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## Human Rights Council

Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

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### Côte d'Ivoire

#### Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

## I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

## II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. The United Nations country team urged Côte d'Ivoire to step up its efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.<sup>2</sup>

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that consideration be given to ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)<sup>3</sup> and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) of the International Labour Organization.<sup>4</sup>

4. The United Nations country team urged Côte d'Ivoire to translate into action its firm commitment to ratifying the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries of 1989 and the Organization of African Unity Convention for the elimination of mercenarism in Africa. This commitment was made to the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination during the working group's mission to Côte d'Ivoire from 4 to 13 March 2024.<sup>5</sup>

5. While welcoming the preparation in 2019 of the midterm follow-up report on the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the third cycle of the universal periodic review, the United Nations country team noted that several reports were still due, including reports for the treaty bodies, which represented a significant challenge to be met.<sup>6</sup>

6. In 2023, for the first time, Côte d'Ivoire made a voluntary financial contribution to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).



### III. National human rights framework

#### Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and the Family and the Protection of Children be given the human, technical and financial resources to enable it to carry out its mandate effectively as the national machinery for the advancement of women.<sup>7</sup>

8. While welcoming the establishment of the Interministerial Committee in Charge of the Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Côte d'Ivoire allocate the necessary resources to the Interministerial Committee and seek technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.<sup>8</sup>

### IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

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

##### 1. Equality and non-discrimination

9. The United Nations country team shared the concerns of the Human Rights Committee<sup>9</sup> about the ongoing discrimination and negative stereotyping faced by persons with albinism. It remained concerned about the inadequate nature of the measures taken to protect persons with albinism from all forms of discrimination.<sup>10</sup>

##### 2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

10. The Working Group on the use of mercenaries considered that the authorities should intensify their efforts to end the proliferation of weapons in the public domain.<sup>11</sup> It identified as a challenge the lack of standardized training for the personnel of private military and security companies, which posed a risk to public safety. It strongly recommended that the activities of private security companies be subjected to more effective oversight, including through the establishment of an independent mechanism in which members of civil society participate to monitor and supervise the private security sector.<sup>12</sup> It also considered that Côte d'Ivoire should intensify its efforts to implement standards regulating the activities of private military companies.<sup>13</sup>

11. The United Nations country team considered that the lack of a mechanism for the prevention of torture remained a major obstacle to the effective implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.<sup>14</sup>

12. While welcoming the efforts under way to provide a framework for police custody under articles 71–76 of Act No. 2018-975 of 27 December 2018 on the Code of Criminal Procedure, amended by Act No. 2022-192 of 11 March 2022, the United Nations country team considered that these measures were insufficient to tackle overcrowding in places of detention, which was an indication of the difficult conditions in which prison staff worked and that inmates faced, as well as the insecurity of the establishments. It also found it regrettable that there was no strategy to relieve overcrowding and no social reintegration programme that had a real impact on recidivism.<sup>15</sup>

13. The United Nations country team recommended that Côte d'Ivoire review its prison policy, within the framework of a comprehensive, criminal justice policy based on human rights, so as to address the consequences of prison overcrowding, the degrading detention conditions, and the working conditions of prison staff. This policy should include both legal reforms and practical measures to promote a reduction in the period of validity of committal orders for ordinary and serious offences as well as the effective application of alternative measures to detention.<sup>16</sup>

14. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ensuring that, in cases where detention is unavoidable, children are not detained together with adults, in line with article 7 of Decree No. 69-189 of 14 May 1969 on regulating prisons; that detention conditions are in compliance with international standards, particularly regarding access to health services; that administrative hurdles are reduced in order to facilitate visits by parents to children in detention; and that regular inspections of prisons are carried out.<sup>17</sup>

### **3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

15. The United Nations country team shared the recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee<sup>18</sup> concerning the lack of independence of the judiciary, which resulted from interference by the executive branch in the administration of justice, the insufficient number of judges and the inadequacy of legal assistance. It invited the Government to continue undertaking judicial reforms, in particular to effectively guarantee the independence of the judiciary, strengthen the fight against corruption and reinforce measures to guarantee access to justice by improving the distribution of the courts, implementing alternative measures to detention, training judges and evaluating the legal assistance mechanism.<sup>19</sup>

16. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ensuring that Presidential Ordinance No. 2018-669 on amnesty of 8 August 2018 does not apply to persons suspected, accused or convicted of war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross violations of human rights, including conflict-related sexual violence, recalling that amnesties are inadmissible if they interfere with victims' right to an effective remedy, including reparation, or if they restrict victims' and societies' right to know the truth about violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Amnesties must also be in line with the international obligations of Côte d'Ivoire, including those emanating from Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 2106 (2013) and 2467 (2019), in which the Security Council explicitly stressed the need to exclude crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes.<sup>20</sup>

17. The Working Group on the use of mercenaries notes that mercenaries and mercenary-related actors were widely used during the conflicts that took place between 2002 and 2007 and after the presidential election of 2010. Numerous human rights violations were perpetrated by these mercenaries, including summary executions, kidnappings, torture and sexual violence against women. While noting that the authorities took numerous measures to ensure reconciliation, the Working Group notes the amnesty ordinance of 2018, granting amnesty to 800 people accused of, or charged with, crimes relating to the 2010–2011 crisis, which could include persons allegedly responsible for the most serious crimes, including the recruitment and financing of mercenaries.<sup>21</sup>

18. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended ensuring that children in conflict with the law receive free assistance from qualified and independent lawyers, at an early stage and throughout the legal proceedings, and increasing multidisciplinary training on children's rights for all actors involved in the juvenile justice system.<sup>22</sup>

### **4. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life**

19. While the United Nations country team welcomes the progress made by Côte d'Ivoire in promoting the freedom of the press, as well as the establishment of a mechanism for protecting human rights defenders under Interministerial Order No. 972/MJDH/MEMD/MIS of 10 November 2021 and the appointment of the members of the mechanism in line with the recommendations received by Côte d'Ivoire, the country team remains concerned about challenges such as ensuring equitable access to the media, managing electoral conflicts, and combating disinformation, political manipulation, restrictions on freedom of expression and unequal access to political resources, which were hampering the credibility and fairness of the electoral process.<sup>23</sup>

20. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women invited Côte d'Ivoire to adopt and implement effective measures to protect women human rights defenders, in particular those campaigning against female genital mutilation, child marriage and environmental depletion, and to ensure the effective implementation of article 9 of Act No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders,

in particular by creating an independent reporting and follow-up mechanism for violations of the law.<sup>24</sup>

21. While the United Nations country team noted the progress made in strengthening democratic institutions, it felt that there were still problems to be overcome, including the low participation of women and young people in democratic processes.<sup>25</sup>

22. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended strengthening awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of women's participation in political life, especially in decision-making positions, and the importance of leadership training for women who wish to stand for election or hold public office.<sup>26</sup> Noting with appreciation the adoption of Act No. 2019-870 of 14 October 2019, promoting the representation of women in elected and partially elected assemblies, and of its implementing regulations, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned that the quota, set out in Act No. 2019-870, only applied to candidates, and not elected positions, that it was limited to 30 per cent and that incentives were provided rather than sanctions.<sup>27</sup>

## 5. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

23. Although Côte d'Ivoire had taken proactive steps to address contemporary forms of slavery, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, considered that those practices continued to exist in the country. In relation to child labour, many were still working during school hours and/or performing tasks that were physically and mentally detrimental to their well-being, which may amount to the worst forms of child labour. Increasingly, there was a shift from child labour in cocoa production to artisanal mining, as there was less or no oversight in that sector. Domestic work was another area of concern, affecting particularly girls. They did not receive proper wages, and instances of physical, including sexual, abuse and other forms of violence, as well as trafficking of children from rural to urban areas, had been reported. The Special Rapporteur had received information that labour exploitation among adults, which may amount to forced labour, also existed to some extent in some sectors of the economy, for example in artisanal mining.<sup>28</sup>

24. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Côte d'Ivoire, *inter alia*, continue its good efforts in eradicating child labour through a multi-stakeholder approach; improve the enforcement of the existing criminal and labour laws by increasing the human and financial resources allocated to relevant authorities such as the police, the gendarmerie and the labour inspectorate and training them regularly on identifying instances of child and forced labour; hold perpetrators of child and forced labour accountable by ensuring that appropriate and sufficiently dissuasive punishments were imposed; include certain aspects of domestic work in the list of hazardous work prohibited for children under the age of 18 and increase monitoring in that area; provide sufficient subsidies and financial incentives to farmers in the agriculture sector in order to prevent child labour; develop a holistic long-term policy/vision with regard to the mining sector and take urgent action to halt child labour as well as labour and sexual exploitation and environmental destruction in that area, including by promoting dialogue among all relevant stakeholders; and provide appropriate support to the National Human Rights Commission, civil society organizations, trade unions and workers' organizations, which played a vital part in identifying, protecting and reintegrating victims.<sup>29</sup>

25. The United Nations country team encouraged the Government to continue the efforts undertaken in recent years by mobilizing the financial resources needed to fund the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons, allocating the resources that the National Committee for the Oversight of Actions to Combat Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour needed to carry out its mission, and above all, mobilizing the administrative authorities in the justice and security sectors to become more involved in tackling this problem.<sup>30</sup>

## 6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

26. According to the United Nations country team, the need to create jobs for the rapidly growing population of young people remained a challenge.<sup>31</sup> The Special Rapporteur on

slavery recommended increasing skills training and employment opportunities for the young workforce.<sup>32</sup>

27. The Special Rapporteur on slavery recommended stepping up efforts to address labour exploitation among adults, including by developing and implementing an appropriate strategy to address it; mandating, through legislation, written contracts in all sectors, with a view to enhancing the protection and enforcement of workers' rights; and clearly informing workers about their rights and entitlements, as well as about grievance procedures in cases of labour law violations, in languages that they understood.<sup>33</sup>

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended, *inter alia*, promoting the transition of women in the informal sector to the formal sector, conducting regular labour inspections in all employment sectors and handing down appropriate penalties for non-compliance.<sup>34</sup> It also recommended: (a) ensuring the necessary human, technical and financial resources to implement existing plans to promote entrepreneurship among women, particularly women living in rural areas, and regularly monitoring the impact of these plans on women's economic empowerment; (b) adopting a gender-sensitive and adequately resourced economic empowerment policy that increases women's access to training, land and credit; and (c) ensuring that women's unpaid work is recognized, reduced and redistributed, including by investing in infrastructure and social services, such as childcare, and promoting the participation of men in domestic and family chores.<sup>35</sup>

## 7. Right to social security

29. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ensuring that women employed in the informal sector are effectively covered by social and labour protection mechanisms.<sup>36</sup>

## 8. Right to health

30. The United Nations country team stated that the law on reproductive health that was to be the culmination of the Government's efforts had not yet been adopted, although the drafting process had begun. It encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to finalize the adoption of the law on mothers' and daughters' health, and to step up efforts to effectively implement Act No. 2014-131 of 24 March 2014, establishing universal health-care coverage by ensuring equitable access for vulnerable groups.<sup>37</sup> The country team considered that increasing the financial resources allocated to the health sector would make it possible to establish the conditions necessary to ensure the right to health.<sup>38</sup>

31. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended, *inter alia*, amending articles 366 and 367 of the Criminal Code with a view to legalizing abortion in cases of rape, incest or severe fetal impairment, in addition to cases where the pregnant woman's life and health is at risk (for which abortion is already legalized) and decriminalizing abortion in all other cases. It also recommended ensuring that all women and girls, in particular those in rural areas, have access to affordable and modern forms of contraception, and intensifying efforts by the Ministry of Education to raise awareness of contraceptives and sexual and reproductive health and rights by introducing age-appropriate sexuality education in school curricula and strengthening measures to ensure access to high-quality post-abortion care, in particular in cases where complications arise from unsafe abortion.<sup>39</sup>

32. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended: (a) strengthening measures to combat tuberculosis, particularly prevention measures, and ensuring that relevant health-care services are free of charge; (b) strengthening measures to combat malnutrition and to reduce the high rate of low-weight births and stunting, including by increasing the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Multisectoral Nutrition Plan 2016–2020 and to the National Policy to Improve School Canteens; (c) implementing a national strategy to counter the sale of medicine on the street ("street medicine") and the lack of regulation of traditional medicine; (d) implementing Act No. 2014-430 of 14 July 2014 governing prevention, protection and punishment in the fight against HIV/AIDS and Decree No. 213/MSHP/CAB of 20 August 2008 providing for free antiretroviral treatment for

children with HIV/AIDS; and (e) strengthening measures to address drug abuse and tobacco and alcohol consumption, and developing accessible and youth-friendly drug dependence treatment and harm-reduction services.<sup>40</sup>

#### **9. Right to education**

33. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Côte d'Ivoire, *inter alia*, to ensure the allocation of the necessary human, technical and financial resources to the education system, in particular for rural areas and preschool education, vocational training and programmes to increase literacy; to ensure compliance with article 2 (1) of Act No. 2015-635 of 17 September 2015 on education; and to support the implementation of the Act by continuing to increase the number of schools, classrooms and teachers, and by supporting children in vulnerable situations and children living in poverty.<sup>41</sup>

34. The same Committee called on Côte d'Ivoire to: (a) take all measures necessary to address the violence perpetrated against children in schools, particularly girls, including sexual abuse and harassment by teachers, with a focus on prevention policies, and bring perpetrators to justice; (b) improve the accessibility of education for all, especially for girls and children living in rural areas, and strengthen awareness-raising initiatives and campaigns on the right of girls to education; (c) increase enrolment in schools by overcoming obstacles for out-of-school children, and support children who have been out of school, including for reasons relating to the military and political crises faced by the country; and (d) implement measures to support pregnant girls and adolescent mothers in continuing their education.<sup>42</sup>

35. The same Committee called on Côte d'Ivoire to enhance efforts to increase the quality of education, including by providing continuous training to teachers, further improving the student-to-teacher ratio, ensuring that teaching material is available to all students, continuing the incorporation of Qur'anic schools into the education system and ensuring their regulation and monitoring.<sup>43</sup> Similar recommendations relating to girls and women were made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.<sup>44</sup>

#### **10. Development, business and human rights, and the environment**

36. The Working Group on the use of mercenaries urged the Government to guarantee an equitable distribution of economic resources throughout the country and to strengthen anti-corruption measures. According to the Working Group, equal access to economic, social and cultural rights throughout the country was essential to preventing the risk that young people in Côte d'Ivoire might turn to illegal activities, including mercenarism.<sup>45</sup>

37. Through the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations country team commended the efforts made by Côte d'Ivoire to step up the implementation of initiatives to reduce poverty and promote the economic empowerment of vulnerable groups, particularly women. Programme relating to microcredits, vocational training and targeted financial support (income-generating activities) had been launched to strengthen the economic capacity of women and young people, as had the second-generation National Agricultural Investment Programme (PNIA 2), which prioritized the fight against poverty and the promotion of economic empowerment, placing particular emphasis on the financial and economic inclusion of women and young people. However, the United Nations country team considered that problems such as the lack of adequate funding, ineffective coordination between stakeholders and inadequate policies limited the effectiveness and scale of these programmes. Certain population groups, mainly women and young people living in rural areas, were held back by the lack of basic social services.<sup>46</sup>

38. The United Nations country team noted that Côte d'Ivoire, through the High Authority for Good Governance, had set up monitoring and transparency mechanisms to combat corruption. However, it remained concerned about the lack of resources and institutional capacity to conduct investigations at all levels and about the uneven enforcement of the law, the persistence of corruption at various levels of society and the lack of punishments to deter perpetrators, all of which undermined the progress made by the Government.<sup>47</sup>

39. The United Nations country team also remained concerned about the persistent violations of the rights of population groups affected by business activities. Land grabbing by large agricultural and extractive companies was adversely affecting family farms and

further exacerbating poverty, especially in rural areas.<sup>48</sup> In the view of the United Nations country team, the Government's acceptance of the request for a visit by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises gave it a timely opportunity to receive support in its efforts to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.<sup>49</sup>

40. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ensuring the equal participation of rural women and girls in decision-making relating to disaster-risk reduction and climate change, in line with general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. It also recommended building on traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge systems, where appropriate.<sup>50</sup>

## **B. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### **1. Women**

41. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended bringing all national laws into line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women without further delay and ensuring their implementation.<sup>51</sup>

42. The same Committee recommended adopting a comprehensive law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence against women, ensuring that medical certificates are available free of charge for victims of gender-based violence to use as evidence, accelerating the adoption of the law stipulating the coverage of all costs for victims of gender-based violence, and ensuring that all actors respond to gender-based violence in a coordinated manner.<sup>52</sup>

43. While welcoming the adoption of a new Criminal Code through Act No. 2019-574 of 26 June 2019, which included, among other things, a definition of rape in its article 403 and criminalized all forms of rape, regardless of the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, the Committee remained concerned that the definition of marital rape was not based on the lack of freely given consent and that not all forms of domestic violence were explicitly criminalized.<sup>53</sup>

44. The same Committee recommended enforcing Act No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 criminalizing female genital mutilation by investigating, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators, including those who regularly move between Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries, and ensuring that suitable medical treatment, psychosocial rehabilitation and legal assistance are provided to victims of female genital mutilation.<sup>54</sup>

45. The same Committee recommended: (a) monitoring and evaluating the impact of Decree No. 2016-781, circular No. 5 and interministerial circular No. 16/MJ/MEMIS/MPRD on access to justice for women, in particular women who are victims of gender-based violence, women who have little or no income and women with disabilities; (b) ensuring that legal aid is affordable, available and accessible to all women and girls, in particular those who have little or no income, and guaranteeing their access to justice and age-appropriate accommodation; and (c) intensify efforts to encourage and enable women to access justice by increasing their awareness of their right to legal aid.<sup>55</sup>

46. The Special Rapporteur on slavery recommended stepping up efforts for the economic empowerment of women as a means to address poverty and gender inequality and to prevent child labour and other forms of exploitation.<sup>56</sup>

### **2. Children**

47. According to the United Nations country team, although progress had been made in strengthening the child protection system, children continued to face numerous obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights, as the Committee on the Rights of the Child pointed out in its concluding observations on the second periodic report of Côte d'Ivoire.<sup>57</sup> Challenges such as the de facto discrimination that continued to be directed against girls, children living in rural areas and children living in poverty, among other groups, particularly with regard to literacy

and access to education, vocational training, health care, sanitation, development measures and birth registration, had hindered efforts to make children's rights effective.<sup>58</sup>

48. The Special Rapporteur on slavery was concerned by instances of child or forced marriage in Côte d'Ivoire, reportedly affecting girls from the age of 13.<sup>59</sup> The Special Rapporteur recommended allocating sufficient resources for awareness-raising, continuing efforts to change the mindset of religious and traditional leaders as well as the general public on child and forced marriage, and holding perpetrators of those practices accountable.<sup>60</sup>

### 3. Persons with disabilities

49. While welcoming the steps taken by Côte d'Ivoire to improve the situation of persons with disabilities, the United Nations country team considered that the failure to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was still a shortcoming because the lack of opportunities for making complaints and claims made it difficult to monitor the implementation of the Convention. It also noted that further progress was needed to realize the rights of persons with disabilities. The implementation of policies and laws to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities was not always effective in ensuring their access to decent employment, despite the regulations in force.<sup>61</sup>

### 4. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

50. The United Nations country team invited the Government to effectively implement the strategy document on migrant smuggling, which had been drawn up in consideration of the scale of the problem and the abuse of migrants' rights in general.<sup>62</sup>

51. The United Nations country team, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, supported the Government in the processing of asylum applications, including the provision of birth certificates to children in order to prevent statelessness. However, constraints continued to affect the issuance of birth certificates for new asylum-seekers living in host communities. The country team encouraged the Government in its efforts to register the biometric data of asylum-seekers and recommended that it take the necessary steps to ensure that all asylum-seekers and refugee children born in Côte d'Ivoire receive a birth certificate.<sup>63</sup>

### 5. Stateless persons

52. The Special Rapporteur on slavery recommended that Côte d'Ivoire facilitate proactive birth registration and the provision of identify documents to Ivorian citizens and migrant workers so that they could access education and essential services.<sup>64</sup>

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/42/6](#), [A/HRC/42/6/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/42/2](#).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Côte d'Ivoire, p. 1. See also [CRC/C/CIV/CO/2](#), paras. 54 and 55; and United Nations country team submission, annex 1, sect. 4, "Engagements pris dans le cadre de la commémoration du 75ème anniversaire de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme".

<sup>3</sup> See also [CRC/C/CIV/CO/2](#), para. 49 (c).

<sup>4</sup> [CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4](#), para. 42 (a).

<sup>5</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 1. See also the end-of-mission statement by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, 13 March 2024, available at [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI\\_EOM\\_13032024\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI_EOM_13032024_EN.pdf); and the related press release, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/cote-divoire-un-experts-welcome-efforts-prevent-mercenary-related-activities>.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> [CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4](#), para. 22 (a).

<sup>8</sup> [CRC/C/CIV/CO/2](#), para. 59.

<sup>9</sup> [CCPR/C/CIV/CO/1](#), para. 9.

<sup>10</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 3. See also [CRC/C/CIV/CO/2](#), para. 19.

<sup>11</sup> End-of-mission statement by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, 13 March 2024, available at [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI\\_EOM\\_13032024\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI_EOM_13032024_EN.pdf), p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., pp. 4 and 5.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., pp. 5 and 6.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> **CRC/C/CIV/CO/2**, para. 53. See also United Nations country team submission, pp. 4 and 5.

<sup>18</sup> **CCPR/C/CIV/CO/1**, para. 20.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 5.

<sup>20</sup> **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, paras. 10 (b) and (c). See also [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FCIV%2F48094&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FCIV%2F48094&Lang=en).

<sup>21</sup> End-of-mission statement by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, 13 March 2024, available at [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI\\_EOM\\_13032024\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI_EOM_13032024_EN.pdf), p. 2; and the related press release, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/cote-divoire-un-experts-welcome-efforts-prevent-mercenary-related-activities>.

<sup>22</sup> **CRC/C/CIV/CO/2**, para. 53. See also United Nations country team submission, pp. 4 and 5.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 5.

<sup>24</sup> **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, para. 36.

<sup>25</sup> United Nations country team submission, annex 1, sect. 1.

<sup>26</sup> **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, para. 34. See also United Nations country team submission, V, D.1, p. 8.

<sup>27</sup> See [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FCIV%2F48094&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FCIV%2F48094&Lang=en).

<sup>28</sup> Country visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, to Côte d'Ivoire, end-of-mission statement, 17 November 2023, available from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cote-divoire-un-expert-hails-progress-end-child-labour-urges-action-address>, pp. 5 and 6.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid., pp. 9 and 10. See also **CRC/C/CIV/CO/2**, paras. 48, 49 and 52; and **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, paras. 31, 32, 41 and 42.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 6.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., annex 1, sect. 1, and see also p. 7.

<sup>32</sup> Country visit of the Special Rapporteur on slavery to Côte d'Ivoire, end-of-mission statement, 17 November 2023, available from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cote-divoire-un-expert-hails-progress-end-child-labour-urges-action-address>, pp. 9 and 10.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, para. 42.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., para. 46.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., para. 42 (a).

<sup>37</sup> See also **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, para. 44 (a).

<sup>38</sup> United Nations country team submission, pp. 6 and 7. See also **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, para. 44 (b).

<sup>39</sup> **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, para. 44 (c) and (d).

<sup>40</sup> **CRC/C/CIV/CO/2**, paras. 45 and 46.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., para. 47 (a) and (b).

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., para. 47 (c), (d), (g) and (h).

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., para. 47 (i) and (j). See also United Nations country team submission, p. 7; UNESCO submission, part III, A; and country visit of the Special Rapporteur on slavery to Côte d'Ivoire, end-of-mission statement, 17 November 2023, available from <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/slavery/sr/statements/20231116-eom-statement-visit-cote-d-ivoire-EN.pdf>, pp. 9 and 10.

<sup>44</sup> **CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4**, para. 40.

<sup>45</sup> End-of-mission statement by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, 13 March 2024, available at [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI\\_EOM\\_13032024\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/mercenaries/wg/statements/CI_EOM_13032024_EN.pdf), p. 4 ; and the related press release, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/cote-divoire-un-experts-welcome-efforts-prevent-mercenary-related-activities>.

<sup>46</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 7.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>50</sup> [CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4](#), para. 48 (c).

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., para. 18 (b). See also United Nations country team submission, p. 8.

<sup>52</sup> [CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4](#), para. 30 (b)–(d).

<sup>53</sup> See [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FCIV%2F48094&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FFUD%2FCIV%2F48094&Lang=en).

<sup>54</sup> [CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4](#), para. 28 (b) and (c).

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., para. 20.

<sup>56</sup> Country visit of the Special Rapporteur on slavery to Côte d'Ivoire, end-of-mission statement, 17 November 2023, available from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cote-divoire-un-expert-hails-progress-end-child-labour-urges-action-address>, pp. 9 and 10.

<sup>57</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 9. See also [CRC/C/CIV/CO/2](#).

<sup>58</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 9.

<sup>59</sup> Country visit of the Special Rapporteur on slavery to Côte d'Ivoire, end-of-mission statement, 17 November 2023, available from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cote-divoire-un-expert-hails-progress-end-child-labour-urges-action-address>, pp. 5 and 6.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., p. 10.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 9. See also [CEDAW/C/CIV/CO/4](#), paras. 49 and 50; and [CRC/C/CIV/CO/2](#), para. 44.

<sup>62</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 9.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid., p. 10. See also [CRC/C/CIV/CO/2](#), paras. 24 (c) and 25 (c).

<sup>64</sup> Country visit of the Special Rapporteur on slavery to Côte d'Ivoire, end-of-mission statement, 17 November 2023, available from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cote-divoire-un-expert-hails-progress-end-child-labour-urges-action-address>, pp. 9 and 10.