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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-second session**  
23 January–3 February 2023

## **Gabon**

### **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 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).<sup>2</sup>

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended expediting the process of acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.<sup>3</sup>

4. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended encouraging Gabon to ratify its Convention against Discrimination in Education of 1960 and to submit periodic reports on the implementation of UNESCO instruments.<sup>4</sup>

5. The United Nations country team noted that Gabon had continued to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms and to respect its international obligation regarding the submission of periodic reports, for instance by submitting the report on its implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in February 2022. The United Nations country team recommended continuing to support Gabon in submitting all overdue and future periodic reports concerning human rights within deadline.<sup>5</sup>



### III. National human rights framework

#### 1. Constitutional and legislative framework

6. UNESCO recommended encouraging Gabon to: explicitly enshrine the right to education in its Constitution; monitor the implementation of the Education Act adopted in 2012, in particular the ban on corporal punishment contained in article 108; take steps to enforce the Act; and ensure that the new article of the Civil Code setting the age of marriage at 18 years for both girls and boys was respected in practice.<sup>6</sup>

7. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the absence of inclusion in the civil law framework of a legal definition of discrimination against women, which explicitly prohibited direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, as well as intersecting forms of discrimination. It also remained concerned about the absence of a specific legal framework addressing the rights of women.<sup>7</sup>

8. The same Committee recommended adopting, under the administrative and civil law framework, a definition of discrimination against women, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, encompassing direct and indirect discrimination, as well as intersecting forms of discrimination, in both the public and private spheres. It also recommended adopting specific and comprehensive legislation to combat all forms of discrimination against women in all areas covered by the Convention, and amending the Penal Code to decriminalize women exploited in prostitution.<sup>8</sup>

9. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances was concerned that there was no clear recognition of the principle of non-derogability in the country's domestic law expressly establishing that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever could be invoked to derogate from the prohibition on enforced disappearance. It recommended taking the necessary steps to explicitly introduce an absolute ban on enforced disappearance into its domestic legislation.<sup>9</sup> It also urged Gabon to: define and characterize enforced disappearance as a separate offence, in accordance with article 2 of the Convention, punishable by appropriate penalties that took into account its extreme seriousness; and specifically characterize enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity in the cases provided for by article 5 of the Convention.<sup>10</sup>

#### 2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

10. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances welcomed the information that a bill on reforming the National Human Rights Commission was in the process of being adopted in the parliament. It noted with concern, however, that, despite having been in place since 2015, the Commission did not yet seem to be operational. It recommended that Gabon expedite the adoption of the bill and encouraged the State to continue its efforts to ensure that the Commission complied with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and to provide it with adequate human and financial resources so that it could function properly with a view to facilitating its timely accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.<sup>11</sup>

11. The same Committee was concerned that Gabon had yet to establish a national preventive mechanism. It recommended that Gabon take all necessary steps to establish a national preventive mechanism and provide it with sufficient financial, human and technical resources to effectively carry out its mandate.<sup>12</sup>

12. The United Nations country team noted that, pursuant to the resolutions put forward during the Angondjé political dialogue held in 2017, the Electoral Council of Gabon had been established in 2018 to replace the independent and permanent National Electoral Commission. The Council, an independent body responsible for organizing, managing and monitoring electoral proceedings, was headed by a Chair who was elected by his peers for a two-year term, renewable once. However, the institution had not renewed its membership in accordance with regulations, sparking criticism on the part of opposition political parties and civil society organizations.<sup>13</sup>

## **IV. Promotion and protection of human rights**

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

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

13. The Secretary-General noted that in Gabon, on 18 February 2021, two curfew violators had been shot dead during violent demonstrations against coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions in some neighbourhoods of Libreville.<sup>14</sup>

14. The United Nations country team noted that the right to life and the safety of children remained poorly defined concepts in the law with regard to ritual crimes and violence in and around schools. The ordinances issued by the Ministry of Education remained administrative instruments and were not applied by the judiciary.<sup>15</sup>

15. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances regretted that it had not received any information on the legal status of disappeared persons whose fate had not been determined, the legal situation of the relatives of a disappeared person and the rights they had in areas such as financial matters, social protection, family law and property rights. It recommended that Gabon take the necessary steps to introduce appropriate legislation with regard to the legal situation of disappeared persons whose fate had not been determined and that of their relatives, in particular in terms of social protection, financial matters, family law and property rights. It encouraged Gabon to set up a procedure for obtaining a declaration of absence by reason of enforced disappearance.<sup>16</sup>

16. The Secretary-General noted that the deteriorating prison conditions, overcrowding and increasing lengths of pretrial detention remained serious concerns.<sup>17</sup>

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

17. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances noted that the military courts had jurisdiction in cases of enforced disappearance committed by military personnel in the exercise of their duties. It recalled its position that, as a matter of principle, the military courts did not have the independence or impartiality required by the Convention to adjudicate cases of human rights violations such as enforced disappearance. It recommended taking the necessary legislative and other measures to ensure that all cases of enforced disappearance remained outside the jurisdiction of the military courts and that they could be investigated and tried only by the ordinary courts.<sup>18</sup>

18. The same Committee encouraged Gabon to: ensure that the Code of Criminal Procedure provided for the unrestricted participation of victims of enforced disappearance in judicial procedures relating to such acts; consider providing specific training to some members of the criminal police and the judiciary in order to conduct, where appropriate, investigations into alleged cases of enforced disappearance and to initiate criminal proceedings in such cases; guarantee the effective coordination and cooperation of all bodies responsible for the investigation and ensure that they had the necessary support and technical, financial and human resources to discharge their functions diligently and effectively; and adopt all necessary measures to ensure that persons suspected of having committed the offence of enforced disappearance and the members of their units did not take part in the investigation and were not themselves or through a third party in a position to influence, directly or indirectly, the course of the investigation.<sup>19</sup>

19. The United Nations country team noted that, despite the fact that the Children's Code properly reflected the provisions of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules), detaining 13- to 18-year-olds remained the rule rather than the exception. Children were no longer tried in public hearings at the nine courts but, rather, in chambers and in the presence of their parents and social workers, with the possibility of counsel. The nine courts of first instance all had juvenile prosecution services. Police stations had units for the protection of minors. However, the specialization of judges and investigative police officers had fallen behind, in violation of the

Children's Code. The Gendarmerie territoriale had yet to establish dedicated units for the safety and protection of child victims and juvenile offenders.<sup>20</sup>

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

20. UNESCO noted that Gabon did not have a law on access to information. Defamation was considered a criminal offence under articles 441 and 442 of the Criminal Code and carried the penalty of up to one year in prison and/or a fine of up to 1 million CFA francs. States of exception and the notion of "disturbing public order" provided considerable leeway to censor, take over or suspend the activities of media outlets.<sup>21</sup>

21. The Secretary-General noted that, on 2 August 2018, the major trade union confederation, Dynamique unitaire, filed an appeal with the Constitutional Court to invalidate the austerity measures and decided to organize demonstrations in Libreville on 13 and 28 August. Despite both demonstrations being banned by the Government, members of the confederation attempted to demonstrate on 28 August, resulting in the arrest of 29 people.<sup>22</sup>

22. The Secretary-General noted that opposition parties and civil society organizations in Gabon denounced illegal arrests and prolonged detention, torture, ill-treatment and disappearances of opposition members and frequent travel bans imposed on opposition leaders.<sup>23</sup>

23. The United Nations country team recommended that Gabon review its approach to political and cultural freedoms with a view to enabling the population to fully enjoy its political, economic and cultural rights, including the rights to protest, to take part in public affairs through civil society organizations and to contribute to local governance through the decentralization of power. It also recommended that Gabon take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the law on women and youth quotas in decision-making bodies so that candidacies from those underrepresented categories translated into an actual increase in their representation.<sup>24</sup>

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

24. United Nations experts expressed alarm about credible information received concerning the situation of 40 migrant workers working for a foreign-based timber company in the Gabon Special Economic Zone in Nkok. The migrant workers reportedly had been brought to Gabon in a deceptive manner and the company had confiscated their identity documents, thus preventing them from leaving the country. Moreover, it was alleged that the workers had not been provided with a written contract or a valid work visa, had no weekly rest time, were required to do excessive overtime work and received irregular wage payments. The experts stressed that those precarious working conditions could amount to contemporary forms of slavery and to human trafficking and called on the Government of Gabon and the company concerned to urgently investigate and address the situation.<sup>25</sup>

25. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that, in line with its general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, Gabon: revise the Penal Code provisions prohibiting trafficking to comply with international standards; provide training for first responders, including law enforcement officers, border control personnel and health-care providers, on the early identification of victims and their referral to appropriate services for their protection and rehabilitation; and systematically investigate all allegations of exploitation, abuse and violence against migrant women and girl workers, both documented and undocumented, and ensure that abusive employers were held accountable and that their punishment was commensurate with the gravity of the offence.<sup>26</sup>

### **5. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

26. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the adoption of the revised Labour Code in 2021, which affirmed women's equal access to work, removed barriers to accessing the labour market and punished sexual and psychological harassment. It was concerned about the continued occupational segregation of women and men in the labour market and the fact that women were concentrated in low-paid jobs in the informal economy without labour and social protection.<sup>27</sup>

27. The same Committee recommended that Gabon: increase women's access to full-time employment in the formal sector, including by providing affordable public elder-care and childcare facilities to enable both caregivers and parents to balance work and family life; facilitate access to the social security system for disadvantaged women, in particular those employed in the agricultural sector and domestic work; implement the revised Labour Code to enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value; and implement provisions on sexual and psychological harassment and ensure that victims of such harassment in the workplace had access to effective, independent and confidential complaint procedures, that perpetrators were prosecuted and adequately punished and that victims were protected from retaliation.<sup>28</sup>

## **6. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

28. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the efforts to increase women's access to social protection schemes. Nevertheless, it was deeply concerned that women continued to have limited access to economic resources, faced discrimination in access to financial services and were not involved in the elaboration and implementation of national development strategies. It regretted the lack of data on low-income households headed by women and the lack of information on the concrete impact of social programmes to improve the economic situation of women with low incomes.<sup>29</sup>

29. The same Committee recommended that Gabon: address the feminization of poverty and mainstream gender in the planned updates to the national strategy for gender equality and equity and in all relevant national and local development plans or poverty reduction strategies, ensuring that women, especially those from marginalized groups, and relevant women's organizations and networks were involved at every stage of their adoption and implementation; and accelerate efforts to register women in the universal health insurance scheme and the National Social Security Fund, prioritizing rural women, self-employed women and women heads of household, to ensure their access to social and economic benefits.<sup>30</sup>

30. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also recommended ensuring the systematic participation of women in the development of strategies to facilitate women's access to financial credit, including access to loans with low interest rates and to entrepreneurship and independent business opportunities, applied without discrimination to migrant women, and ensuring that unpaid work of women was recognized, reduced and redistributed, including through investment in infrastructure and social services, such as childcare facilities, and by promoting the participation of men in domestic and family responsibilities.<sup>31</sup>

## **7. Right to health**

31. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the efforts made by Gabon to enhance access to health care for women, including through the adoption of mandatory health insurance for low-income persons, as well as the 2017 presidential measures to make childbirth and pre- and post-natal consultations free of charge. However, the Committee was concerned that: availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services for women and girls, especially rural women and girls, were inadequate; maternal mortality rates, including among adolescent girls, were persistently high and basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care was inadequate; the prevalence of unsafe abortions remained high given that legal abortions could be carried out only before the tenth week and could be performed only by a doctor in a hospital; and a disproportionately high number of women and girls in the State were infected with HIV/AIDS and faced stigmatization and social exclusion based on their HIV/AIDS status and the limited availability of antiretroviral treatment.<sup>32</sup>

## **8. Right to education**

32. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted the adoption of the strategy to combat early pregnancies in schools by the Ministry of Education in 2018. It remained deeply concerned, however, about the high pregnancy rates among school-age girls and the resulting non-completion of secondary schooling. It regretted the

lack of recent data, disaggregated by age and other relevant factors, on the dropout rate among pregnant girls and their re-entry rate following childbirth. It was also concerned about the high levels of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, against girls in the school environment. The Committee noted the limited access to vocational and higher education for girls graduating from secondary schools.<sup>33</sup>

33. The same Committee recommended that Gabon raise awareness of the importance of girls' education at all levels as a basis for their empowerment and: ensure the effective retention and reintegration of pregnant girls and young mothers in the school system, including by providing out-of-school educational and parenting support for young mothers; provide, in its next periodic report, data, disaggregated by age and other relevant factors, on school dropout rates among adolescent girls and young women owing to early pregnancy and their re-entry rates following childbirth; strengthen the provision of age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights in school curricula, including comprehensive sexuality education for adolescent girls and boys covering responsible sexual behaviour; and establish effective procedures to investigate cases of sexual abuse and harassment of girls in school environments, prosecute perpetrators, especially teachers and school administrators, and provide victims with medical care, psychosocial counselling and rehabilitation.<sup>34</sup>

34. UNESCO recommended encouraging Gabon to extend free education until the age of 12, to continue its efforts towards inclusive education, particularly for persons with disabilities, and to continue developing its long-term remote learning strategy.<sup>35</sup>

## 9. Cultural rights

35. The United Nations country team noted that a law on copyright and related rights had been adopted in 1987 but that the Copyright and Related Rights Office had not been established until 2013. The Office still encountered many operational difficulties, and artists had yet to enjoy their copyright and related rights. Gabon had initiated the process to adopt a law on the status of artists in 2013. However, this fundamental piece of legislation for cultural rights and artistic freedom had yet to be adopted. A law on cultural policy remained pending. The country team recommended that Gabon accelerate the adoption of the law on the status of artists, as well as the establishment of a mechanism for the distribution of royalties to artists and cultural actors and the recognition of related rights.<sup>36</sup>

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

36. United Nations human rights experts recalled that, in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, all companies should respect human rights throughout their operations, while States had a duty to protect against business-related human rights abuses. As the host State of the Gabon Special Economic Zone, Gabon must protect individuals against human rights abuses within its territory, by taking steps to investigate, punish and redress such abuses. The experts also stressed that the use of special economic zones needed to be aligned with international human rights standards. Civil society organizations, trade unions and international human rights bodies had regularly stressed that the race to attract foreign investment through such zones must not come at the expense of standards concerning human rights, labour rights and the environment.<sup>37</sup>

37. The United Nations country team emphasized that the Government and the country's business sector should strengthen accountability measures in relation to the various incidents where environmental rights had been infringed. Those measures should take into account the environmental activists who had been affected. Gabon would have everything to gain by establishing more robust institutional frameworks and committing to hold businesses and other stakeholders accountable for their environmental footprint, especially in the oil industry, which was involved in many reports of air, water and land pollution. Gabon could, for example, step up its response to ensure that economic interests did not override common environmental goods and services.<sup>38</sup>

38. The United Nations country team noted that environmental problems were evident in several areas, including in the rich mangrove forest north of Libreville. The Province of Estuaire, for instance, had seen a massive number of real estate development projects in

recent years, which had had adverse effects on fisheries, the stabilization of the coastline and the means of subsistence of local populations. Women, farmers and Indigenous Peoples fighting against deforestation were among the defenders of human and environmental rights who were currently highly exposed to abuses and reprisals.<sup>39</sup>

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

### **1. Women**

39. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Gabon: ensure that the prevention of gender-based sexual violence, the end of impunity for perpetrators of such violence and the provision of reparations to survivors be given priority in the national strategy to combat gender-based violence against women, and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of the strategy; raise awareness among women of their rights under the recently adopted Law No. 006/2021 of 6 September 2021, addressing all forms of gender-based violence against women, and how to pursue remedies for violations of those rights; and address stigmatization of victims, which deterred them from reporting cases of violence, through awareness-raising campaigns on the criminal nature and gravity of all forms of gender-based violence against women.<sup>40</sup>

40. The same Committee noted the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women in Gabon, given their overrepresentation in the informal economy, uneven access to social protection, absence of job security and increased burden of unpaid work in caring for their home and infected or quarantined family members. It noted with concern the significant increase in cases of gender-based violence against women and girls, including physical and psychological violence, within the family home, exacerbated by prolonged periods of confinement and the inability to access emergency protection and assistance due to pandemic-related curfews.<sup>41</sup>

41. The same Committee welcomed the amendments to the Penal Code to criminalize female genital mutilation, widowhood practices and levirate and sororate marriages. It was nevertheless concerned that discriminatory gender stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society persisted and that Gabon had not taken sufficient, sustained and systematic action to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes, which contributed to the persistence of gender-based violence and harmful practices directed against women, including sexual violence, child marriage, polygamy and ritual crimes.<sup>42</sup>

### **2. Children**

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that approximately 11 per cent of children born in Gabon were not registered at birth or thereafter, thereby increasing their risk of being denied access to basic services, such as health care and education. It was also concerned that, in practice, the issuance of a birth certificate was made conditional upon payment of the costs of childbirth, thereby presenting an obstacle for poor women. It recommended that Gabon: strengthen the citizenship and social protection programme to encourage the timely registration of births and issuance of birth certificates, prioritizing the registration of births of girls with disabilities; expedite the planned opening of civil status offices in hospitals to facilitate birth registration within the deadlines set out in article 169 of the Civil Code; raise awareness among both civil registry staff and the general public of article 169 of the Civil Code, which provided that birth registration in the civil registry was free of charge in all circumstances; and ensure that all women received national identity cards, prioritizing disadvantaged groups of women.<sup>43</sup>

43. The United Nations country team noted in relation to children's rights that a national children's rights observatory had been established by decree but lacked genuine impact on the coordination of initiatives promoting children's rights. Gabon did not subsidize the observatory and had not provided it with facilities for its headquarters. Furthermore, the observatory was not autonomous, as it occupied a low rung on the institutional ladder and came under the Directorate General for the Family, rather than being an independent body.

The country team recommended urging Gabon to subsidize the observatory, provide it with facilities to use as its headquarters and ensure its independence.<sup>44</sup>

44. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances emphasized the particular cruelty with which enforced disappearances affected the human rights of women and children. Children who were victims of enforced disappearance, either because they themselves had been subjected to disappearance or because they suffered the consequences of the disappearance of their relatives, were especially vulnerable to numerous human rights violations, including identity substitution. The Committee therefore placed special emphasis on the need for Gabon to ensure that gender perspectives and child-sensitive approaches were used in implementing the rights and obligations set out in the Convention.<sup>45</sup> It recommended strengthening the criminal legislation with a view to incorporating as specific offences the wrongful removal of children who were subjected to enforced disappearance, children whose father, mother or legal guardian was subjected to enforced disappearance or children born during the captivity of a mother subjected to enforced disappearance, and the falsification, concealment or destruction of documents attesting to the true identity of those children, and provide for appropriate penalties that took into account the extremely serious nature of the offences.<sup>46</sup>

### **3. Persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and minorities**

45. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Gabon: provide information, in its next periodic report, on the outcome of the planned survey to determine the prevalence of sexual violence perpetrated against indigenous women; raise awareness among health-care providers as well as refugee women and girls on their coverage by the health insurance scheme, including the costs related to pregnancy and free childbirth; allocate specific and adequate resources to women with disabilities in the national gender equality and equity strategy and in the women's Decade of Equality; and guarantee access to justice for women with disabilities who were victims of gender-based violence, ensuring that such cases were effectively investigated and that perpetrators were prosecuted and adequately punished.<sup>47</sup>

### **4. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons**

46. The Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity welcomed Gabon joining the group of sub-Saharan countries to decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults. On 29 June 2020, the parliament removed the provision in the Penal Code that criminalized homosexuality, following a vote in the lower house on 23 June 2020. He commended Gabon for its decision, as it established a valuable protection for gays, lesbians and bisexual, trans and other gender-diverse persons in Gabon and let them know that they were in a country in which their dignity and integrity was valued.<sup>48</sup>

47. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Gabon provide effective protection to lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women from gender-based violence and discrimination and ensure their access to justice through the appropriate investigation of their complaints, punishment of perpetrators and provision of compensation to survivors.<sup>49</sup>

### **5. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

48. UNHCR noted that there was a need for clear procedures to ensure the prompt identification of persons seeking international protection upon arrival at land borders or by sea and to ensure that persons in need of international protection who were already in Gabon would not be prosecuted as irregular migrants. It recommended that the Government of Gabon: develop and implement standard operating procedures for refugee status determination, including procedures for the determination of the best interests of refugee children; ensure that the National Commission for Refugees had the mandate and resources necessary to collect and manage data on asylum-seekers and refugees, upholding the highest standards in terms of data protection and confidentiality; develop standard operating procedures for, among other things, the identification and orientation of asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied and separated children and refugees or asylum-seekers who were



victims of trafficking in persons and who were arriving in the context of mixed movements of people; and expand alternatives to detention for asylum-seekers entering the country irregularly and in the context of mixed movements of people.<sup>50</sup>

49. The United Nations country team recommended that Gabon ensure that refugees applying for coverage under the national health insurance and social security scheme were assessed on the basis of the new admissibility criteria on a par with Gabonese citizens. It also recommended supporting the inclusion of specific provisions to extend primary health-care services to asylum-seekers awaiting a final decision on their refugee status.<sup>51</sup>

## 6. Stateless persons

50. UNHCR recommended that the Government of Gabon: provide the national committee for the eradication of statelessness the necessary juridical and political framework to operate; prioritize the development of a national action plan to reduce and prevent statelessness, including measures to identify and protect stateless migrants and stateless persons arriving in the context of mixed movements of people; and include in the next national housing and population census specific questions to estimate the number of persons at risk of statelessness in the country.<sup>52</sup>

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> See [A/HRC/37/6](#), [A/HRC/37/6/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/37/2](#).
- <sup>2</sup> [CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7](#), paras. 29 and 46.
- <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25 and UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Gabon, p. 3.
- <sup>4</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Gabon, p. 7.
- <sup>5</sup> United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Gabon, pp. 4 and 14.
- <sup>6</sup> UNESCO submission, p. 7.
- <sup>7</sup> [CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7](#), para. 10.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 11 and 21 (f).
- <sup>9</sup> [CED/C/GAB/CO/1](#), paras. 10–11.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 13.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 8–9.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 32–33.
- <sup>13</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- <sup>14</sup> [S/2021/517](#), para. 48.
- <sup>15</sup> United Nations country team submission, pp. 6–7.
- <sup>16</sup> [CED/C/GAB/CO/1](#), paras. 38–39.
- <sup>17</sup> [S/2019/430](#), para. 42.
- <sup>18</sup> [CED/C/GAB/CO/1](#), paras. 23–24.
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 27.
- <sup>20</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- <sup>21</sup> UNESCO submission, paras. 5–7.
- <sup>22</sup> [S/2018/1065](#), para. 11.
- <sup>23</sup> [S/2018/521](#), para. 44.
- <sup>24</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 15.
- <sup>25</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2019/04/un-human-rights-experts-raise-alarm-about-situation-indian-migrant-workers>.
- <sup>26</sup> [CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7](#), para. 21.
- <sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 28.
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 29.
- <sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 32.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 33.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 30.
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 26.
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 27.
- <sup>35</sup> UNESCO submission, p. 7.
- <sup>36</sup> United Nations country team submission, pp. 12 and 15.
- <sup>37</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2019/04/un-human-rights-experts-raise-alarm-about-situation-indian-migrant-workers>.
- <sup>38</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 11.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>40</sup> CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7, para. 19.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., para. 8.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., para. 16.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., paras. 24–25.

<sup>44</sup> United Nations country team submission, pp. 3 and 15.

<sup>45</sup> CED/C/GAB/CO/1, para. 43.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., paras. 40–41.

<sup>47</sup> CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7, para. 37.

<sup>48</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2020/07/gabon-decriminalisation-same-sex-relations-welcome-step-equality-says-un-expert>.

<sup>49</sup> CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7, para. 37.

<sup>50</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 3.

<sup>51</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 15.

<sup>52</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 3.

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