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Uganda

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

1. International human rights treaties²

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1980)		ICCPR-OP 2
	ICESCR (1987)		OP-CAT
	ICCPR (1995)		ICPPED (signature, 2007)
	CEDAW (1985)		
	CAT (1986)		
	CRC (1990)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2002)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2001)		
	ICRMW (1995)		
	CRPD (2008)		
<i>Reservations and/or declarations</i>	ICCPR (reservation, art. 5 (2), 1995)		
	OP-CRC-AC (declaration, art.3 (2), minimum age of recruitment at 18 years, 2002)		
	ICRMW (reservation, art. 18 (3), 1995)		
<i>Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action³</i>	ICCPR-OP 1 (1995)		CAT, art. 22
	CAT, arts. 20 and 21 (2001)		ICERD, art. 14
	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2008)		OP-ICESCR
			ICCPR, art. 41
			OP-CEDAW
			OP-CRC-IC
			ICRMW, arts. 76 and 77

2. Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	-	-
	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	-	-
			Palermo Protocol ⁴

<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
Conventions on refugees and stateless persons (except 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness) ⁵	-	1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II ⁶	-	-
ILO fundamental conventions except Nos. 138 and 182 ⁷	-	-
-	-	ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 ⁸
Convention against Discrimination in Education	-	-

1. In 2015, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uganda consider ratifying OP-ICESCR and ICPED⁹ and acceding to the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).¹⁰

2. The United Nations country team recommended considering the ratification of OP-CEDAW.¹¹

3. In 2015, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recommended that Uganda: consider withdrawing the reservation made with respect to article 18 (3) (d) of ICRMW;¹² consider making the declarations provided for in articles 76 and 77 of ICRMW;¹³ consider ratifying or acceding to the ILO Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189);¹⁴ and proceed to ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.¹⁵

4. The country team¹⁶ and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)¹⁷ recommended implementing obligations under the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and acceding to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in line with the pledge it made during the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the 1951 Convention.

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Uganda to strengthen enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act by sensitizing the judiciary, prosecutors and police about the provisions of the Act. Uganda should adopt and implement the Sexual Offences Bill.¹⁸

6. The country team stated that, during the reporting period, Uganda had adopted human rights-oriented laws, including the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012,¹⁹ and recommended passing legislation on administration and access to justice such as the Judiciary Administration Bill, the Legal Aid Policy, the Children Amendment Bill, the Witness Protection Bill, the National Transitional Justice Policy and Law, the Amnesty Act (Amendment) Bill and the Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill.²⁰ It also recommended strengthening legal protection against sexual offences and addressing gaps in the Penal Code Act and Evidence Act.²¹

7. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recommended that Uganda step up efforts to enforce the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act and allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of strategies to eliminate trafficking in persons.²²

8. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended amending the Children's Act in line with ICRPD in order to mainstream the rights of children with disabilities across all programmes and provide necessary resources for their protection.²³

9. UNHCR recommended that the Government align the provisions of the Constitution with those of the Refugee Act 2006 and of the Citizenship and Immigration Control Act and put in place procedures for naturalizing refugees with links to Uganda, for example through birth, marriage and length of stay.²⁴

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

10. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about the insufficient budgetary resources allocated to the Uganda Human Rights Commission and recommended that Uganda implement the decisions taken by the Commission and that it follow up on its reports.²⁵ The country team noted that the Commission had witnessed a protracted delay in the appointment of its commissioners.²⁶

11. The country team stated that Uganda had created the standing parliamentary committee on human rights and recommended that it expedite the adoption of the national human rights action plan.²⁷

12. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that national awareness-raising campaigns be conducted to combat all forms of violence against women and girls and to encourage victims to report cases of violence and that measures aimed at protecting and rehabilitating victims of violence be strengthened.²⁸

13. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recommended that Uganda ensure human and financial resources for institutions handling migration issues, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control, the National Citizenship and Immigration Board and the Uganda Human Rights Commission.²⁹ The Committee also recommended adopting and implementing the National Migration Policy, the National Diaspora Policy and the National Immigrants Policy.³⁰

14. The same Committee noted that the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control and the Anti-Trafficking Task Force had been engaged in a series of trafficking prevention awareness-raising activities.³¹

15. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uganda allocate the resources necessary for the Equal Opportunities Commission to discharge its role³² and that it implement the National Employment Policy effectively.³³

Status of national human rights institutions³⁴

<i>National human rights institution</i>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle³⁵</i>
Uganda Human Rights Commission	A (2009)	A (2016)

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

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>
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 2003	-	-	Combined eleventh to thirteenth reports overdue since 2005
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	-	2012	June 2015	Second report due in 2020
Human Rights Committee	March 2004	-	-	Second report overdue since 2008
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	October 2010	-	-	Eighth report overdue since 2014
Committee against Torture	May 2005	-	-	Second report due in 2016
Committee on the Rights of the Child	September 2005			Combined third to fifth reports overdue since 2011
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	-	2015	April 2015	Second report due in 2020
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	-	2013	April 2016	Combined second to fourth reports due in 2022

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

<i>Concluding observations</i>			
<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	2012	Discriminatory laws; education ³⁶	Follow-up dialogue ongoing ³⁷
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2017	Equality and non-discrimination; work and employment ³⁸	-

B. Cooperation with special procedures³⁹

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Internally displaced persons Health Children and armed conflict Foreign debt Education	
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	Extreme poverty	Extreme poverty
<i>Visits requested</i>	Freedom of expression	Freedom of peaceful assembly and association Discrimination against women Freedom of expression Cultural rights
<i>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, 18 communications were sent. The Government replied to 3 communications.	

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

16. Uganda hosts a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), established in 2006, with a mandate to support national human rights institutions, combat impunity, strengthen accountability and the rule of law, enhance equality, counter discrimination, integrate human rights in development and the economic sphere, and widen the democratic space.⁴⁰

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**A. Equality and non-discrimination**

17. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes, which prevents women from owning lands, limits their political participation and deepens occupational sex segregation and the concentration of women in low-paid sectors.⁴¹ The Committee recommended implementing the National Gender Policy and raising awareness of the subject, targeting women and men at all levels of society, including traditional and religious leaders.⁴² The country team noted that in 2015 the Government had launched the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, aimed at empowering women economically.⁴³

18. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations repeated its request to the Government to provide information on the measures taken to ensure that the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value was being applied in practice.⁴⁴

19. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about sex-based discriminatory provisions in Ugandan legislation, including the Succession Act, the Divorce Act and the Marriage Code, and recommended abolishing, as a matter of priority, all remaining discriminatory provisions against women in national laws.⁴⁵

20. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations asked the Government to provide information on legislation or regulations adopted or envisaged in the framework of the Uganda National Land Policy to address the issue of access to the resources, including land, required to carry out an occupation, in particular for women and hunter-gatherer and pastoralist communities. The Committee asked for information on the measures taken by the Equal Opportunities Commission to promote access to particular occupations, including traditional occupations.⁴⁶

21. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families noted with concern that the Constitution guaranteed the right to non-discrimination to documented migrant workers only and recommended that Uganda take all measures necessary to ensure that all migrant workers and members of their families, both documented and undocumented, enjoyed the rights recognized in ICRMW.⁴⁷

22. On 24 February 2014, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights denounced the anti-homosexuality law signed into force in Uganda, institutionalizing discrimination against lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender people and encouraging harassment and violence against them. The law imposed sentences of life imprisonment for homosexuality, same-sex marriage and “aggravated homosexuality”.⁴⁸

23. The country team noted discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code Act on “unnatural offences” that support legal and social aversion towards homosexuality and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and the persistence of harmful traditional practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women, children, persons with disabilities, sexual minorities, ethnic minority groups, most at-risk populations and people living with HIV.⁴⁹

24. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was concerned about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons being denied access to health care and, in particular, same-sex partners facing serious difficulties in accessing HIV/AIDS-related prevention and treatment.⁵⁰ The Committee urged Uganda to investigate and deter acts of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, bring perpetrators to justice and provide compensation to victims.⁵¹

25. The same Committee expressed concern about the lack of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and recommended taking steps to combat and prevent discrimination and societal stigma, in particular against persons with disabilities, persons with albinism and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, and ensure access to housing, employment, social security, health care and education.⁵²

26. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Uganda amend and/or repeal legislation with derogatory terminology against persons with disabilities,⁵³ provide legal protection against disability-based discrimination⁵⁴ and take measures to tackle multiple forms of discrimination against women with disabilities, in particular women with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities.⁵⁵

B. Right to life, liberty and security of person

27. The country team noted that there had been no execution in Uganda since 1999, leading to a de facto moratorium. The death penalty was, however, still enforceable in Uganda under the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, which imposed a mandatory death penalty for acts of terrorism.⁵⁶ The country team recommended abolishing the death penalty and amending laws imposing a mandatory death penalty.⁵⁷

28. The country team noted that in 2012 Uganda had enacted into law the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, which contained a definition of torture that complied with CAT which established individual criminal liability for acts of torture.⁵⁸ The team recommended implementing the Act and ensuring an effective system for preventing all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.⁵⁹

29. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Uganda investigate cases of physical ill-treatment, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and adopt protocols guaranteeing full respect of the human rights of persons with disabilities.⁶⁰

30. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the prevalence of violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence,⁶¹ and recommended taking, as a matter of priority, comprehensive measures aimed at eliminating all harmful practices against women and girls.⁶² The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended ensuring that women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence have access to both accessible services and information, including shelters and complaints mechanisms.⁶³

31. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern that despite legal prohibition, female genital mutilation was still practised in the Karamoja and eastern subregions. Uganda should ensure effective implementation of the prohibition of female genital mutilation, prevent and investigate such incidents, bring perpetrators to justice and rehabilitate victims.⁶⁴

32. UNHCR recommended that a sufficient number of female and male police officers be deployed to refugee settlements to enhance general security and that the Government institute mobile courts and mobile legal clinics to improve access to the judicial system, especially for cases of sexual and gender-based violence.⁶⁵

33. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the large number of children aged 6–13 years engaged in labour activity in Uganda.⁶⁶ The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families expressed concern about child migrant workers being exploited in forced labour in agriculture, fishing, mining and brick-making.⁶⁷

34. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uganda effectively implement the National Plan of Action on Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and monitor instances of child labour in order to ensure its gradual eradication, in accordance with the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).⁶⁸

35. Noting with concern that a significant number of children were involved in child labour, the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations urged the Government to strengthen efforts to ensure the effective elimination of child labour, especially hazardous work,⁶⁹ and to ensure compliance with the regulations providing for penalties for violating the provisions on employing children and young persons.⁷⁰

36. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the increasing number of street children and the widespread violence against children. Uganda should consider adopting a comprehensive plan on the protection of children, provide measures to assist street children and children in care institutions, and prohibit corporal punishment.⁷¹

37. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recommended that Uganda provide protection and assistance to all victims of human trafficking, in particular by providing shelters, medical care, psychosocial support, and that it strengthen training for law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, labour inspectors, teachers and health-care workers.⁷² The Committee also recommended strengthening the effective regulation and monitoring of recruitment agencies, labour brokers and other intermediaries to ensure respect for the rights of domestic migrant workers.⁷³

38. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the persistence of early and forced marriage, especially in rural areas. Uganda should ensure strict adherence to the constitutional provision on the minimum age for marriage and ensure that all laws, including customary laws, are in compliance with that provision and adopt and implement the action plan on early marriage.⁷⁴

C. Administration of justice and the rule of law

39. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Uganda to reinforce the judiciary by allocating the necessary resources and increasing the number of judges so that justice can be accessed and achieved without delay.⁷⁵

40. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations urged the Government to ensure that the provisions of Public Order and Security Act 1967 and the Penal Code are amended or repealed so that no prison sentence entailing compulsory labour can be imposed on persons who express certain political views or opposition to the established political, social or economic system. It requested the Government to provide information in its next report on measures taken in that regard.⁷⁶

41. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recalled that administrative detention should be used only as a measure of last resort and recommended that Uganda consider alternatives to detention.⁷⁷

42. The country team recommended strengthening “justice for children” interventions and ensure the integration of child-friendly justice practices in relevant institutions, including prosecuting entities, courts, probation services and the police.⁷⁸

43. It also recommended ensuring the investigation and prosecution of officers implicated in human rights violations and ensuring increased women’s access to justice by facilitating the implementation of measures to overcome gender bias and delays in justice delivery.⁷⁹

44. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recommended that Uganda ensure that migrant workers and members of their families, including those in an irregular situation, had equal opportunities to file complaints and obtain effective redress in the courts⁸⁰ and benefit from due process guarantees on an equal basis with nationals before the courts and tribunals in administrative and judicial proceedings.⁸¹

45. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Uganda repeal all constitutional and legal provisions providing for forced detention on the basis of impairment and involuntary institutionalization of persons with disabilities.⁸²

46. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the persistence of corruption in Uganda, particularly in the health sector, and about the lack of information on measures taken to combat corruption, including the Anti-Corruption Court. It recommended intensifying efforts to combat corruption by increasing transparency in the public sector and ensuring the effective functioning of anti-corruption measures.⁸³

47. The same Committee remained concerned that the Anti-Money-Laundering Act 2013 may not be sufficient to prevent illicit financial flows by private companies. It encouraged Uganda to step up its efforts to address such flows.⁸⁴

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

48. The country team recommended expediting efforts to enact the Marriage and Divorce Bill, in compliance with international standards.⁸⁵

49. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about polygamy still being legal and widely practised. It recommended that Uganda adopt effective measures to abolish polygamy.⁸⁶

50. The country team noted that the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development had developed a national action plan to eliminate child marriage and teenage pregnancies and was developing a national strategy on child protection.⁸⁷

51. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the 5 million children under the age of 5 who were not being registered and requested that Uganda increase its efforts to ensure universal birth registration by, inter alia, revising the Birth and Death Registration Act as necessary.⁸⁸ The country team recommended developing a civil registration policy and a national strategic plan for registering births and deaths.⁸⁹

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

52. On 23 February 2016, OHCHR expressed concern about the tense post-electoral situation in Uganda and about reports of at least two people killed, an unknown number of people injured and four opposition leaders arrested. OHCHR reminded the Government of its obligations under international human rights law not to unduly restrict freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Anyone arrested should be informed of the reasons for the arrest and be promptly informed of any charges.⁹⁰

53. The Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression, on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and on human rights defenders raised concerns about the alleged non-compliance with international human rights law and standards of a bill regulating associations that appeared to seriously restrict the right to freedom of association.⁹¹ The Special Rapporteurs also raised concerns over the alleged temporary arrest and repeated harassment of a human rights defender.⁹²

54. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended repealing discriminatory legal provisions that restrict persons with disabilities from exercising their right to stand for election.⁹³

55. The United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended decriminalizing defamation and placing it within a civil code that adheres to international standards, and investigating cases of killed journalists.⁹⁴

56. The country team stated that, during the period under review, the Government had enacted a number of laws, including the Public Order Management Act, that restricted the exercise of public freedoms. The country team recommended taking urgent steps to provide clear guidelines and procedures in the application of the Act in line with human rights standards.⁹⁵ On 9 August 2013, the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, on human rights defenders and on freedom of expression expressed concern at the passage of the Public Order Management Bill and urged Uganda to repeal it because it was part of an increasingly hostile environment for civil society and human rights defenders.⁹⁶

57. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families expressed concern that the constitutional guarantee of freedom of association, including the freedom to join trade unions, applied to documented migrants only and recommended that Uganda take all the measures necessary, including legislative amendments, to guarantee migrant workers in an irregular situation the right to take part in trade union activities and to freely join trade unions.⁹⁷ The Committee expressed concern that section 76 of the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act prohibited migrant workers from becoming members of the executive committee of a trade union or youth movement.⁹⁸

58. The same Committee, noting that there were no mechanisms in place for the Ugandan diaspora to vote, recommended that Uganda ensure the implementation of the right to vote for Ugandan migrant workers residing abroad and facilitate the exercise of the right to vote in the presidential elections in 2016.⁹⁹

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

59. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Uganda to revise the minimum wage, which had not been revised since 1984, without further delay and in close collaboration with social partners and ensure that it allows a decent living for workers and their families.¹⁰⁰

60. The same Committee noted with concern that workers were concentrated in the informal economy and not adequately covered by labour and social protection regulations. It recommended that Uganda progressively reduce the size of the informal economy and increase employment opportunities in the formal sector.¹⁰¹

61. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended adopting a strategy and incentives to facilitate access to the open labour market to persons with disabilities, in particular youth and women, including through the provision of training, and ensure that persons with disabilities receive equal pay for work of equal value.¹⁰²

62. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern that laws protecting the health and safety of workers remained largely unimplemented and recommended that Uganda ensure effective mechanisms for the implementation of labour laws, increase the number of trained labour inspectors throughout the country and provide the Industrial Court with the resources necessary to discharge its role effectively.¹⁰³

63. The Committee also recommended that Uganda raise awareness of the importance of trade unions and implement labour laws more effectively with a view to increasing workers' representation through trade unions.¹⁰⁴

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

64. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern the high incidence of poverty in rural areas, northern Uganda and the Karamoja subregion, and among persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and older persons. It recommended that Uganda step up its efforts to combat poverty and improve the standard of living of all Ugandans.¹⁰⁵

65. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended providing social protection to guarantee an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities, and developing and implementing compensation schemes for persons with disabilities.¹⁰⁶

66. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended developing social security reforms targeting the most vulnerable groups and individuals and including health insurance and unemployment benefits and implementing them on a non-discriminatory basis.¹⁰⁷

67. The same Committee expressed concern that only 2 per cent of older persons were covered by social protection and recommended providing access to pensions sufficient to enable an adequate standard of living.¹⁰⁸

68. The Committee also expressed concern about malnutrition being widespread and food insecurity being persistent in northern Uganda and among households headed by women and by marginalized and disadvantaged individuals and groups.¹⁰⁹ The country team stated that while Uganda was generally food secure some communities, mainly in the Karamoja region, which was inhabited by pastoralist communities, were food insecure.¹¹⁰

69. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uganda redouble its efforts to address housing conditions and the shortage of housing units and encouraged it to consider providing social housing to the most disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups.¹¹¹ The Committee urged Uganda to refrain from forcibly evicting individuals and expropriating land, including in the context of development projects.¹¹²

70. The same Committee expressed concern about information indicating that many tenants were evicted following the passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in 2014 and urged Uganda to investigate all reported cases of illegal evictions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and ensure that victims are compensated.¹¹³

71. The same Committee recommended that Uganda harmonize its legal framework governing land rights and that all land-related laws, notably the Land Act and the Forest Act, be amended in the light of the land policy of 2013, which provides additional protection to customary landowners and protects indigenous peoples' right to land.¹¹⁴

H. Right to health

72. The country team noted that, while Uganda achieved Millennium Development Goal 4, having attained 54 per 1,000 live births, it did not meet the target of reducing maternal mortality to 131 per 100,000 live births by 2015.¹¹⁵ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uganda intensify its efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.¹¹⁶

73. The same Committee urged Uganda to raise the budget allocated to the health sector with a view to reaching the benchmark agreed in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases.¹¹⁷ The country team recommended

increasing investments in the health system and infrastructure and improving the equitable distribution and availability of reproductive and child health supplies.¹¹⁸

74. The Committee¹¹⁹ and the country team¹²⁰ recommended that Uganda strengthen its efforts to provide universal access to quality health care, including HIV/AIDS-related care.

75. The Committee expressed concern at the prevalence of unsafe abortions, a major cause of maternal mortality. It recommended that Uganda revise its abortion legislation by decriminalizing abortion and that it ensure women's access to abortion and post-abortion care services without discrimination.¹²¹

76. The Committee also recommended that Uganda redouble its efforts to reduce the high rate of teenage pregnancies and ensure the availability and affordability of sexual and reproductive health services, in particular in rural areas.¹²²

I. Right to education

77. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights appreciated the strides to improve children's enrolment and achieve gender parity in primary school.¹²³ The country team recommended increasing equitable access, quality and sustainability of primary education.¹²⁴

78. UNESCO recommended that Uganda be encouraged to further develop policies promoting girls' right to education, continue improving access to education for disadvantaged groups and increase the quality of the public education system.¹²⁵

79. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹²⁶ and the country team¹²⁷ expressed concern at the high rate of school dropouts and low transition rate of pupils from primary to secondary level, especially among girls. It recommended that Uganda implement plans aimed at providing support services for pregnant adolescents to pursue their education.¹²⁸

J. Cultural rights

80. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights encouraged Uganda to allocate adequate resources to culture, including to local bodies to promote cultural activities and ensure protection of traditional knowledge and skills, in particular for women.¹²⁹

K. Persons with disabilities

81. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended ensuring that human rights-based training programmes were provided for all officials, the judiciary, the police, health professionals, teachers and social workers, and strengthening efforts to raise awareness about the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with albinism, persons with psychosocial and/or intellectual disabilities and deaf-blind persons.¹³⁰

82. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uganda take measures to ensure inclusive education of children with disabilities, including through compulsory training of teachers (beyond special-education teachers), and barrier-free physical access to schools.¹³¹

83. The same Committee called upon Uganda to embark on programmes and initiatives aimed at progressively reducing youth unemployment and strengthen the system of job quotas for persons with disabilities.¹³²

L. Indigenous peoples

84. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Uganda include recognition of indigenous peoples in the Constitution in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensure the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights.¹³³ The Committee also recommended paying particular attention to the promotion and preservation of the cultural rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, including the Batwa culture.¹³⁴

85. The same Committee expressed concern that many indigenous peoples, including the Benet, Batwa and pastoralist communities, were prevented from preserving their traditional way of living and recommended that Uganda recognize indigenous peoples' rights to their ancestral lands and natural resources. The Committee urged Uganda to consult with indigenous peoples to enable them to give their free, prior and informed consent regarding development activities that have an impact on access to their lands.¹³⁵

M. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

86. UNHCR stated that for over five decades Uganda had generously hosted refugees and asylum seekers. Since 1961, Uganda had hosted an average 161,000 refugees per year. By December 2015, Uganda was to host 512,966 refugees and asylum seekers.¹³⁶ Regarding a recommendation made during the first universal periodic review,¹³⁷ UNHCR noted that the prospects for refugees in Uganda were better than in most African contexts: refugees' rights to freedom of movement, work, own property, education and health were respected.¹³⁸

87. Noting the role of the Uganda Human Rights Commission and other justice and law and order institutions, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recommended that Uganda ensure that migrant workers had access to information about their rights under ICRMW and that it work with civil society organizations and the media to disseminate information on ICRMW and promote its implementation.¹³⁹

88. The Committee expressed concern about the lack of information on specific programmes that guarantee access to emergency medical care and that open up education to migrant workers and members of their families who are in an irregular situation.¹⁴⁰

89. It recommended that Uganda establish procedures for regularizing the situation of migrant workers in an irregular situation so as to ensure that such a situation does not persist.¹⁴¹

90. It also recommended that Uganda ensure that all migrant workers and members of their families have recourse to consular support for the effective protection of their rights and the provision of assistance.¹⁴²

91. The same Committee noted that Uganda had, in a number of cases, worked closely with the International Organization for Migration to facilitate the return, resettlement and reintegration of Ugandan migrant workers. The Committee recommended that Uganda ensure appropriate conditions to facilitate the return and durable reintegration of Ugandan migrant workers and members of their families, as provided for in article 67 of ICRMW.¹⁴³

92. The same Committee noted that Uganda was pursuing the possibility of concluding agreements with countries where Ugandan migrant workers were employed with a view to protecting their rights. The Committee was concerned, however, about the delays involved and recommended that Uganda enter into such agreements that were in line with ICRMW in order to better protect the rights of Ugandan migrant workers and facilitate the provision of appropriate consular and other services.¹⁴⁴

N. Right to development, and environmental issues

93. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights urged Uganda always to enter into consultations with the communities concerned before granting concessions for the economic exploitation of lands and to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of those communities, in particular from women and customary landowners. It also recommended that Uganda guarantee that in no case would such exploitation violate the rights recognized in ICCPR and that just and fair compensation would be granted to the communities concerned.¹⁴⁵

O. Situation in, or in relation to, specific regions or territories

94. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights remained concerned about the persistence of regional disparities in the enjoyment of an adequate standard of living, housing, sanitation, maternal health care and education, mainly affecting communities living in the northern and north-eastern regions, particularly in the Karamoja subregion. The Committee recommended that Uganda effectively implement initiatives aimed at improving the enjoyment of ICCPR rights by populations in those regions.¹⁴⁶

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 Uganda from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/12/UGA/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 (signature, 2000).
- ⁵ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- ⁶ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); 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, www.icrc.org/ihl.
- ⁷ International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- ⁸ ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169); and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- ⁹ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, paras. 38 and 39.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., para. 13.
- ¹¹ See country team submission for the universal periodic review of Uganda, p. 2.
- ¹² See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, paras. 12 and 13.
- ¹³ Ibid., paras. 14 and 15.
- ¹⁴ See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, paras. 16 and 17.
- ¹⁵ Ibid., paras. 18 and 19.
- ¹⁶ See country team submission, p. 10.
- ¹⁷ See UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Uganda, p. 3.
- ¹⁸ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 25.
- ¹⁹ See country team submission, p. 1.
- ²⁰ Ibid., p. 4.
- ²¹ Ibid., p. 2.
- ²² See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, paras. 52 and 53.
- ²³ See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 13 (a).
- ²⁴ See UNHCR submission, p. 6.
- ²⁵ E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 9.
- ²⁶ See country team submission, p. 1.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 25.

- ²⁹ See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 9.
- ³⁰ Ibid., para. 9.
- ³¹ Ibid., para. 24.
- ³² See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 15.
- ³³ Ibid., para. 19.
- ³⁴ 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).
- ³⁵ The list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions is available from <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf>.
- ³⁶ See CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, para. 55.
- ³⁷ Letters dated 27 August 2013 and 8 April 2014 from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women addressed to the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva. Available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/UGA/INT_CEDAW_FUL_UGA_15063_E.pdf and http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/ISL/INT_CEDAW_FUL_ISL_13585_E.pdf.
- ³⁸ See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 67.
- ³⁹ For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.
- ⁴⁰ OHCHR, *OHCHR Report 2014*, pp. 150-153.
- ⁴¹ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 18.
- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ See country team submission, p. 2.
- ⁴⁴ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) – Uganda, adopted in 2015, published 105st ILC session (2016).
- ⁴⁵ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 18.
- ⁴⁶ ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) – Uganda, adopted in 2015, published 105st ILC session (2016).
- ⁴⁷ See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, paras. 26 and 27.
- ⁴⁸ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14275&LangID=E#sthash.6C8Kw51a.dpuf.
- ⁴⁹ See country team submission, p. 2.
- ⁵⁰ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 32.
- ⁵¹ Ibid., para. 16.
- ⁵² Ibid., para. 15.
- ⁵³ CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 5 (b).
- ⁵⁴ Ibid., para. 9 (a).
- ⁵⁵ Ibid., para. 11 (b).
- ⁵⁶ See country team submission, p. 3.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid., p. 4.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid., p. 3.
- ⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 4.
- ⁶⁰ See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 29 (a).
- ⁶¹ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 25.
- ⁶² Ibid., para. 26.
- ⁶³ See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 31 (a).
- ⁶⁴ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 26.
- ⁶⁵ See UNHCR submission, p. 7.
- ⁶⁶ E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 27.
- ⁶⁷ See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, paras. 30 and 31.

- 68 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 27.
- 69 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) – Uganda, adopted in 2013, published 103st ILC session (2014).
- 70 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) – Uganda, adopted in 2013, published 103st ILC session (2014).
- 71 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 27.
- 72 See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 53.
- 73 Ibid., paras. 48 and 49.
- 74 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 26.
- 75 Ibid., para. 6.
- 76 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation concerning ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) – Uganda, adopted in 2014, published 104st ILC session (2015).
- 77 See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 33.
- 78 See country team submission, p. 3.
- 79 Ibid., p. 4.
- 80 See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 29.
- 81 Ibid., para. 33.
- 82 See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para.27 (a).
- 83 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 10.
- 84 Ibid..
- 85 See country team submission, p. 2.
- 86 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 26.
- 87 See country team submission, p. 3.
- 88 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 27.
- 89 See country team submission, p. 3.
- 90 See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17081&LangID=E#sthash.qR3Zhb2.dpuf.
- 91 See A/HRC/30/27, p. 38, and www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=16145&LangID=E#sthash.YyAXIgp7.dpuf.
- 92 See A/HRC/31/79, p. 72.
- 93 See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 57 (a).
- 94 See UNESCO submission, p. 19.
- 95 See country team submission, p. 5.
- 96 See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13617&LangID=E#sthash.THiHeMsc.dpuf.
- 97 See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, paras. 36 and 37.
- 98 Ibid., paras. 42 and 43.
- 99 Ibid., paras. 44 and 45.
- 100 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 21.
- 101 Ibid., para. 20.
- 102 See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para. 53 (a).
- 103 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 22.
- 104 Ibid., para. 23.
- 105 Ibid., para. 28.
- 106 See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para.55 (a).
- 107 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 24.
- 108 Ibid., para. 24.
- 109 Ibid., para. 31.
- 110 See country team submission, p. 8.
- 111 See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 29.
- 112 Ibid., para. 30.
- 113 Ibid., para. 30.

- ¹¹⁴ Ibid., para. 12.
¹¹⁵ See country team submission, p. 6.
¹¹⁶ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 33.
¹¹⁷ Ibid., para. 32.
¹¹⁸ See country team submission, p. 6.
¹¹⁹ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 35.
¹²⁰ See country team submission, p. 7.
¹²¹ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 35.
¹²² Ibid., para. 35.
¹²³ Ibid., para. 36.
¹²⁴ See country team submission, p. 8.
¹²⁵ See UNESCO submission, p. 18.
¹²⁶ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 36.
¹²⁷ See country team submission, p. 8.
¹²⁸ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 36.
¹²⁹ Ibid., para. 37.
¹³⁰ See CRPD/C/UGA/CO/1, para.15.
¹³¹ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 36.
¹³² Ibid., para. 19.
¹³³ Ibid., para. 13.
¹³⁴ Ibid., para. 37.
¹³⁵ Ibid., para. 13.
¹³⁶ See UNHCR submission, p. 1.
¹³⁷ See A/HRC/19/16, para. 111.101.
¹³⁸ See UNHCR submission, p. 2.
¹³⁹ See CMW/C/UGA/CO/1, paras. 24 and 25.
¹⁴⁰ Ibid., para. 38.
¹⁴¹ Ibid., para. 55.
¹⁴² Ibid., para. 35.
¹⁴³ Ibid., paras. 50 and 51.
¹⁴⁴ Ibid., paras. 46 and 47.
¹⁴⁵ See E/C.12/UGA/CO/1, para. 14.
¹⁴⁶ Ibid., para. 17.
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