



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and welcome the constructive engagement of your Government during the 33rd session of the UPR Working Group in May 2019.

As the final outcome report of the review of Côte d'Ivoire was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 42nd session, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Côte d'Ivoire – the Compilation of United Nations information and the Summary of Stakeholders' submissions – which I consider in need of particular attention over the next four and a half years, until the next cycle of the UPR. In identifying those areas, I have considered the statements and/or recommendations made by 101 delegations and the presentation made and responses provided by the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire. I have also considered the actions taken by the Government to implement the 181 recommendations supported during the second cycle of the UPR. The aforementioned areas cover a range of issues, which appear in the annex to this letter.

I welcome the 2018 law establishing the National Council for Human Rights, the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Follow-up on the implementation of International Human Rights Instruments, and the 2019 law amending the Independent Electoral Commission. I also welcome the adoption of the 2017 Decree on the protection of human rights defenders and encourage the creation of a national protection mechanism to monitor its application. It is also my hope that the programme recently initiated with OHCHR's Regional Office for West Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal, will contribute to ensuring the submission of pending reports to the human rights treaty bodies.

I encourage Côte d'Ivoire to develop a comprehensive national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results in the areas highlighted in the annex to this letter and to facilitate the preparations for Côte d'Ivoire's fourth cycle of the UPR. My advice to all Member States is to develop and implement national action plans in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the national human rights institution and all civil society organizations and, where necessary, with the support of international organizations, including my Office and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

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H.E. Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

I also encourage Côte d'Ivoire to intensify its efforts to establish a national mechanism for comprehensive reporting and follow-up in relation to recommendations received from all international and regional human rights mechanisms and to treaty obligations, linking this to the Sustainable Development Goals. I strongly recommend the use of the OHCHR practical guide on this topic, which is available at:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf

Please kindly note that I am sharing my advice with all Member States as they go through the third cycle of the UPR with a view to assisting them with the implementation of the recommendations, following the review. An important measure that can contribute positively to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. Therefore, I strongly encourage all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report. In this regard, I encourage Côte d'Ivoire to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the third cycle of the review, by 2022.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his 2017 report on the work of the Organization (A/72/1, paragraph 98): "*The Human Rights Council's universal periodic review process is now entering a new cycle, with every Member State schedule for a third round of scrutiny. We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council's recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.*"

I look forward to discussing with you ways in which my Office may assist Côte d'Ivoire in relation to the areas identified in this letter and its annex.

Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner for Human Rights

cc.: H.E. Ms. Aimée Zebeyoux
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice, in charge of Human Rights
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire



Annex

Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies

- Strengthening the normative framework by accessing the core human rights instruments and other main international human rights treaties that Côte d'Ivoire is not yet a party to, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

National human rights framework

- Enhancing the resources and capacities of the National Commission for Human Rights and ensuring its conformity with the Paris Principles.

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

A. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination

- Taking further and strengthened measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including against LGBTI persons, persons with AIDS and people with albinism; adopting specific legislation prohibiting and sanctioning discrimination and incitement to violence on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity; and increasing public awareness to prevent all forms of discrimination.

B. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of the person

- Criminalizing torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the Penal Code
- Improving the administrative management of prisons as well as the conditions in all detention centres.
- Strengthening measures aimed at preventing all forms of police violence, and effectively investigating cases of violence, including killings, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, as well as corruption involving the police, security forces and prison personnel.

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

- Developing a comprehensive policy aimed at strengthening the judicial system and rule of law, including the independence and capacity of the judiciary.

- Taking measures to reduce the number of people in pre-trial detention without substantiated charges, and putting an end to arbitrary detention.
- Ensuring that all the initiatives related to reconciliation comply with relevant international human rights standards; and undertaking a comprehensive fight against impunity, including the prosecution and accountability of all perpetrators of human rights violations, and reparations for victims.
- Publishing the report of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission to facilitate its implementation, and putting in place a compensation procedure.

C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Right to an adequate standard of living

- Strengthening measures to fight poverty and unemployment, particularly in rural areas; implementing a national action plan to make housing available to the poorest; and enhancing access to water, sanitation, and electricity.

Right to health

- Taking measures to ensure accessible, inclusive and quality health and hospital services, with an emphasis on children's right to health through free targeted care.
- Developing a national family planning action plan, including to facilitate women's access to basic health services and reduce maternal mortality.

Right to education

- Adopting additional measures to improve access to and ensure inclusive and quality public education, including to guarantee free primary education as well as education for persons with disabilities.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

- Adopting a national strategy to protect women and promote gender mainstreaming, empower women, abolish all forms of discrimination against women, and ensure equal participation of women in political and social life
- Intensifying efforts to combat violence against women, including by criminalizing sexual and gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, and providing the necessary support to victims.

Children

- Taking measures in legislation and practice to ensure the rights of children, including access to education, health and birth registration.
- Combatting child labour and promoting the protection of children against sale, trafficking and violence; and ensuring that persons responsible for such activities are prosecuted and sanctioned.



- Strengthening the national policy against child and forced marriages.

Persons with disabilities

- Ensuring that persons with disabilities are fully integrated in the education and employment system.

Refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons

- Developing a comprehensive strategy to address the needs of internal displaced persons and provide sustainable solutions.
- Establishing a reintegration mechanism for refugees who decide to return voluntarily.