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Guinea

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned; in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 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.

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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>
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1977)	OP-CRC-SC (2011)	ICCPR-OP 2
	ICESCR (1978)		OP-CAT (signature, 2005)
	ICCPR (1978)		OP-CRC-AC
	CEDAW (1982)		ICPPED
	CAT (1989)		
	OP-CAT (signature, 2005)		
	CRC (1990)		
	ICRMW (2000)		
Reservations and/or declarations	CRPD (2008)		
	ICESCR (declarations: art. 26, para. 1; art. 1, para. 3; and art. 14, 1978)		
Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action ³	ICCPR (declaration: art. 48, para. 1, 1978)		
	ICCPR-OP 1 (1993)		ICERD, art. 14
	CAT, art. 20 (1989)		OP-ICESCR
	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2008)		ICCPR, art. 41
			OP-CEDAW
			CAT, arts. 21 and 22
			OP-CRC-IC
			ICRMW, arts. 76 and 77
			ICPPED

Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
Ratification, accession or succession	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Palermo Protocol ⁴ Conventions on refugees and stateless persons ⁵ Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II ⁶ ILO fundamental conventions ⁷ UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education		1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions ⁸

1. In 2013, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that Guinea ratify OP-CRC-AC;⁹ OP - CRC-IC; OP-ICESCR; OP-CEDAW; ICPED¹⁰ and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹¹ The country team of the United Nations system in Guinea, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)¹² and the Committee against Torture (CAT)¹³ recommended that Guinea ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.¹⁴

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noted that Guinea had adopted a new Constitution in 2010 that enshrines human rights such as equality before the law and the principle of non-discrimination.¹⁵

3. The country team noted that the national consultations on justice held in 2011 had identified many gaps in the nation's legal texts and that a commission composed of representatives of the State, civil society and international institutions had been tasked with developing proposals for addressing those gaps.¹⁶

4. CAT welcomed the decree on the establishment of a code of conduct for the members of the military and security forces¹⁷ and the establishment of a commission to amend the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Code of Military Justice.¹⁸ The country team noted that, despite security sector reform and the establishment of the code of conduct, the capacity of the security forces still needed to be strengthened.¹⁹

5. CAT recommended that Guinea enact a law prohibiting all forms of torture and establishing that the crime of torture was not subject to statutory limitations²⁰ and that it fill all the gaps in its legislation on torture and ill-treatment.²¹

6. The country team recommended that Guinea enact legislation establishing gender parity and that it ensure that all gender-related considerations were taken into account in the course of the amendment of criminal legislation.²²

7. Concerned that it contained provisions in family law that discriminated against women and girls and reinforced discriminatory social practices, CRC urged Guinea to review the 1983 Civil Code.²³

8. UNHCR recommended that, as the provisions relating to nationality in the Civil Code did not include sufficient safeguards against statelessness,²⁴ Guinea should revise its legislation pertaining to nationality and align it with international standards relating to gender equality and the prevention of statelessness.²⁵

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

9. CRC recommended that Guinea set up an independent national human rights institution that would comply with the Paris Principles, and that it provide it with the necessary resources to effectively fulfil its mandate.²⁶ CAT made a similar recommendation.²⁷

10. The country team stated that the civil authorities elected in 2010 had initiated reform programmes, with the support of the international community, in such fields as justice, defence, security and administration. It added that in 2012 a Minister of Human Rights and Civil Liberties had been appointed to implement the Government's policies for the promotion and protection of human rights.²⁸

11. CAT welcomed the creation of the Ministry of Human Rights and Civil Liberties, a provisional national reconciliation commission and a special police unit to combat trafficking in human beings.²⁹

12. CRC urged Guinea to develop a comprehensive policy on children, with sufficient resources,³⁰ and to reform the Guinean Committee for Monitoring, Protection and Defence of the Rights of the Child.³¹

13. OHCHR noted that, in 2011, the Government had drawn up a national plan of action taking into consideration the recommendations of the universal periodic review, treaty bodies and the International Commission of Inquiry.³²

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies³³

14. CRC noted that Guinea had not yet submitted its reports to five treaty bodies and that 13 reports were overdue.³⁴

1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	August 1999	–	–	Twelfth periodic report overdue since 2000
CESCR	May 1996 (in the absence of a report)	–	–	Initial report overdue since 1990
HR Committee	April 1992	–	–	Third report overdue since 1994
CEDAW	July 2007	2012	–	Combined seventh and eighth

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
				reports pending consideration in October 2014
CAT	–	2014	May 2014	Second report due in 2018
CRC	January 1999	2009	February 2013	Combined third to sixth reports due in 2017. Initial OP-CRC-SC report overdue since 2013
CMW	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 2004
CRPD	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 2010

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

Concluding observations

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
CAT	2015	Legal safeguards for detained persons; investigations and prosecution of acts of torture. ³⁵	

B. Cooperation with special procedures³⁶

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
Standing invitation	No	No
Visits undertaken		
Visits agreed to in principle	Summary executions	Summary executions
Visits requested		Promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (2012)
Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals	During the period under review no communications were sent	

15. In 2013, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances indicated that since its establishment it had transmitted 28 cases to the Government and 21 remained outstanding.³⁷

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

16. The country team noted that one outcome of the cooperation between the transitional authorities and the United Nations had been the establishment of an office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Guinea in 2010 with a mandate covering all questions relating to human rights and international humanitarian law.³⁸

17. The High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Guinea in March 2011.³⁹

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

18. The country team recommended that, in revising its criminal legislation, Guinea repeal provisions that were discriminatory against homosexual persons, in particular article 325.⁴⁰

19. CRC urged Guinea to adopt a comprehensive strategy addressing all forms of discrimination, putting particular emphasis on promoting the rights of girls, children with disabilities, children living in rural areas, children living in poverty, refugee children and children born out of wedlock.⁴¹

20. CRC was concerned at the fact that only a third of children were registered at birth, at the difficult access to registration centres due to their location and at the cost of obtaining registration certificates. It encouraged Guinea to expand and expedite the birth registration process, particularly in rural areas.⁴² UNHCR recommended that Guinea implement a universal birth registration strategy that took into account the special situation of refugee children, former refugees and migrants.⁴³

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

21. While taking note of the Government's decision to place a moratorium on the death penalty, CAT expressed regret that the death penalty had not been abolished and that there were still 28 convicts on death row. CAT recommended that the Law Reform Commission abolish the death penalty and that all persons sentenced to death be treated humanely.⁴⁴ CRC made a similar recommendation.⁴⁵

22. The country team noted that, in many cases, opposition demonstrations had been violently dispersed and that security forces had used live ammunition against demonstrators, as well as other forms of violence that had resulted in deaths and injuries.⁴⁶

23. CAT expressed great concern about reports of the excessive and disproportionate use of force on a large scale by, among others, members of the police and the special presidential guard, who had committed numerous acts of torture, particularly during peaceful political, social or student demonstrations. CAT recommended that Guinea ensure that law enforcement officers receive training concerning the absolute prohibition of torture.⁴⁷

24. The country team recommended that Guinea take effective measures to ensure that those responsible for enforcing the law used force only as a last resort when it was strictly necessary, that the degree of force was commensurate with the gravity of the offence and that it was used in such a way as to cause the least possible harm. It recommended the continuation of efforts to equip the security forces with conventional weapons and ammunition that would permit the differentiated use of force and firearms.⁴⁸

25. CAT, expressing deep concern at the fact that most acts of torture went unpunished, recommended that Guinea take steps to ensure that all allegations of torture were investigated impartially by independent courts and that the perpetrators of those acts were

prosecuted.⁴⁹ It recommended that Guinea provide fair and adequate compensation to all victims.⁵⁰

26. The country team stated that, since 2010, the combined efforts of a number of security services, OHCHR, and national and international NGOs had contributed to a significant decrease in the number of incidents of torture and ill-treatment that occurred while people were in police custody. The team added that, while torture was used in some prisons, it mainly occurred during arrests and preliminary investigations.⁵¹

27. CAT was deeply concerned at reports of acts of torture being perpetrated in places of deprivation of liberty, gendarmeries and military detention camps⁵² and reports that such acts had, in some cases, led to the death of the victims.⁵³ CAT recommended that Guinea prevent and punish all acts of torture, investigate all allegations of torture⁵⁴ and ensure that prisoners had ready access to qualified medical personnel.⁵⁵ CRC made a similar recommendation concerning children in detention.⁵⁶

28. CAT expressed concern about the arrest of 33 people in September 2013 in Conakry who had been held incommunicado in the Soronkony military camp and had reportedly been tortured repeatedly. It recommended that Guinea ensure that prisoners benefited from all legal guarantees and that it prevent all forms of illegal detention.⁵⁷

29. OHCHR said that prison conditions did not meet applicable national or international standards. According to OHCHR, the country's police holding facilities and prisons were dilapidated, cramped and overcrowded. In most prisons, adults were not separated from minors, nor women from men.⁵⁸ CAT made the same observations.⁵⁹

30. OHCHR noted that the Government had taken various measures to improve conditions of detention and, as of 2013, had succeeded in providing better food to prisoners and in building and renovating prisons and other infrastructure for the judiciary and the police and gendarmerie.⁶⁰

31. CRC noted with regret that, in spite of the law on reproductive health prohibiting female genital mutilation (FGM) and the strategic plan against FGM (2012–2016), 97 per cent of girls and women were still subject to FGM.⁶¹ It recommended that Guinea enforce existing legislation prohibiting FGM and promote change with regard to the levirate, sororate, repudiation, polygamy and other practices.⁶² CAT,⁶³ UNHCR⁶⁴ and UNCT⁶⁵ made similar comments and recommendations.

32. CAT, expressing deep concern about reports of widespread violence against more than 90 per cent of women and girls in the country, recommended that Guinea prevent and punish all forms of violence and ensure that the Criminal Code contained provisions covering the various forms of sexual violence, including marital rape and domestic violence.⁶⁶ CRC shared these concerns and made similar recommendations.⁶⁷ The country team recommended the development of a comprehensive national strategy and action plan to combat sexual and gender-based violence.⁶⁸

33. Concerned at the alarmingly high number of children, especially girls, subjected to violence and abuse at home, at school and in alternative care settings, CRC urged Guinea to ban all forms of abuse and neglect against children in all settings.⁶⁹

34. CRC reiterated its concern at the large number of children involved in labour activities, particularly in mines, agriculture and fishing industries and at girls performing domestic labour, often not paid and subjected to abuse. It recommended that Guinea, *inter alia*, fix strict age limits for children engaged in labour activities and provide educational opportunities for children who had to work for their families' survival.⁷⁰ The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILO Committee of Experts) made similar comments and recommendations.⁷¹

35. Concerned at the growing number of children forced to live and work on the streets without access to education and vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, CRC recommended the development of a comprehensive holistic strategy to address the root causes of the problem, with the aim of eliminating it.⁷²

36. Expressing deep concern that a large number of former child soldiers lived, without any support, in the country's forests, CRC urged Guinea to observe the minimum age requirement of 18 for compulsory and voluntary recruitment and to release and assist child combatants to ensure their psychosocial and professional reintegration.⁷³

37. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that Guinea was a country of origin and of destination for the sale and trafficking of children for forced labour in agriculture, diamond mines and domestic work. It also noted that the Government had indicated that the National Plan of Action 2009–2011 to combat trafficking in persons had been extended until 2013.⁷⁴

38. CAT recommended that Guinea amend article 337 of the Criminal Code in such a way as to ensure that all forms of trafficking in persons were criminal offences, provide protection for victims and ensure their access to the courts and to medical and social services.⁷⁵

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

39. CAT, expressing concern at reports that the judicial system was coming under pressure and was being manipulated, recommended that Guinea take effective measures to safeguard the independence of the judiciary.⁷⁶

40. OHCHR underlined that, in 2012, the Government had initiated the reform of the judicial system which had resulted, among other things, in the establishment of a military court and the adoption of two organic laws, one establishing the Supreme Council of Justice and the other governing the judiciary, but the Government had yet to pass implementing legislation for those acts.⁷⁷ However, OHCHR recommended that Guinea accelerate reform of the justice sector and take the necessary steps to regulate the status of the judiciary in the interests of an independent and equitable system of justice.⁷⁸

41. The country team reported that since 2010 steps had been taken to reorganize the judiciary, increase its staffing, and build and renovate infrastructure. However, noting that those measures had failed to address all the shortcomings of the judicial system,⁷⁹ the country team recommended that Guinea provide the judiciary with the funding, the staff and the infrastructure needed to ensure that it could function independently.⁸⁰

42. OHCHR stated that fundamental rights and procedural guarantees were severely restricted and that the statutory time limits on police custody and pretrial detention were more or less systematically violated.⁸¹ CAT recommended that Guinea ensure that, in law and in practice, all persons deprived of their liberty enjoyed all applicable legal safeguards from the outset of their deprivation of liberty.⁸²

43. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (High Commissioner) urged Guinea to take immediate and concrete steps to advance the investigation and prosecution of human rights violations, including killings, rapes and enforced disappearances, allegedly committed by security forces in September 2009 in Conakry. He added that, five years after the events, justice remained elusive for the victims and that at least two high-ranking officials who had been charged in relation to the 2009 violations remained in influential positions in the defence and security forces.⁸³

44. The High Commissioner called on Guinea to take concrete steps to advance the fight against impunity for the 2009 human rights violations and to suspend all suspects who were

serving members of the administration pending the completion of the judicial process.⁸⁴ CAT made similar recommendations.⁸⁵

45. Stating that it remained a serious problem, especially among the security forces,⁸⁶ OHCHR recommended that Guinea step up efforts to combat impunity, in particular through the prosecution of the alleged perpetrators of human rights violations involved in the events of 28 September 2009, in the incidents in Zogota in August 2012, in the inter-communal violence in July 2013 and in the many cases of torture pending before the courts.⁸⁷

46. The country team noted that there had been a delay in investigating the circumstances in which hundreds of people had been killed or injured during public protests in 2011–2013⁸⁸ and recommended that Guinea take all necessary measures to end the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations.⁸⁹

47. In March 2011, the High Commissioner stated that it was critical that Guinea call for an inclusive national consultation process with a view to creating a national commission on truth, justice and reconciliation. It was important to point out that the commission must comply with international legal obligations, such as the obligation to undertake effective investigations and prosecute gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law.⁹⁰

48. The country team reported that a provisional advisory committee on national reconciliation had been established in August 2011 and had, with the assistance of the OHCHR office in Guinea, prepared a plan for conducting national consultations.⁹¹ The country team recommended that Guinea organize transparent and inclusive national consultations concerning transitional justice and that it establish transitional justice mechanisms based on the outcome of those consultations. It further recommended that transitional justice measures be developed using an approach based on human rights and victims' rights.⁹²

49. CRC was concerned that deprivation of liberty was the most common sentence for children in conflict with the law, including for children as young as 13 years old.⁹³ CRC urged Guinea to promote alternative measures of detention and place children in safe, child-sensitive environments.⁹⁴ CAT made similar comments and recommendations.⁹⁵

D. Right to marriage and family life

50. Expressing serious concern that, in cases of divorce, a woman had custody of her children only until they were aged seven years, and that adultery was considered a ground for divorce if committed by the wife, CRC urged Guinea to ensure that mothers and fathers shared the legal responsibility for their children equally.⁹⁶

51. UNHCR noted that, even though the Civil Code had set 18 as the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys and violations of that provision were punishable under the Criminal Code, three out of every five girls were married before the age of 18.⁹⁷

52. Concerned that article 269 of the Children's Code allowed the marriage of boys and girls under 18 years with the consent of their parents or legal guardians, CRC urged Guinea to amend the article.⁹⁸

53. CRC noted with concern that children were placed in centres created by NGOs for economic, political or religious reasons, and when they were affected by HIV/AIDS or were victims of sexual abuse. It recommended that Guinea ensure adequate care and protection to children deprived of their family environment and establish independent mechanisms for complaints for children placed in institutions.⁹⁹

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

54. UNESCO noted that the new law on media freedom, adopted in 2013, decriminalized several media offences, although libel against the Head of State, slander, and false reporting remained offences.¹⁰⁰ It recalled that defamation, libel and insult were criminal offences under the Penal Code, and were punishable by a jail term.¹⁰¹

55. UNESCO recommended that Guinea decriminalize defamation and insult laws;¹⁰² ensure that journalists and media workers were able to practise their profession in a free and safe environment and investigate all attacks against them.¹⁰³

56. UNESCO had recorded no killing of journalists in Guinea between 2008 and 2012, but stated that journalists and media workers had reportedly been attacked while covering various demonstrations in Conakry.¹⁰⁴

57. In September 2014, the Director-General of UNESCO called on Guinean local authorities to fully investigate the killing of a team which had been raising awareness of the Ebola virus in a village near N'zerekore. She also called on the authorities to protect aid and media professionals working to raise awareness and educate people about Ebola.¹⁰⁵

58. The country team recommended that Guinea refrain from infringing the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the press in any way and that the right to vote be effectively protected and upheld.¹⁰⁶

59. OHCHR noted that, although the Penal Code required only prior notification of public demonstrations, the authorities often insisted on formal authorizations and abused their power by prohibiting demonstrations they deemed contrary to their interest.¹⁰⁷ The country team recommended that Guinea take the necessary steps to ensure that legislation and practice were consistent with the right of peaceful assembly enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.¹⁰⁸

60. OHCHR stated that, in 2013, the right to peaceful protest had been disrupted, mainly on account of violent actions on the part of young people from the opposition and the President's camp, and certain actions of the security forces.¹⁰⁹

61. Concerned that members of non-governmental human rights organizations (NGOs) and journalists had been subjected to human rights violations, CRC urged Guinea to give legitimate recognition to human rights defenders so as to ensure that NGOs and journalists could safely carry out their functions.¹¹⁰

62. The country team stated that political parties and candidates had been able to express their opinions in the media during the election campaign. While no major human rights violations had occurred during the electoral process, the OHCHR office in Guinea had been informed of threats and acts of intimidation directed at delegates of political parties on election day and during the collection of ballots. The country team drew attention to problems that had occurred during voter registration and during the delivery of voter registration cards.¹¹¹

63. Noting that women comprised only 22 per cent of members of parliament and 11.7 per cent of members of the Government,¹¹² the country team recommended that Guinea enforce the 30 per cent quota for women's representation.¹¹³

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

64. The country team reported that in 2013 Guinea had enacted a new Labour Code that incorporates the provisions of the core conventions of the International Labour

Organization. It added that the Government had granted a request to raise civil-service salaries and set a minimum wage for all workers in the public and private sectors.¹¹⁴

65. The country team said that youth employment was a real concern since, according to survey results, 85.7 per cent of girls with high school diplomas did not find work and 70 per cent of people under the age of 25 were not permanently employed. The state of affairs could be attributed to an ineffective education system, a weak and largely informal private sector and high demographic pressure.¹¹⁵

66. The ILO Committee of Experts noted the 2012 observations by the International Trade Union Confederation, which reported the attempted assassination of the general secretary of the National Confederation of Workers of Guinea, death threats received by other leaders and an attack on the Confederation's headquarters.¹¹⁶

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

67. OHCHR stated that Guinea had experienced social unrest in 2013, which had led to violent demonstrations and that the main demands related to better living conditions, as there had been limited progress in improving access to basic social services.¹¹⁷

68. The country team noted that, according to a survey dating from 2012, the poor represented 57 per cent of the Guinean population, 31 per cent of households experienced recurring situations of food insecurity, and 34 to 40 per cent of children under the age of 5 suffered from chronic malnutrition. The country team explained that the fact that the country is landlocked, intercommunity conflicts and production shortfalls made households very vulnerable to price fluctuations.¹¹⁸

69. Noting that agriculture was the main activity of almost 80 per cent of the Guinean population,¹¹⁹ the country team said that the State had had to increase the agriculture budget in order to revitalize the sector and reduce deficits. It noted that the Government aimed to halve the number of undernourished people and make lasting reductions in inequality and poverty by 2015.¹²⁰

70. The country team recommended that Guinea develop a sustainable mechanism for protecting the population against food insecurity by devising risk prevention and risk reduction strategies and by implementing appropriate social programmes and that it establish a multisectoral programme for combating chronic malnutrition.¹²¹

71. OHCHR noted that women and children, particularly from the rural poor, constituted the most vulnerable segment of the population, with the highest rates of infant and maternal mortality, malnutrition, exposure to HIV/AIDs and other endemic diseases, as well as enduring the harshest living conditions. It added that the mismanagement of public funds had further compounded the poverty situation and had raised serious obstacles to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.¹²² CRC recommended that Guinea reduce infant mortality and increase the outreach of health, nutrition, birth registration and other social services for children.¹²³

H. Right to health

72. In 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that several factors, including the cost of health services, prevented many people from obtaining adequate health care and that households had to cover most of their own health-related expenditures.¹²⁴

73. While noting with satisfaction the roadmap for reducing maternal and infant mortality for 2012–2015, CRC was concerned about the regional disparities in health-care

provision and the increase in the maternal mortality rate and recommended that Guinea increase the resources allocated to the health sector and facilitate greater and equal access to quality primary health services for mothers and children.¹²⁵

74. In late 2012 WHO noted that, despite the efforts being made to combat AIDS, only 28,044 of the 80,000 people living with HIV had access to treatment and that health-care facilities were inadequate.¹²⁶ CRC stated that children living with HIV/AIDS did not have access to proper health care.¹²⁷

75. In September 2014, while welcoming the signs of solidarity in the fight against the Ebola virus, particularly the deployment of skilled medical teams, the Secretary-General of the United Nations called on more States and organizations to move swiftly to support the governments of the countries affected. He also renewed his call for countries to refrain from closing their borders to people coming from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and for airlines and shipping companies to maintain transport links. He added that isolating the countries risked causing more harm and delaying efforts to stop the Ebola virus, rather than preventing its spread.¹²⁸

I. Right to education

76. CRC was concerned that one third of children remained completely deprived of access to education; that the disparity in schooling between boys and girls, and between rural and urban environments remained a challenge; that parents must pay for books and uniforms; and that children in Koranic schools were often forced by their teachers to beg or work in the fields. It urged Guinea to ensure effective free education for all children; ensure equitable access to education; promote the right of girls to education and enforce the adoption of professional standards and guidelines in both public and private Koranic schools.¹²⁹

77. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that the rate of illiteracy for adults (65.22 per cent) highlighted a major gap between the sexes (74 per cent for women compared with 55.14 per cent for men).¹³⁰ It strongly encouraged the Government to take the necessary measures to make education compulsory up to 16 years.¹³¹

78. UNESCO recommended that Guinea step up its efforts to achieve universal primary education and to increase educational opportunities for illiterate people;¹³² take additional measures to address high drop-out rates;¹³³ step up its efforts to eliminate all costs of schooling¹³⁴ and to enhance the quality of education;¹³⁵ as well as provide education on the consequences of genital mutilation and HIV/AIDS.¹³⁶

J. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

79. UNHCR noted that, as at 31 December 2013, there were 8,559 refugees in Guinea, along with 315 asylum seekers and 3 repatriated refugees,¹³⁷ and that they depended largely on humanitarian aid.¹³⁸ UNHCR, noting that the identity documents received by refugees did not afford them all the necessary guarantees, recommended that Guinea raise awareness among administrative authorities, the defence and security forces, and social and economic stakeholders regarding the recognition and acceptance of refugee identity cards.¹³⁹

80. Although Guinea had incorporated the key principles of international protection of refugees into its national asylum legislation,¹⁴⁰ UNHCR recommended that it complete the process of adopting and promulgating a new asylum law that would fill the gaps in the law enacted in 2000.¹⁴¹

K. Environmental issues

81. Concerned at the lack of regulation of private enterprises and of investments in terms of environmental issues, CRC recommended that Guinea establish a nationwide legislative framework, requiring companies domiciled or operating in Guinea to prevent and mitigate adverse human rights impacts of their operations in the country. It also urged Guinea to protect communities from potential harmful environmental impact.¹⁴²

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on 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 Guinea from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/8/GIN/2).

² The following abbreviations have been used in the present 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
ICPPED	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 ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, 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; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

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.

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); 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 International Committee of the Red Cross, at www.icrc.org/IHL.

- 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 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.
- ⁸ 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 International Committee of the Red Cross, at www.icrc.org/IHL.
- ⁹ See also UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 8.
- ¹⁰ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 88.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 76. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 31.
- ¹² UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 6.
- ¹³ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 29. See also CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 25; and CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 88.
- ¹⁴ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 15.
- ¹⁵ UNESCO submission for the UPR of Guinea, para. 24.
- ¹⁶ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 7.
- ¹⁷ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 5.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 6. See also A/HRC/26/44, para. 9.
- ¹⁹ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 12.
- ²⁰ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 8.
- ²¹ *Ibid.*, para. 7. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 4.
- ²² UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 12.
- ²³ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 59–60.
- ²⁴ UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 4.
- ²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- ²⁶ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 24. See also CMW/C/GIN/QPR/1, para. 5; and CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 26.
- ²⁷ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 26.
- ²⁸ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 4.
- ²⁹ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 6.
- ³⁰ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 14.
- ³¹ *Ibid.*, paras. 15–16.
- ³² A/HRC/19/49, para. 43.
- ³³ The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:
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| 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 |
| CMW | Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| CRPD | Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |

- CED Committee on Enforced Disappearances
SPT Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
- ³⁴ A/HRC/19/49, para. 55.
- ³⁵ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 31.
- ³⁶ 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.
- ³⁷ A/HRC/22/45, para. 168.
- ³⁸ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 4.
- ³⁹ A/HRC/19/49, para. 2.
- ⁴⁰ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 12.
- ⁴¹ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 36–37.
- ⁴² *Ibid.*, paras. 44–45.
- ⁴³ UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 5. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 31.
- ⁴⁴ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 25.
- ⁴⁵ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 4. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 13.
- ⁴⁶ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 13.
- ⁴⁷ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 19. UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 13.
- ⁴⁸ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 16.
- ⁴⁹ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 12.
- ⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 20 and 12.
- ⁵¹ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 14.
- ⁵² CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 9.
- ⁵³ *Ibid.*, para. 12. See also A/HRC/25/44, para. 14.
- ⁵⁴ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 9. See also CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 12.
- ⁵⁵ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 11.
- ⁵⁶ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 46–47. See also CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 85 (f) and CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 23.
- ⁵⁷ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 15.
- ⁵⁸ OHCHR, Rapport sur la situation des droits de l’homme dans les lieux de détention en République de Guinée, p. 1.
- ⁵⁹ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 14. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, pp. 18 and 21.
- ⁶⁰ OHCHR, Rapport sur la situation des droits de l’homme dans les lieux de détention en République de Guinée, p. 2. See also A/HRC/25/44, para. 54.
- ⁶¹ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 54. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 9.
- ⁶² *Ibid.*, paras. 55–56.
- ⁶³ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 17.
- ⁶⁴ UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, pp. 7–8.
- ⁶⁵ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 22.
- ⁶⁶ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 16.
- ⁶⁷ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 52–53 and 57–58.
- ⁶⁸ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 12.
- ⁶⁹ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 50–51.
- ⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 79–80.
- ⁷¹ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) – Guinea, adopted in 2012, published 102nd ILC session (2013), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13201:0::NO:13201:P13201_COUNTRY_ID:103018.
- ⁷² CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 81–82. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) – Guinea, adopted in 2012, published 102nd ILC session (2013), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13201:0::NO:13201:P13201_COUNTRY_ID:103018.
- ⁷³ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 77–78.
- ⁷⁴ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) – Guinea, adopted 2012 (see endnote 73).

- ⁷⁵ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 18. See also CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 84, and CMW/C/GIN/QPR/1, para. 47.
- ⁷⁶ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 21. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 20.
- ⁷⁷ A/HRC/25/44, para. 30.
- ⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 57.
- ⁷⁹ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 17.
- ⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 20.
- ⁸¹ OHCHR, Rapport sur la situation des droits de l'homme dans les lieux de détention en République de Guinée, p. 1.
- ⁸² CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 13.
- ⁸³ OHCHR, News Release, 26 September 2014, available from [www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/04D7B8CF4379B942C1257D5F005A2A84?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/04D7B8CF4379B942C1257D5F005A2A84?OpenDocument).
- ⁸⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁸⁵ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, paras. 10 and 20.
- ⁸⁶ A/HRC/19/49, para. 24.
- ⁸⁷ A/HRC/25/44, para. 57.
- ⁸⁸ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, pp. 17–18.
- ⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 21.
- ⁹⁰ Press statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, March 2011, available from www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10852&LangID=E.
- ⁹¹ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 16.
- ⁹² *Ibid.*, p. 20.
- ⁹³ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 85.
- ⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 86 and 23.
- ⁹⁵ CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 23. See also UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, pp. 8–9 and 21.
- ⁹⁶ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 59–60.
- ⁹⁷ UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 7. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 10.
- ⁹⁸ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 33–34.
- ⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 61–62.
- ¹⁰⁰ UNESCO submission for the UPR of Guinea, para. 17.
- ¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, para. 18.
- ¹⁰² *Ibid.*, para. 26.
- ¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, para. 27.
- ¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 21.
- ¹⁰⁵ UNESCO press release, 27 September 2014, available from <http://en.unesco.org/news/director-general-condemns-killing-three-media-workers-ebola-aid-mission-guinea>.
- ¹⁰⁶ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 24.
- ¹⁰⁷ A/HRC/19/49, para. 13.
- ¹⁰⁸ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 22.
- ¹⁰⁹ A/HRC/25/44, para. 24.
- ¹¹⁰ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 29–30.
- ¹¹¹ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 24.
- ¹¹² *Ibid.*, p. 9.
- ¹¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 12.
- ¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 26.
- ¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 26–27.
- ¹¹⁶ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) – Guinea, adopted 2012, published 102nd ILC session (2013), available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13201:0::NO:13201:P13201_COUNTRY_ID:103018.
- ¹¹⁷ A/HRC/25/44, para. 7.
- ¹¹⁸ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 28.
- ¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*
- ¹²⁰ *Ibid.*
- ¹²¹ UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, pp. 29–30.

- ¹²² A/HRC/19/49, para. 22.
- ¹²³ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 40–41. See also CRC/C/CO/2, para. 65.
- ¹²⁴ WHO, Financement de la santé vers la couverture universelle, 17 May 2013, available from www.afro.who.int/en/guinea/press-materials/item/5574-financement-de-la-santé-vers-la-couverture-universelle.html.
- ¹²⁵ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 65–66. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 5.
- ¹²⁶ WHO, Journée mondiale de lutte contre le SIDA, 10 December 2011, available from www.afro.who.int/en/guinea/press-materials/item/5215-journée-mondiale-de-lutte-contre-le-sida.html.
- ¹²⁷ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 69–70.
- ¹²⁸ SG/SM/16141, 12 September 2014, available from www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2014/sgsm16141.doc.htm.
- ¹²⁹ CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 73–74. See also CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 72. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 25.
- ¹³⁰ Direct Request (CEACR) – adopted 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014): Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111).
- ¹³¹ Direct Request (CEACR) – adopted 2012, published 102nd ILC session (2013): Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) – Guinea.
- ¹³² UNESCO submission for the UPR of Guinea, para. 25.2.
- ¹³³ *Ibid.*, para. 25.3.
- ¹³⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 25.4.
- ¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 25.5.
- ¹³⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 25.6.
- ¹³⁷ UNHCR submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 1.
- ¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 2.
- ¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- ¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 1.
- ¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 3. See also UNCT submission for the UPR of Guinea, p. 31 and CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, para. 76. See also CAT/C/GIN/CO/1, para. 24.
- ¹⁴² CRC/C/GIN/CO/2, paras. 31–32.