries, including Comoros.³¹ The country team took note of the cooperation between the Delegation for human rights, which is the government focal point for human rights, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR). In that connection, in October 2012 a training workshop was organized by the Delegation for members of CNDHL with the support of UNHCHR and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.³²

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations

A. Equality and non-discrimination

17. With regard to the legislative framework on gender issues, the country team found that the simultaneous application within Comorian society of rules of customary law, of Islamic law and of modern law made for a complex legal system. The essentially egalitarian provisions of modern law in respect of men and women were not applied with sufficient vigour to reduce the gender inequalities inherent in customary law and Muslim law.³³

18. CEDAW was concerned that the coexistence of the three systems of law (civil, Islamic and customary) regulating marriage and family relations resulted in deep and persistent discrimination against women on issues such as the right to freely choose a spouse, child custody, division of property acquired during the marriage and inheritance. It was concerned that women requesting no-fault divorce were required to pay compensation (kholt) to their husbands, while the same was not required from men. It was also concerned that the separate property regime in place and the infrequent payment of alimonies left divorced women in a disadvantageous position since they were often left alone with the responsibility to bring up their children.³⁴

19. CEDAW called upon Comoros to carry out a review process of its legal system and repeal existing discriminatory provisions within civil, Islamic and customary laws so as to guarantee that these bodies of law were harmonized with the Convention, and set up a clear time frame for the completion of such review process; and abolish polygamy.³⁵

20. CEDAW also called upon Comoros to prioritize the elaboration and adoption of a law on gender equality which incorporated the prohibition of discrimination against women, and to revise its legislation with the aim to repeal discriminatory provisions against women, such as those contained in the Family Code.³⁶

21. CEDAW was concerned at the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society. It was seriously concerned about the persistence of entrenched practices, such as forced and early marriages and polygamy.³⁷
22. CEDAW urged Comoros to adopt a strategy to eliminate harmful practices and stereotypes that discriminated against women and to monitor and review the measures taken in order to assess their impact and to take further appropriate action.³⁸
23. CEDAW regretted that no temporary special measures had been adopted so far. It recommended that Comoros understand the concept of temporary special measures; make use of them as part of a necessary strategy towards the achievement of women's substantive equality in all policies, programmes and plans of action; and seek support from the United Nations agencies and development partners to apply temporary special measures in addressing the specific needs of women, in fields such as health, education, employment and participation in political and public life at the decision-making level.³⁹
24. CEDAW was concerned that the General Office for Solidarity and Gender Advocacy did not have sufficient influence in the Government's decision-making process. It encouraged Comoros to raise the institutional rank of the Office to the Cabinet level and to provide it with adequate human, financial and technical resources. It also encouraged Comoros to continue its collaboration with the United Nations system with the aim of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Government at the national and island levels to implement policies and programmes, including the National Policy of Gender Equality and Equity.⁴⁰

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

25. In December 2012, Comoros abstained from voting on General Assembly resolution 67/176, entitled "Moratorium on the use of death penalty".⁴¹ The country team found that the draft new criminal code that was being prepared made provision for the abolition of the death penalty which appeared in the current Criminal Code. In recent years, several people have been sentenced to death by the assize courts.⁴²
26. The country team in Comoros said that pretrial detention had become virtually automatic, even in the case of minor offences. The ordering of pretrial detention did not always correspond to the requirements of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Lawyers regularly denounced the abusive ordering of pretrial detention of accused persons who posed no real threat to public order or a risk of collusion.⁴³
27. According to the country team, the situation regarding the rights of detainees remained a source of concern on account of the living conditions in prisons and custodial facilities. Places of detention do not satisfy the international commitments made by the country. They are insalubrious, lack recreation areas and sports fields; they offer no intellectual or training activities, lack nursing facilities, fail to separate criminal from minor offenders and make no distinction between prisoners in pretrial detention and convicted prisoners. Moreover, they do not provide a sufficient and balanced diet.⁴⁴
28. CEDAW was deeply concerned at the results of the national qualitative study (2006), according to which one third of Comorian women were victims of violence committed either by their husbands or male relatives of their in-laws. It was deeply concerned that the majority of rape cases were settled "amicably". It regretted that violence against women was considered a taboo and therefore a culture of silence prevailed.⁴⁵
29. CEDAW urged Comoros to: adopt a comprehensive law on violence against women; develop a national strategic action plan for the prevention of all forms of violence against

women, protection of victims and punishment of perpetrators and ensure its full implementation; conduct awareness-raising campaigns to encourage reporting of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls; provide training on women's rights for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers as well as for health professionals; and provide shelter facilities and adequate assistance and protection to victims, in particular psychosocial rehabilitation at the national and island level.⁴⁶

30. The country team expressed its concern about the multiplication of acts of violence against women and children. The advisory and protection services for the child victims of violence set up by the Government registered an average of 1,000 cases of violence against children. In 2011, the services registered almost 1,047 cases to which it had responded, including 566 sexual assaults on minors. In many cases, the assaults were committed by someone close to the child.⁴⁷

31. In 2012, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILO Committee of Experts) reiterated its previous request that Comoros indicate the measures taken or envisaged to prohibit and treat as a criminal offence, in accordance with article 3 (b) of the ILO Convention No. 182, the use, procuring or offering of a child under the age of 18 for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances. It also once again requested Comoros to establish penalties for that purpose.⁴⁸

32. The country team said that the Government would submit for approval by parliament, before the end of 2013, the new Criminal Code which introduced more severe penalties for child labour and human trafficking.⁴⁹

33. UNHCR stated that the geographical location of Comoros made it particularly vulnerable to the problem of trafficking of persons. While Comoros had ratified OP-CRC-SC in 2007, little information appeared to be available on how it intended to address, in a more effective manner, the issue of trafficking more broadly. UNHCR recommended that Comoros undertake a thorough assessment of the issue of trafficking in persons and take adequate follow-up measures/actions, including enactment of adequate legislation to combat the practice.⁵⁰

34. CEDAW recommended that Comoros conduct assessments on the extent of trafficking in persons and exploitation of prostitution; develop and implement a national plan to combat trafficking in persons; and adopt a regulatory framework to combat the exploitation of prostitution, as well as measures aimed at discouraging male demand for prostitution, provide women with economic alternatives to prostitution as well as assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to women and girls exploited in prostitution.⁵¹

C. Administration of justice and the rule of law

35. The country team reported that access to justice posed a real challenge to Comorians. The population did not always have the same right of access to justice. Lawyer's fees and other payments to judicial officials were exorbitant. With the exception of criminal cases, in which a lawyer could be appointed by the court, the legal system made no provision for a mechanism to provide assistance to the poorest plaintiffs. The heavy concentration of public judicial services in the administrative capitals of the islands (Moroni, Mutsamudu and Fomboni) seriously jeopardized the provision of justice.⁵²

36. The country team noted that the Supreme Court, which was provided for by article 29 of the Constitution, had been established in 2011. The establishment of the Supreme Court was a response to a long-standing issue in the Comoros since independence. Since 1975, cases had been heard up to the level of the Court of Appeal. Many appeals had been

lodged, but none had been heard for the simple reason that the Supreme Court had never existed. The country team indicated that the completion of the court hierarchy helped to improve the country's legal environment and to enhance the rule of law.⁵³

37. According to the country team, the deaths of two young men in prison and on gendarmerie premises in 2011 and 2012 raised the issue of the need to train prison warders and judicial police officers. The main problems with the judicial police were the difficulties faced by the prosecution service in asserting its authority over them, the inadequate training of judicial police officers on how to write reports on investigations and, more generally, their lack of training in criminal procedure and their use of force to obtain confessions, which was the commonest way of obtaining evidence in Comoros.⁵⁴

38. The country team noted that on 21 June 2011, Comoros promulgated Act No. 08-013/AU, which was adopted on 25 July 2008, on transparency in the public, economic, financial and social affairs of the Union of the Comoros, and has set up the National Commission to Prevent and Combat Corruption (CNPLC). A strategy for the reform of public finances 2010–2019 and its three-year plan of action 2010–2012 have also been drawn up and approved by the Government in order to give the Comoros a system of management of public finances that is transparent, efficient and in conformity with international standards.⁵⁵

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

39. UNHCR indicated that consensual same-sex sexual activity was illegal in Comoros and could be punished by up to 5 years' imprisonment and a fine of between 50,000 and 1 million Comorian francs (140–2,780 USD). UNHCR considered that restrictive legislation criminalizing same-sex sexual activity might lead to human rights violations and be a cause for displacement. UNHCR recommended that Comoros amend legislation related to consensual same-sex sexual activity and extend full protection to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexed individuals.⁵⁶

40. UNHCR stated that, despite achievements made by Comoros on the issue of birth registration and ongoing efforts more remained to be done to ensure a 100 per cent birth registration rate. UNHCR recommended that Comoros continue to ensure that the births of all children were registered.⁵⁷

41. UNHCR welcomed several safeguards against statelessness found in the 2001 Constitution and the nationality law. Nevertheless, UNHCR noted that there were several gaps between the current nationality law and international standards, in particular with regard to: (a) procedures for renunciation of nationality; and (b) the right to a nationality of a child born on the territory who would otherwise be stateless, because he/she was born to parents who were stateless, of unknown nationality, or foreign citizens who were unable to transmit their nationality to a child born abroad. UNHCR also indicated that, contrary to article 9, paragraph 1, of CEDAW, the law also distinguished between men and women in the right to acquire, change or retain their nationality.⁵⁸

42. UNHCR recommended that Comoros amend legislation to include safeguards against statelessness that provided that children born in the territory, who would otherwise be stateless, acquired Comorian nationality; that nationals could only renounce their nationality if they possessed or had an assurance to acquire a foreign nationality; and that men and women were equal in the right to acquire, change or retain their nationality.⁵⁹

E. Freedom of expression and right to participate in public and political life

43. UNESCO stated that no freedom of information law existed in Comoros and recommended that Comoros be encouraged to pass such a law in accordance with international standards.⁶⁰

44. UNESCO stated that defamation remained criminalized under section 8 of the Penal Code. Pursuant to article 361, those committing libel faced 6 months–5 years' imprisonment and a 30,000–200,000 francs fine. UNESCO encouraged Comoros to decriminalize defamation and subsequently incorporate it into the Civil Code in accordance with international standards.⁶¹

45. UNESCO indicated that media self-regulatory mechanisms for the media were non-existent in Comoros and recommended that Comoros develop them.⁶²

46. The country team in Comoros reported that women's participation in decision-making was limited. There are only 2 women among the 13 members of the Government of the Union and no women sit on the Union's Assembly.⁶³

47. CEDAW was concerned that sociocultural constraints and stereotypes had relegated women's participation in political life to a minimal level. It was deeply concerned that women were excluded from participating in decision-making positions because it was believed that repeated pregnancy and motherhood were incompatible with positions of responsibility.⁶⁴

48. CEDAW urged Comoros to implement awareness-raising activities targeting the public at large about the importance of women's participation in decision-making, and take measures to increase their participation in political and public life by, for example, adopting temporary special measures such as quotas.⁶⁵

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

49. The country team noted that much remains to be done in order to actually implement the rights of workers deriving from international standards. The effective implementation of the ILO Conventions also has to overcome the population's lack of knowledge of its rights and obligations, even in the case of major players such as the Assembly of the Union and the Judiciary. Moreover, as the informal economy is large, a high proportion of workers are excluded from the protection guaranteed by the standards.⁶⁶

50. The country team added that the rights to which workers are entitled are constantly violated on account of the precarious employment situation and the vulnerability of job seekers. There has been no improvement in the right to work as a result of the lack of efforts to develop transparency and fairness in recruitment in sectors in which there are still opportunities. Hiring is selective and is carried out on the basis of criteria other than conventional considerations of competence. In the civil service, recruitment depends on political persuasion, especially in the case of managers in the civil service or certain State corporations.⁶⁷

51. The country team found that the labour market in Comoros is characterized by the high proportion of women in casual and informal jobs and among the unemployed; the highest proportion of women are employed by the agricultural sector (66.9 per cent), only 30 per cent of those employed in the civil service are women, most of whom are in low-level positions, and 47 per cent of the unemployed are women. In agriculture, women work above all in subsistence farming and market gardening and poultry farming. They also work in the production of cash crops, but are little involved in the marketing side.⁶⁸

52. CEDAW urged Comoros to: implement the goals of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity aiming at eliminating gender disparities in the employment sector; ensure that the Labour Code implemented the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and ban sexual harassment in the workplace; and elaborate a regulatory framework for temporary work and for the informal employment sectors.⁶⁹

53. CEDAW urged Comoros to adopt the National Policy on Female Entrepreneurship with the aim of supporting self-employed women by enhancing their capacity and facilitating their access to credit and markets. It further urged Comoros to make the promotion of gender equality an explicit component of its development plans and programmes and take measures aimed at eliminating discrimination against women, including gender stereotypes in the economic and social life.⁷⁰

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

54. The country team found that poverty still persists in Comoros and that poverty affects one out of every two people.⁷¹ From 2011 to 2013, the country slipped down six places in the Human Development Index.⁷²

55. The country team indicated that where landownership is concerned, the problems derive from the lack of a property register, the incomplete registration of land, the matrilineal system which enshrines indivisibility and the inaccessibility of land, making it impossible for women, even if they are the traditional owners of land, to actually use it, for example to obtain a bank loan.⁷³

56. CEDAW called upon Comoros to formulate and implement within the framework of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy specific measures to combat women's poverty, including measures to ensure rural women's access to justice, health-care services, education, housing, clean water and sanitation, fertile land and income-generating projects; ensure rural women's participation in decision-making processes at the community level; and address the root causes, including irregularities in the land registration and the custom of the matrilineal system, which prevented rural women from using their ownership of land and other property to access financial credit and capital.⁷⁴

H. Right to health

57. CEDAW was concerned that that, according to the Health Code, health-care services provided by public health facilities were not free of charge. It was also concerned that a large number of women did not have access to health-care services because of poverty and lack of financial resources available to them. It was further concerned at the high maternal mortality rate (380 per 100,000), despite policies and programmes in place to reduce it.⁷⁵

58. The country team in Comoros mentioned that clandestine abortions are reportedly very widespread.⁷⁶

59. CEDAW recommended that Comoros ensure women's free health care and access to the cooperative health insurance scheme in place; reduce the incidents of maternal mortality and provide training to medical and health professionals in order to ensure that women were assisted and treated by trained health-care personnel; increase knowledge of and access to affordable contraceptive methods throughout the country and ensure that women and girls did not face barriers to accessing family planning information and services.⁷⁷

60. As regards child mortality, the country team found that the risk of a child dying before the age of 5 is 50 per thousand live births. In other words, 1 child out of 20 dies before the age of 5 years.⁷⁸

I. Right to education

61. CEDAW was concerned at the high illiteracy rate of women (64.8 per cent) in the group of 15–24 years. It was concerned that 55 per cent of the total children between 6 and 14 years who were out of school were girls, as well as at the lack of alternative ways to accommodate these girls in the education system. It was further concerned about the gender disparity in primary and secondary school and about the alarming and consistent dropout rates of girls in secondary school.⁷⁹ UNCT⁸⁰ and the ILO Committee of Experts also expressed similar concerns. The ILO Committee of Experts urged Comoros to intensify its efforts to improve its education system, in order to prevent children under 15 years of age from working.⁸¹

62. CEDAW urged Comoros to: take measures to expand capacity, particularly for the age cohort of 6–14 years old; identify and implement measures to reduce the gender disparity in primary and secondary school; address causes of the high dropout rates of adolescent girls from school such as gender stereotypes, poverty and sexual harassment in school, teenage pregnancies and early marriages; revise the school curriculum in order to eliminate stereotypes which impeded girls' wide curriculum options and career paths; and improve the literacy rate of women through the adoption of comprehensive programmes of formal and non-formal education and training.⁸²

63. UNESCO encouraged Comoros to focus its efforts on the access to and permanence in education by vulnerable groups of the population, especially girls and women.⁸³

J. Refugees and asylum seekers

64. UNHCR stated that Comoros had neither passed legislation nor administrative regulations on asylum or refugee status, nor established a formal national asylum procedure. Notwithstanding the relatively small number of asylum seekers arriving in the country and the competing domestic priorities, accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and the establishment of a national legal framework would establish a clearer basis for the Government of Comoros to provide refugees with international protection. UNHCR recommended that Comoros enact a national refugee law to establish refugee status determination procedures and spell out the rights of refugees in the country.⁸⁴

65. UNHCR also recommended that Comoros accept UNHCR technical support in drafting national refugee legislation, capacity-building for Government officials and assistance in the development of a national refugee-status determination procedure.⁸⁵

K. Right to development and environmental issues

66. UNESCO indicated that Comoros was under growing population pressure compared to its limited resources. The negative impact on the environment was produced by marked dependence on wood fuels (massive deforestation, erosion, etc.). The high population growth, combined with deforestation and subsistence farming, led to overexploitation of soil and the impoverishment and erosion thereof. The major consequences of this degradation amplified rural poverty, increasing the flow of migration from rural to urban areas and developing food insecurity. The forest clearing and subsequent erosion of soil were also a threat to the country's water resources.⁸⁶

67. UNHCR stated that the past 30 years in Comoros had been marked by precipitation fluctuations and intervals in the season, early and prolonged droughts and a 1 °C rise in the average temperature. In 2012, severe weather and flooding devastated several villages

resulting in homelessness, infrastructural damage and disruption to the education of 20,000 children.⁸⁷

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Comoros from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/5/COM/2).

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
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
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 CRPD
CPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

³ Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: CPED, art. 30.

⁴ 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). 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.

⁵ 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 Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise 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.

- ⁶ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- ⁷ 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.
- ⁸ International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.
- ⁹ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III).
- ¹⁰ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 49.
- ¹¹ Ibid., para. 45.
- ¹² UNHCR submission to the UPR on Comoros, p. 2.
- ¹³ Ibid., p. 4.
- ¹⁴ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 30.
- ¹⁵ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, paras. 11 and 12.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., para. 34.
- ¹⁷ According to article 5 of the rules of procedure for the International Coordination Committee (ICC) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the different classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: Voting Member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles), B: Non-Voting Member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination), C: No Status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- ¹⁸ For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/23/28, annex.
- ¹⁹ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 7.
- ²⁰ Ibid., paras. 5–6.
- ²¹ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 42.
- ²² Ibid., para. 9.
- ²³ Ibid., para. 10.
- ²⁴ Ibid., para. 18.
- ²⁵ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 33.
- ²⁶ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 2.
- ²⁷ 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. |
- ²⁸ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 14.
- ²⁹ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 50.
- ³⁰ For the titles of special procedures, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx and www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx.
- ³¹ OHCHR, *OHCHR 2011 Report: Activities and Results, OHCHR in the Field: Africa*, p. 226. Available from http://www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2011/web_version/ohchr_report2011_web/allegati/21_Africa.pdf.
- ³² UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 15.
- ³³ Ibid., para. 21.
- ³⁴ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 39.
- ³⁵ Ibid., para. 40.
- ³⁶ Ibid., para. 14.
- ³⁷ Ibid., para. 21.
- ³⁸ Ibid., para. 22.
- ³⁹ Ibid., paras. 19 and 20.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid., paras. 15 and 16.
- ⁴¹ Official records of the General Assembly, A/67/PV.60, p. 17.
- ⁴² UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 26.
- ⁴³ Ibid., para. 32.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid., para. 33.
- ⁴⁵ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 23.

- ⁴⁶ Ibid., para. 24.
- ⁴⁷ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 43.
- ⁴⁸ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) – Comoros, adopted 2012, published 102nd ILC session (2013). Available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3083609.
- ⁴⁹ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 46.
- ⁵⁰ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Comoros, p. 4.
- ⁵¹ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 26.
- ⁵² UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, paras. 30–31.
- ⁵³ Ibid., para. 29.
- ⁵⁴ Ibid., para. 33.
- ⁵⁵ Ibid., paras. 7–8.
- ⁵⁶ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Comoros, pp. 5–6.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid., pp. 2–3.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid., pp. 3–4.
- ⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 4.
- ⁶⁰ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Comoros, paras. 15 and 35.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., paras. 16 and 36.
- ⁶² Ibid., paras. 17 and 37.
- ⁶³ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 25.
- ⁶⁴ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 27.
- ⁶⁵ Ibid., para. 28.
- ⁶⁶ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 36.
- ⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 35.
- ⁶⁸ Ibid., para. 22.
- ⁶⁹ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 32.
- ⁷⁰ Ibid., para. 36.
- ⁷¹ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 19.
- ⁷² Ibid., para. 47.
- ⁷³ Ibid., para. 22.
- ⁷⁴ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 38.
- ⁷⁵ Ibid., para. 33.
- ⁷⁶ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 24.
- ⁷⁷ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 34.
- ⁷⁸ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 42.
- ⁷⁹ CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 29.
- ⁸⁰ UNCT submission to the UPR on Comoros, paras. 23 and 39.
- ⁸¹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning Minimum Age Convention 1973 (No. 138) – Comoros, adopted 2012, published 102nd ILC session (2013). Available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3083529.
- ⁸² CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4, para. 30.
- ⁸³ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 34.
- ⁸⁴ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Comoros, p. 2.
- ⁸⁵ Ibid., p. 6.
- ⁸⁶ UNESCO submission to the UPR on Comoros, para. 19.
- ⁸⁷ UNHCR submission to the UPR on Comoros, p. 4.