Togo

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.
I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations

1. International human rights treaties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratification, accession or succession</th>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Action after review</th>
<th>Not ratified/not accepted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD (1972)</td>
<td>ICPPED (2014)</td>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR (1984)</td>
<td></td>
<td>ICRMW (signature, 2001)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCPR (1984)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW (1983)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT (1987)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CAT (2010)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC (1990)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC (2005)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRMW (signature, 2001)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRPD (2011)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC (declaration, art. 3, (2): 18 years, 2005)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1 (1988)</td>
<td></td>
<td>ICCPR, art. 41</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT, arts. 20, 21 and 22 (1987)</td>
<td></td>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2011)</td>
<td></td>
<td>OP-CRC-IC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRMW</td>
<td></td>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICPPED, arts. 31 and 32</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

1. In 2013, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in 2012, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, encouraged Togo to consider ratifying ICRMW.4

2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Togo to ratify OP-ICESCR5 and to consider signing and ratifying OP-CEDAW and OP-CRC-IC.6 The Committee against Torture invited Togo to consider ratifying ICCPR-OP 2, OP-ICESCR and OP-CEDAW.7
2. Other main relevant international instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Action after review</th>
<th>Not ratified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palermo Protocol</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II</td>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO fundamental conventions</td>
<td></td>
<td>ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

3. The Committee against Torture recommended that Togo adopt the new Code of Criminal Procedure. The Committee on the Rights of the Child made a similar recommendation. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended once again that Togo bring domestic provisions in line with the Convention and ensure that all discriminatory provisions be reviewed and repealed.

4. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Togo to ensure that all rights enshrined in the Convention were integrated into the Children’s Code, repeal contrary provisions and adopt the implementing regulations for the Code.

5. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regretted that, despite its constitutional status, the Covenant had never been invoked by the courts and that the national laws had not given effect to economic, social and cultural rights.

6. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that corruption continued to be pervasive. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Togo adopt an anti-corruption law and enforce compliance with article 145 of the Constitution on the declaration of property and assets.

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

Status of national human rights institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National human rights institution</th>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Status during present cycle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Human Rights Institution</td>
<td>A (2007)</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the budget of the national human rights commission had reportedly decreased by 20 per cent since 2008. It recommended that Togo provide the Commission with sufficient financial, human and material resources. The Committee on the Rights of the Child raised similar concerns and reiterated its recommendations.

8. The Committee against Torture was concerned that, further to the publication of the 2012 report of the national human rights commission on allegations of torture, the President of the commission had been obliged to leave the country, following threats made against him. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders expressed similar concerns and recommended that the commission implement the recommendations of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions with regard to strengthening the independence and effectiveness of the institution.

9. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the limited impact of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity.

10. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted with concern that the National Committee on the Rights of the Child, provided for in the 2007 Children’s Code as the coordinating body for the implementation of the Convention, had not yet been set up.

11. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Togo to increase the budgets allocated to social sectors.

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

12. The Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders commended Togo for its efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework, mainly through its engagement in the universal periodic review process and with treaty bodies.

13. The Special Rapporteur was pleased that the review process had brought authorities and civil society together.

14. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomed the development of a national plan for the implementation of recommendations made during the universal periodic review and by treaty bodies.

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

1. Reporting status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Concluding observations included in previous review</th>
<th>Latest report submitted since previous review</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</td>
<td>August 2008</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined eighteenth to nineteenth reports pending consideration in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
<td>May 2001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>Second report due in 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treaty body</td>
<td>Concluding observations included in previous review</td>
<td>Latest report submitted since previous review</td>
<td>Latest concluding observations</td>
<td>Reporting status</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Fifth report overdue since 2015; list of issues prior to reporting to be adopted in October 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</td>
<td>February 2006</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>October 2012</td>
<td>Eighth report due in October 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on the Rights of the Child</td>
<td>January 2005</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>February 2012</td>
<td>Combined fifth to sixth reports due in 2017; initial report on OP-CRC-AC overdue since 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
<td>--</td>
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<td>Initial report overdue since 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Enforced Disappearances</td>
<td>--</td>
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<td>Initial report due in 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Due in</th>
<th>Subject matter</th>
<th>Submitted in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee against Torture</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Entry into force of the new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure; conditions of detention; legal safeguards for detainees; prosecute and punish perpetrators of acts of torture and ill-treatment</td>
<td>2013, 2015</td>
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</table>
Country visits and/or inquiries by treaty bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject matter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>Art. 11 (a) OP-CAT (confidential report)44</td>
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B. Cooperation with special procedures45

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status during previous cycle</th>
<th>Current status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing invitation</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits undertaken</td>
<td>Human rights defenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits agreed to in principle</td>
<td>Summary executions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits requested</td>
<td>Summary executions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independence of judges and lawyers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slavery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extreme poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to letters of</td>
<td>During the period under review, three communications were sent. The Government replied to two of them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>allegation and urgent appeals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. The Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders encouraged Togo to extend a standing invitation to special procedures.46

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

16. Further to her visit in 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights indicated that her Office was ready to support Togo in enhancing the respect for and implementation of human rights in the administration of justice.

17. After her visit to Togo in 2014, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights recalled that, with the assistance of her Office and United Nations partners, Togo had begun a process of transitional justice that had ended, in 2012, with the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission handing its recommendations to the Government. These recommendations had not yet been implemented. The Deputy High Commissioner stated that Togo could continue to count on the support of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as it determined its next steps.

18. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) country office in Togo was established in 2006 and closed on 30 June 2015 owing to financial constraints.47
III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

19. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Togo withdraw the discriminatory provisions of the Code of Persons and Family and ensure that women have equal rights to property acquired during marriage.48

20. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that, in cases of repudiation, women lost custody of their children.49

21. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the delay in withdrawing discriminatory provisions from the Code of Nationality.50

22. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the widespread poverty and illiteracy among rural women, their lack of participation in decision-making processes, access to health care, social security services, education, justice, clean water, electricity, land, employment and credit facilities.51 It recommended that Togo adopt temporary special measures in the areas of education, employment and health, and adopt targeted policies to protect and integrate those women into society.52 The Committee also recommended that Togo adopt targeted policies to protect and integrate older women, women with disabilities and women in detention into society.53

23. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Togo adopt without delay the draft law establishing quotas for women at elected and administrative positions.54

24. The Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders noted that patriarchal attitudes and deeply rooted stereotypes still persisted about the role of men and women in family and society. In this context, women human rights defenders were still too often seen as “troublemakers” because of their activism, particularly if they worked on sexual and reproductive rights. The Special Rapporteur urged Togo to remove the obstacles to the work of women human rights defenders, including by redressing gender inequalities and combating social stereotypes.55

25. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that 50 per cent of children were not registered at birth. It urged Togo to ensure that birth registration was free and compulsory in practice.56 The Committee recommended that Togo guarantee that children without a birth certificate were not deprived of access to education, health care and other social services.57

26. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the prevailing societal attitudes conducive to the stigmatization of children with disabilities and that even led to infanticide.58

27. The Special Rapporteur noted that same-sex relations between consenting adults were a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment and a fine.59 He also noted that the working environment for defenders of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons was often hostile owing not only to pressure from society and families but also the existing legal framework.60
B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

28. The Special Rapporteur noted the introduction of a definition of torture in the Criminal Code. The Committee against Torture recommended that Togo incorporate all the elements of the definition of torture contained in the Convention and include a provision on the non-applicability of statutory limitations to the crime of torture.

29. The Committee against Torture was concerned by the allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention, including unofficial places of detention. It recommended that Togo, in accordance with the commitment it had made during the previous review, launch investigations into all allegations of torture or ill-treatment committed by members of the security services or others, in particular on the premises of the National Intelligence Agency in 2009, and punish those responsible in accordance with the gravity of their acts. The Committee also recommended that clear instructions be given to members of the security forces regarding the absolute prohibition and criminalization of torture.

30. The Committee against Torture recommended that Togo ensure that confessions obtained under torture and the subsequent proceedings were declared null and void, and raise awareness among judges of the inadmissibility of statements obtained under torture.

31. The Committee against Torture was concerned that, according to a report of the national human rights commission, ill-treatment had been allegedly committed against detainees and persons linked to the attempted coup in 2009. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Togo ensure that the recommendations made in the report were implemented.

32. After its visit to Togo in 2014, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment noted that places of deprivation of liberty faced a lack of human and financial resources and a dysfunctional judicial system. Furthermore, national legislation lacked fundamental guarantees, a definition of torture as a criminal offence and appropriate sanctions. The Subcommittee called on Togo to take practical and immediate measures to improve the conditions of detention.

33. The Committee against Torture was also concerned by the alarming conditions in detention centres throughout Togo, some of which were tantamount to torture. It recommended that funding be increased to bring living conditions in all prisons in line with international standards, and that a central register be established on all detainees.

34. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that children in conflict with the law were often kept with adults in police stations and detention facilities and regularly subjected to ill-treatment by prison officials. It urged Togo to ensure that children be immediately removed from adult detention facilities and placed in a safe, child-sensitive environment.

35. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the fundamental legal safeguards of detainees were often violated and at arbitrary arrests and detention. It recommended that Togo establish a procedure in the Code of Criminal Procedure allowing victims of miscarriages of justice to receive reparation.

36. OHCHR noted the systematic use of arrest warrants and prolonged detentions.

37. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that a law on violence against women, including domestic violence, should be drawn up. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Togo to adopt without delay a
comprehensive law addressing all forms of violence against women. The Committee against Torture made similar recommendations. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its recommendation to put in place a strategy to eliminate harmful practices against women. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights made similar recommendations.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that early and forced marriages continued to be widely practiced throughout Togo and that prosecution of those who married children had not been given priority.

While noting that female genital mutilation was criminalized and had significantly decreased, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that the practice was still widely practiced in certain communities and that perpetrators were not brought to justice. It urged Togo to empower practitioners of female genital mutilation to find an alternative source of income. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Togo take further steps towards to prohibit the practice and conduct campaigns on gender equality.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Togo address the root causes of prostitution, including poverty, and undertake efforts for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that prostitution of children above 15 years was not considered a crime, and that hundreds of children continued to be openly exploited into prostitution in Lomé, in particular at a place called the “child market”.

While welcoming the significant efforts to prevent the killing of children born with disabilities, malformations or skin discoloration and children born with teeth or whose mothers died during child birth, the Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that such killings still occurred. It urged Togo to prosecute those responsible for such crimes.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its concern at the large number of children living on the streets.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that children from poor and rural areas continued to be particularly vulnerable to trafficking inside and outside Togo, that internal trafficking, which often took place through the practice of “confiage”, continued to be neglected, and that prosecution of traffickers was rare and some traffickers obtained release owing to the corruption of State officials.
49. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Togo adopt the law on human trafficking and the draft decree on the establishment of a national commission to fight trafficking, and that it ensure that the commission had a wide mandate and sufficient resources.  

50. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Togo criminalize the sale of children, in particular for the purpose of illegal adoption, and the transfer of children’s organs for profit.

51. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Togo to adopt without further delay the National Child Protection Policy.

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

52. According to a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the justice sector in Togo needs to be reformed and strengthened. The High Commissioner recommended raising people’s awareness of their rights and judicial procedures with a view to improving their access to justice and recommended that national consultations on justice be organized in an inclusive and representative manner with the aim of formulating consensus-based recommendations for the improvement of the work of the judicial system.

53. During her follow-up visit to Togo in 2013, the Special Rapporteur appreciated initiatives to strengthen the judiciary. However, she was concerned that the independence of the judiciary, access to justice and impunity for human rights violations were raised as some of the main difficulties in the transition and democratization process. Testimonies and reports indicated that impunity was widespread and that legal proceedings against certain perpetrators, in particular State security forces, were rare. She was also concerned at reports of intimidation of magistrates in rural areas and nepotism in the nomination and promotion of magistrates. She recommended that Togo continue to strengthen the judicial system, in particular the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, access to necessary infrastructure and resources and the fight against impunity.

54. Further to her visit to Togo in 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted with concern that agents without legal status operated in courthouses as intermediaries between some judges and litigants, which was seen as encouraging corrupt practices.

55. The Committee against Torture noted that more than 65 per cent of detainees were in pretrial detention. It recommended restricting the use of pretrial detention.

56. The Committee against Torture was concerned that the assistance of a lawyer was not systematically guaranteed for poor persons from the beginning of proceedings. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Togo to establish a system of legal aid.

57. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Togo to ensure that women had effective access to courts and to prosecute all acts of violence against women, and adequately punish perpetrators. It also urged Togo to strengthen victim assistance and rehabilitation, including medical and psychological support, and shelters, counselling and rehabilitation services.

58. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that the practice of out-of-court settlement and compensation in sexual abuse cases remained widespread and often encouraged by law enforcement authorities. It was also concerned that, in some instances, information that could lead to the identification of the child victim had been
disclosed by the judges.\textsuperscript{113} The Committee urged Togo to provide children with adequate legal and other assistance throughout the legal proceedings.\textsuperscript{114}

59. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Togo to implement the recommendations of the report of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission regarding the political violence, including violence against women that occurred from 1958 to 2005.\textsuperscript{115} The Special Rapporteur made a similar recommendation.\textsuperscript{116}

60. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that only one juvenile court existed in Togo.\textsuperscript{117}

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

61. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the absence of legal provisions governing de facto unions, which could deny women protection.\textsuperscript{118}

62. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Togo to ensure that the best interest of the child was always the primary consideration in cases of adoption.\textsuperscript{119}

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

63. The Special Rapporteur welcomed the new law of 2011 establishing the conditions for the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.\textsuperscript{120}

64. The Special Rapporteur noted that the environment in which human rights defenders worked in Togo continued to be highly polarized and politicized. She recommended that Togo ensure that human rights defenders could work in a safe and enabling environment, in particular women and those working for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, by removing obstacles to their work and amending relevant legislation.\textsuperscript{121}

65. The Special Rapporteur had received testimonies of continued harassment and intimidation of journalists who worked on human rights-related issues, reported information of cases of corruption of government officials or publicly criticized the Government. Some of them had faced criminal lawsuits for defamation or charges under the Press and Communications Code.\textsuperscript{122}

66. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Togo conduct prompt and impartial investigations in cases of violence, intimidation and harassment against human rights defenders and hold perpetrators accountable.\textsuperscript{123} The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Togo to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur.\textsuperscript{124}

67. The Special Rapporteur recommended that defamation be repealed from criminal jurisdiction and be handled in civil jurisdiction, with penalties proportionate to the harm done.\textsuperscript{125} UNESCO made a similar recommendation.\textsuperscript{126}

68. The Special Rapporteur received allegations of excessive use of force by the police against participants in peaceful assemblies that had led to casualties. She recommended that the police and law enforcement personnel continued to be trained in crowd control and be properly equipped to handle protests.\textsuperscript{127}
F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

69. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about the scale of unemployment and at the very low level of the minimum wage and of the wages paid in the public sector. The minimum wage did not apply to rural workers, domestic workers or workers in the informal sector.

70. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the concentration of women in the informal economy and the prevalence of discrimination against women in the labour market, in particular the wage gap. It recommended that Togo provide a regulatory framework for the informal sector, provide women with access to social security and expand access by women to microfinance and microcredit at low interest rates so as to enable them to engage in income-generating activities.

71. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Togo apply the Labour Code and social legislation within the informal sector, in particular by opening it up to labour inspection services.

72. While welcoming the efforts made to harmonize the regulatory framework for labour in the export processing zone with existing national legislation, the Special Rapporteur concluded that trade unions and those claiming labour rights faced serious restrictions on the right to associate freely and the right to strike by companies in the export processing zone, which until recently had reportedly been exempt from certain provisions of the Labour Code. She recommended that Togo ensure that labour rights, including collective bargaining and the right to strike, were exercised without undue restrictions or intimidations in the export processing zone.

73. UNESCO noted that Togo had implemented the Strategie de Croissance Accélérée et de Promotion de l’Emploi (SCAPE) 2013-2017, launched in 2013.

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

74. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that, despite an encouraging rate of economic growth, poverty remained a problem in Togo and that, in the development of its economic policies and its poverty reduction strategy, Togo should adopt a human rights-based approach, which would increase the participation of targeted groups, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups.

75. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that more than two thirds of children and their families were still living below the poverty line. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Togo ensure that the accelerated growth and employment creation strategy was given sufficient priority and resources to combat poverty in rural areas and the most deprived regions. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Togo to elaborate poverty-reduction strategies integrating a gender perspective and taking account of the specific needs of rural women.

76. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern that a large proportion of the population of Togo enjoyed no form of social protection, despite the passage into law in 2011 of the Medical Insurance Act and the Social Security Code. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that a national system of social protection be built.
77. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights deplored the food insecurity and malnutrition that affected a large part of the population. It requested that Togo ensure that the legal framework of the right to food is strengthened.

78. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted the shortage of housing and the precarious state of dwellings of the greater part of the population, who lived in slums. It recommended that Togo increase substantially the budget allocated to housing.

79. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Togo regulate rental arrangements and align its legislation on forced eviction with international norms.

80. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights called upon Togo to implement the recommendations on land-related issues formulated by the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission.

81. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted that access to safe water and sanitation was insufficient, particularly in rural areas. It urged Togo to develop public sanitation, waste and sewage treatment services and safe drinking water distribution systems and to clean up sites polluted by wastewater.

H. Right to health

82. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted the high cost of health care for households, public health problems such as malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, and infant and maternal mortality rates. It urged Togo to increase the resources allocated to the implementation of the national health policy adopted in 2012. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women raised similar concerns and made similar recommendations.

83. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon Togo to address the obstacles to women’s access to health care, including sociocultural norms.

84. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned by the high prevalence of HIV in Togo, especially among vulnerable groups. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Togo strengthen the provision of free anti-retroviral treatment to all men and women living with HIV/AIDS. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Togo to reinforce preventive action among young people, and ensure that the necessary budget was allocated to the HIV/AIDS education programme provided in secondary schools.

85. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Togo to adopt a reproductive health policy for adolescents. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called on Togo to address teenage pregnancies and promote widely education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, by incorporating it into the school curricula.

I. Right to education

86. UNESCO noted that Togo had strengthened its educational system through several plans, including the Plan sectoriel de l’éducation 2010-2020. Nevertheless, Togo had not taken further steps towards facilitating access to education for children with disabilities and had neither taken additional steps towards including human rights in the curriculum nor adopted measures for the elimination of practices and customs that discriminated against
women, especially female genital mutilation.\textsuperscript{155} It recommended that Togo create additional favourable conditions to facilitate access to education for persons with disabilities, especially girls.\textsuperscript{156}

87. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that one third of children had no access to primary education.\textsuperscript{157} It was concerned that the portion of budget allocated to education remained insufficient for the effective implementation of the abolition of school fees.\textsuperscript{158}

88. UNESCO recommended that Togo continue taking the necessary steps to achieve universal primary education, combat illiteracy and reduce the dropout rate in primary schools.\textsuperscript{159}

89. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the high dropout rate of girls, the shortage of education facilities and qualified professionals, the existence of stereotypes in school textbooks and the high illiteracy rate among women.\textsuperscript{160} The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child raised similar concerns.\textsuperscript{161} The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women invited Togo to ensure that girls and young women had de facto equal access to all levels of education, and to retain girls in schools,\textsuperscript{162} enforce a zero tolerance policy with respect to sexual abuse and harassment in schools and ensure that perpetrators were punished appropriately.\textsuperscript{163} It also invited Togo to abrogate circular 8478/MEN-RS, which forbade pregnant pupils from using school facilities.\textsuperscript{164}

90. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that an estimated one third of teachers, and up to 50 per cent in some regions, were volunteers who had no training and who depended on direct payment by parents.\textsuperscript{165} It was concerned that the portion of budget allocated to education remained insufficient for the effective implementation of the abolition of school fees.

J. Persons with disabilities

91. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that a high number of children with disabilities were deprived of access to education and health services and that a policy for integrating children with disabilities into mainstream schools had not yet been adopted.\textsuperscript{166}

92. UNESCO recommended that Togo address the exclusion of persons with disabilities.\textsuperscript{167} The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Togo provide sufficient resources for the implementation of the national strategy for the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities and its plan of action.\textsuperscript{168}

93. Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that a quota system be applied in employment.\textsuperscript{169}

K. Minorities and indigenous peoples

94. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Togo ensure that its laws protect the rights to all ethnic groups, and called upon Togo to act upon the recommendations of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission concerning ethnic disputes.\textsuperscript{170}
L. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

95. The Committee against Torture recommended that Togo respect the principle of non-refoulement and introduce in the Criminal Code the right to an appeal with suspensive effect against expulsion decisions.

96. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicated that, since its first review, Togo had initiated the ratification process for the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, having adopted a law on accession to the Convention in 2012. However, the Head of State had yet to promulgate the law.

97. UNHCR stated that Togo had begun reviewing its asylum laws, resulting in a new Law on the Status of Refugees, adopted in 2016.

98. UNHCR recommended that Togo ensure that the new national Law provided for an independent body of appeal for decisions of eligibility for refugee status.

M. Right to development, and environmental issues

99. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Togo strengthen the legal framework governing the protection of the environment and social rights in the area of mineral exploitation.

100. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that companies operating in Togo be required to adopt measures to prevent and mitigate adverse human rights impacts of their operations in the country, including by their supply chain or associates.

101. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Togo to ensure that land lease contracts with foreign companies did not result in forced eviction and internal displacement or the increased food insecurity and poverty of local populations, and to provide the affected communities with adequate compensation and alternative land.

Notes


2 The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-ICESCR</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICESCR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to ICCPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 2</td>
<td>Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CEDAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 38; CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 22; CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 46 and CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 78.

5 See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 37.

6 Ibid., para. 38.

7 See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 22.


10 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 International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/ihl.

11 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, www.icrc.org/ihl.

12 International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

13 See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 8.

14 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 10 (c).

15 See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 15.

16 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 10.

17 See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 7.

18 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 17. See also CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 18.

19 See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 11.

20 According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the 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); and C: no status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).


23 Ibid., para. 14 (a).
24 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 15 and 16.
25 See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 6 (f).
26 Ibid., para. 14.
28 Ibid., para. 88 (a).
29 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 11.
30 See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 10. See also CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 18.
31 See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2, paras. 12 and 86 (a).
32 Ibid., para. 49.
33 See CCPR/C/TGO/CO/4, para. 23.
34 See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 24.
35 See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 47.
39 See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2/Add.1.
40 See A/70/44, para. 49, and A/69/44, para. 82.
41 See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/16-6-7/Add.1.
46 See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 41 (b). See also E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 13.
47 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 45.
48 See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 28.
49 Ibid., para. 36.
50 Ibid., para. 39. See also CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 19.
51 Ibid.
52 See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 27 (a).
53 See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2, para. 70.
54 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 39 and 40. See also E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 21.
55 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 40 (c).
56 See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 51.
57 See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2, para. 78.
58 Ibid., para. 77.
59 Ibid., paras. 12 and 86 (a).
60 See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 7.
61 Ibid., para. 11.
62 Ibid., para. 9.
63 Ibid., para. 11.
64 Ibid., para. 11.
65 Ibid., para. 9 (a).
66 Ibid., para. 9.
67 Ibid.
68 Ibid.
69 See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2, para. 86 (j).
70 See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 13.
See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 39 (a).

See CRC/C/TGO/3-4, para. 75 (a). See also CRC/C/TGO/3-4, para. 41.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 41.

See CRC/C/TGO/3-4, para. 76 (b).

See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 10.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 23 (a).

See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 15, and CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 49 and 50.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, paras. 21 (a) and 40.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 57 and 58, and E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 14. See also CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 46.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 29 and 57 (c).

Ibid., para. 57 (c). See also CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 26.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 57. See also E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 6 (f).

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 57 (a).

Ibid., para. 58 (c).

See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Togo, para. 37 (iv).

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 25 (d).

See CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 24 (b).

Ibid., para. 28.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 35 and 36.

Ibid., para. 69 (a).

Ibid., para. 70 (e).

Ibid., para. 43.

Ibid., para. 65 (b).

Ibid., para. 65 (c).

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 32.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 20.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 67.

Ibid., para. 71. See also CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 26; and CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 15.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 25 (b).

See CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 25 (a). See also CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 11.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 14.

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See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2. para. 19.

Ibid., para. 20.

Ibid.

Ibid., para. 86 (e).

See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 12.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 8.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, paras. 12, 13 and 23 (e).

Ibid., para. 23 (f). See also CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 70 (a).

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 69 (c). See also CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 28 and 29.

See CRC/C/OPSC/TGO/CO/1, para. 32 (b).

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 76 (f).

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 23 (g).

See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2. para. 86 (d).

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 75 (b).

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 40.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 47 and 48.

See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2. paras. 35 and 36.

Ibid., para. 86 (m).

Ibid., para. 73.

Ibid., para. 86 (k).

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 26.

See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2. para. 25.
See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Togo, para. 39.

See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2, paras. 39 and 86 (1).

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 15.

Ibid., para. 16.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, paras. 32 and 33.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 18.

See A/HRC/25/55/Add.2, para. 46.

Ibid., para. 45.

Ibid., paras. 47 and 86 (n).

See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Togo, p. 11.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 61 and 62.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 22.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 37 (a).

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 19.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 62.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 28.

Ibid., para. 23.

Ibid., para. 24.

Ibid., para. 25.

Ibid., para. 33.

Ibid., para. 29.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, paras. 53 and 54. See also CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, paras. 34 and 35 (c).

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 35 (b).

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 31.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 35 (f). See also CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 60.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 60.

Ibid., para. 56.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 35 (e).

See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Togo, para. 36.

Ibid., para. 37.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 63 (a).

Ibid., para. 63.

See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Togo, para. 37 v.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 30.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 34. See also CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 63 (b) and (c).

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 31 (b).

Ibid., para. 31 (c).

Ibid., para. 31 (g).

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 63 (d).

Ibid., para. 51.

See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Togo, para. 37.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 12.

Ibid., para. 12.

Ibid., para. 35.

See CAT/C/TGO/CO/2, para. 16 (a).

Ibid., para. 16 (b).

See UNHCHR submission for the universal periodic review of Togo, p. 2.

Ibid., p. 2.

Ibid., p. 3.

See E/C.12/TGO/CO/1, para. 27.

See CRC/C/TGO/CO/3-4, para. 28.

See CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7, para. 37 (e).