



General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2023

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Forty-fifth session
22 January–2 February 2024

National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Nigeria

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. This report documents the action and progress made by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) in addressing the 3rd Cycle recommendations of 2018. Following that process, 290 recommendations were made, of which Nigeria supported 240 whilst it took note of 50 others.
2. A significant part of the recommendations are on human trafficking, gender equality, torture prevention, improved prison conditions, and various other concerns highlighted by the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council during the 3rd Cycle Universal Periodic Review.
3. The positive developments post 3rd Cycle review in all areas of accepted recommendations is a demonstration of Nigeria's resolve, despite obvious challenges, to enhance mechanisms for the realization and enjoyment of human rights; combat corruption; ensure security in the face of counterterrorism and insurgency; foster democracy and good governance; and promote access to justice. We are dedicated to integrating human rights principles into our legal frameworks, educational systems, and business practices. Moreover, we understand the urgency of addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities and remain committed to implementing sustainable solutions evidenced in this report.

II. Methodology and consultation process

4. The FGN, prior to the preparation of the 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report, has a properly constituted and functioning inter-ministerial National Committee on UPR implementation with the mandate to lead the process. The Committee adopted a multi-tiered and participatory approach involving extensive consultations with stakeholders of all arms (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) and levels of Government (Federal, States and Local Government Councils), including non-state actors, academia, private sectors, traditional, religious and cultural leaders in producing this report.

III. Developments since the adoption of the recommendations made to Nigeria during the third cycle UPR

5. Below are the steps taken by Nigeria to fulfill its obligations in respect of supported recommendations and some noted recommendations in the Third Cycle discussed under broad thematic titles that do not necessarily correspond with the official or other reports of the Third Cycle.

A. Trafficking in persons and related recommendations

Recommendations 148.198–200, 148.204, 148.207: Step up the fight against trafficking in human beings and slavery, especially of women and girls, including improving the practice of enforcing legislation

6. Nigeria has re-enacted the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Enforcement and Administration (TIPPEA) Act 2015, which includes key international legal and policy frameworks.
7. The Act which is under amendment at the National Assembly, addresses emerging issues such as baby sales, shelter operator control, educational excursions, sporting activities, labor recruitment, and stiffer penalties for offenders.
8. The FGN has finalized the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Protocol, it outlines formal procedures for authorities' effective identification, safe return, and rehabilitation of trafficked persons.

9. The FGN has signed bilateral agreements on preventing and combating human trafficking and unsafe migration with countries like The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin Republic, Niger Republic, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

10. The FGN adopted a 5-P strategy to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, including Policy, Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership.

11. The FGN collaborates with development partners to implement various activities, including developing capacity for trafficking investigations and prosecutions.

Recommendations 148.201, 148.205: Adopt more robust measures to address trafficking in persons, including by developing capacity for trafficking investigations and prosecutions

12. Training modules for law enforcement, Tabletop Exercise (Ttx), and facilitation of Judges' training have been developed.

13. Nigeria maintains a detailed e-database/register of persons convicted for the offense of Trafficking in Persons; conducts inter-agency liaison and cooperation on intelligence training for law enforcement officers; conducts quarterly Embassy Liaison meetings; establishes National Stakeholders' Consultative Forums, and States Task Forces to create awareness at the grassroots.

Recommendation 148.202: Expedite efforts to establish a new national action plan on human trafficking

14. Nigeria has developed a five-year strategic policy framework, the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking in Nigeria 2022-2026, to guide interventions and ensure efficiency in utilizing intervention funds.

15. The plan covers five thematic areas: protection, prevention, prosecution, law enforcement, partnership coordination, and research.

Recommendation 148.203: Strengthen engagement between federal agencies and state governments to ensure greater coordination on issues of human trafficking and modern slavery

16. To strengthen engagement between federal agencies and state governments, the government has inaugurated 22 state-level Task Forces Against Human Trafficking, established 9 Zonal offices, 14 State Commands, and 8 state Liaison Offices, and facilitated training and inauguration of two new state task forces.

Recommendations 148.206, 208: Continue to raise awareness about trafficking in human beings to prevent people from becoming trafficked and ensure that support is provided to victims, especially in relation to combating child trafficking

17. The Nigerian government uses various platforms to conduct awareness campaigns, including educational institutions, religious groups, and social media, and established anti-trafficking vanguards in 88 Federal Government Unity Schools.

18. The weekly Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), NAPTIP Programme, "On the Move" is one such awareness raising campaign.

Recommendation 148.209: Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, female genital mutilation (FGM), early and forced marriages and sexual and gender-based violence

19. The country developed, published and went live with the National Sexual Offenders Database (NSOD) in 2019, which serves as a virtual naming and shaming platform for convicts and a strategic approach to deter others.

Recommendation 148.210: Strengthen measures to prevent child trafficking and enhance social and economic welfare opportunities for the victims

20. Nigeria has implemented measures to support victims' recovery and rehabilitation.

21. It has successfully enrolled victims in schools and partnered with Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) for basic education.
22. The government has established 13 shelters, serving 9,256 victims.
23. They also provide legal, medical, psychological services, vocational training, financial empowerment, and family reunification assistance.
24. Additionally, Nigeria has incorporated Trafficking in Persons (TIP) into school curricula.

B. Rights of persons with disabilities

Recommendation 148.35: Pass into law the National Disability Bill

25. The Prohibition of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018, prohibits discrimination based on disability and establishes the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities.
26. Several states have enacted state equivalent laws and established commissions for persons with disabilities.
27. The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) has partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPD), and the Physically Challenged Persons Social Health Insurance Programme ensures access to health for women and girls with disabilities without discrimination.
28. The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has deployed 84 assistive Information Technology projects to support people with disabilities and promote inclusiveness.

C. Women, children and girls and related issues

Recommendations 148.38, 42, 53, 271–272: States adoption of Child Rights Act (CRA) and Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act

29. All 12 Muslim-dominated Northern Nigerian states have passed the Child Rights Bill, with governors assenting.
30. Kano State, the last to do so, passed the State Child Rights Protection Bill on May 24, 2023.
31. Some states, like Jigawa, have repealed and re-enacted the laws to reconcile religious practices with federal policies.
32. The VAPP Act has also been adopted by 34 States, with Kano and Katsina being the outstanding states.

Recommendations 148.54, 269, 273, 274, 276: Marriage age uniformity, contradictory religious and traditional practices etc.

33. The Nigerian State operates legal pluralism, recognizing the legislative autonomy of states and the validity of customary and religious practices.
34. These practices can only be invalidated if they are repugnant to natural justice, equity, good conscience, or incompatible with enacted law.
35. The legislature will consider the opinions of each state population before deciding on abolition of customary or religious practices.
36. The CRA sets a cut-off age of 18 years for marriage, while Islamic law allows marriage of girls who have reached puberty with parental consent.
37. The age of consent for sexual offenses is also different in some states.

Recommendation 148.270: Prohibition of recruitment of child soldiers

38. The Nigerian Armed Forces do not recruit children.
39. An advertisement for recruitment into the Armed Forces will typically provide for age limit such as the one placed in the Guardian of 14 April, 2023 which specified that “An applicant must not be less than 18 years....”
40. Civilian Joint Task Forces, usually established for defending civilian populace against insurgents, have been accused of co-opting children; affected states have included provisions in their Child Rights Laws for prohibition of recruitment of children.

Recommendation 148.167: Ensure greater access to justice for women and girls who are victims of violence

41. The FGN announced the establishment of specialized courts in Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Anambra, Edo, Ekiti, and Lagos to expedite the trial of rape/gender-based violence (GBV) offences.
42. Practice Directions and guidelines for implementing VAPP have been developed and adopted in FCT and many of the 34 states that have domesticated VAPP.
43. The FGN also established the first DNA Forensic Laboratory in Adamawa to aid in the verification of specimens of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) suspects.
44. Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) are located in nearly all states across Nigeria and FCT, providing comprehensive, high quality, confidential, and rapid services to victims and survivors of SGBV.
45. The Nigeria Federal Ministry of Justice facilitates capacity-building of judges and relevant stakeholders for a sustainable fight against SGBV.
46. In 2020, the President directed a targeted government response to the SGBV problem, primarily in the area of access to justice.
47. This led to the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Management Committee (IMC) on the Eradication of SGBV, the SGBV Response Unit, a prosecution Hub, and Gender Desks at all police commands and stations.
48. The Nigeria Correctional Services (NCS) Act offers special protection for detained women who are pregnant or with babies, ensuring they are housed in separate facilities and tested for pregnancy upon admission.
49. The CRA has also been domesticated in all 36 states in Nigeria.
50. The courts are not only speedily trying SGBV cases, they are imposing maximum sentences on convicts and entering their names in the Register of sexual offenders. An example is the sentence of life imprisonment given by the Lagos State High Court to a Medical Director found guilty of rape of his wife’s niece on 25/10/2023.

Recommendations 148.253, 148.255, 148.268: Intensify efforts to ensure the promotion of rights of women and girls to ownership of agricultural land, economic empowerment, ending harmful traditional practices and taking concrete measures against SGBV, particularly in rural areas

51. Nigeria passed the VAPP Act in 2015 to eliminate violence in private and public life.
52. The Act has been domesticated in 34 states as at May 2023.
53. Evidence shows progress in addressing discriminatory laws and practices against women and girls' rights.
54. Supreme Court cases like *Ukeje v. Ukeje* 2014 LPELR-22724 (SC) and *Aniekwe v. Nweke* (2014) 9 NWLR (PT.1412) 393 have declared customary laws unconstitutional and established women's rights to land, property, and inheritance.
55. Some states, like Rivers, Cross Rivers, and Akwa-Ibom, have enacted legislation to provide for women's right to inheritance of land.

Recommendations 148.243, 148.250, 148.257, 148.259, 148.264, 148.261, 148.262, 148.265, 148.266: Increase efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women, eradicating the practice of FGM, already prohibited by law, and ensuring that the law on SGBV is approved throughout the national territory

56. The VAPP Act of 2015 and its state equivalents protect women and girls from GBV and harmful practices like FGM and female circumcision.

57. Nigeria has a National Policy and Plan of Action for the Elimination of FGM, and the Child Rights and VAPP laws have helped to replicate it in all states.

58. Domestication of CRA and VAPP has significantly reduced FGM prevalence in Nigeria.

Recommendation 148.244: Continue to plan and to implement national strategies for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and adopt a plan to ensure the effective role of women in the implementation of these strategies

59. States in Nigeria (Anambra, Ekiti, Imo, Kogi and Plateau) have already passed and are implementing the Gender and Equal Opportunities Law.

60. The FGN enacted the National Social Investment Programme Agency Act, 2023, which informed the set-up of the National Social Investment Programme for equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable populations, including women, youths, and children,

61. This has impacted greatly on indigent Nigerians' socioeconomic well-being.

62. Kindly see further discussion on Recommendation **148.213: Continue efforts to protect human rights to ensure their effective implementation by improving living conditions and achieving sustainable development in the country.**

Recommendations 148. 59, 148.245, 148.247, 148.251, 148.252, 148.254, 148.268: Continue implementing measures to improve conditions for women, girls and PWD, eliminate discrimination and economic barriers in various fields

63. Nigeria has developed a National Policy on Women's Economic Empowerment, which has been implemented by all states upon domesticating CRA and VAPP.

64. In the South East, Enugu State has passed Widow and widower laws, Anti-Stigma and Discrimination Law, and has established the Enugu State Steering Committee on GBV.

65. The FGN has also established the Tamar SARC to handle rape cases and has passed a law for the full integration of persons with disabilities into society.

66. Anambra State has implemented its Child Rights and VAPP Laws, making it easier to prove offenses like rape and defilement, reduce technicalities, and criminalize harmful cultural practices.

67. The law also liberalized some knotty issues, such as the jurisdiction of courts over offences, and introduced protection orders and compensation for victims of violence.

68. Ebonyi State has established the Family Court to ensure greater access to justice for women and girls who are victims of violence.

69. The Ebonyi State Child Rights Law abolished religious and traditional practices that contradict child rights recognized in International Instruments.

70. Ebonyi State has a functional GBV task force and is strengthening GBV Courts at the 13 Local Government Areas.

71. In the North Central States, referral centers have been established to tackle issues of SGBV.

72. Benue State has passed the Widows (Protection) Law, which guarantees the rights of the widow and their inheritance rights.

73. Nasarawa State created its first Family Court to address issues related to abuses and violation of women and children.

74. In 2020, the Niger State Government signed the Child Rights Protection Executive Order to protect children and discourage begging.

75. The Niger State Government also established a Child Rights Agency, a department of GBV, a Micro Credit scheme, and free primary healthcare for the poorest and most vulnerable Nigerians.

76. Nigerian institutions, including the Bank of Industry (BOI), are actively promoting gender inclusivity in business.

77. Since 2006, Bank of Industry (BOI) has provided financial advisory and business support to over 1.36 million women-led enterprises.

78. The Bank has also partnered with the Business Development Fund (BUDFOW) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to support women-owned businesses in economically disadvantaged areas.

79. The Mobile Telecommunication Network (MTN) Foundation *Y'ellopreneur* program aims to build the capacity of 500 women and provide financial support to 150 successful beneficiaries.

80. The Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) aims to unlock \$3 billion in private sector financing for female entrepreneurs.

81. Other partnerships are with the African Guarantee Fund and European Investment Bank.

Recommendations 148.246, 148.248, 148.249: Redouble efforts in ensuring the protection of the rights of women and children, particularly in crisis-affected areas

82. The North-East Development Commission Act (2017) serves the coordination, resettlement, rehabilitation, integration and reconstruction of infrastructure for victims of terrorism.

83. A Non-Governmental Organization by the appellation GoNigeria successfully installed the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) with the support of a development partner in 30.6% of the states spread across five geopolitical zones of the country.

Recommendations 148.194, 256: Accelerate the repeal or modification of laws discriminating against women and increase the number of women engaged in decision-making bodies to promote gender equality

84. The 10th National Assembly prioritizes gender equality and ending discrimination against women.

85. The FGN is working to represent five failed Gender Bills from the previous assembly, including special seats for women, citizenship scope expansion, affirmative action for women in political party administration, and indigenous rights.

Recommendation 148.258: Redouble its efforts, assign human and financial resources to the institutions in charge of applying the law in order to remove the impunity that benefits the perpetrators of violence against women

86. Since the Emergency Declaration on SGBV in 2021 during COVID-19 by the FGN and the Governors' Forum, specific sums have been earmarked across all the states for direct intervention and assistance to victims/survivors of SGBV.

87. Furthermore, every state that has passed VAPP has put in place mechanisms for implementation and established SARCs, which the state Governments are funding, including through partnerships with UN, European Union, DFID/UK and the British Council.

88. Specialized courts are currently operational in some states of the Federation, including Abuja and Lagos, and they have handled thousands of cases and sentenced perpetrators appropriately.

Recommendation 148.263: Step up efforts in raising awareness among religious and traditional leaders and the populace on the criminal nature of FGM and other traditional practices

89. 14 out of the 36 Nigeria states have so far passed laws criminalizing FGM/FC.

90. Nigeria launched a National Policy on FGM and National Protocol on the Management of Survivors of FGM in Nigeria; these guidelines will be useful to frontline healthcare professionals and policy makers.

Recommendation 148.194: Increase the number of women engaged in decision-making bodies to promote gender equality

91. There is an ongoing Constitutional move for affirmative action that will result in the adoption of specific seats for women in parliament at all levels when the Bill is passed. It will create an additional 111 seats in the National Assembly at the Federal level alone.

92. Also proposed for legislative amendment is the adoption of a constitutional provision that at least 35% of the executive committee members at all levels shall be women.

93. The National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), National Assembly, on 23rd to 24th August 2023 in Abuja organized an International Conference on Women in Governance (WIG) where the National Assembly leadership and parliamentarians re-affirmed their commitments to passing a bill that will recognize affirmative action to enhance women's representation in parliaments and appointive positions.

D. Democracy, rule of law, governance and access to justice

Recommendations 148.159, 162: Continue to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to improve the effectiveness, accessibility, transparency and fairness of the justice system and further guarantee the impartiality and effectiveness of the judicial system

94. The Nigerian Constitution guarantees the independence, impartiality, and integrity of courts of law, and the right to access them to enforce fundamental rights.

95. The Federal Ministry of Justice developed the 2017 National Policy on Justice, focusing on fair and speedy justice, human rights protection, access to justice, correctional and restorative justice, alternative dispute resolution, traditional justice system, among others.

96. A new National Policy on Justice is currently being developed in collaboration with stakeholders.

97. A Justice Sector Summit was organized in January 2022 to improve performance, accountability, and independence in the justice sector whereat challenges identified in the policy were addressed.

98. Sub-national states launched justice transformation strategies to address the justice gap as small claims courts were established within magistrate courts to facilitate commercial disputes and improve accessibility for indigent persons.

99. Other efforts include the enactment of the Arbitration and Mediation Act, the development of a National Policy on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the establishment of multi-door courthouses.

Recommendations 148.160–161: Continue to review and reform its criminal justice system so as to strengthen the rule of law in Nigeria and invest in the training of its justice sector officials to remain abreast of reforms in the criminal justice system

100. Nigeria's 36 sub-national units adopted the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, strengthening their procedural systems.

101. A federal network of monitoring committees was established in 2021 to promote best practices.

102. Over 1000 magistrates and law enforcement officers were trained on the Act's implementation.

103. The Federal Government launched the Corrections Information Management System (CIMS) in 2019, and the Police Act of 1948 was amended in 2020 to promote citizens' rights.

104. Training workshops for justice sector officials were organized by the Federal and state governments.

Recommendation 148.163: Organize awareness-raising campaigns to rectify and promote social tolerance behavior in order to contribute to overcoming difficulties facing the rule of law in the country

105. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) launched a campaign against hate speech, urging Nigerians to embrace diversity.

106. The National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) was approved in 2019 to address issues between farmers and herders.

107. The plan focuses on conflict prevention and resolution through negotiation, mediation, and dialogue.

108. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development co-funded the NLTP Summit in 2022 to promote its implementation.

109. Negotiation training sessions were also conducted.

Recommendation 148.164: Adopt measures to fight against impunity with an increased focus on Boko Haram's crimes

110. Kindly refer to the section on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and on Insurgency and counterterrorism.

Recommendations 148.168, 172–179: Implement measures to prevent security forces from committing human rights violations, investigate their actions, identify responsible individuals, and bring them to justice through public reporting

111. Kindly refer to the section on the Rome Statute of the ICC and Insurgency and Counterterrorism.

Recommendation 148.180: Regarding recurring inter-communal violence, undertake effective and impartial investigations into massacres, bringing those responsible to justice and ensuring redress for victims

112. Nigeria remains committed to ensuring that persons responsible for serious criminal infractions during inter-communal clashes are investigated and prosecuted.

113. These crimes are typically handled by state prosecutors and few of them are reported in the media.

114. Nigeria will continue to develop capacity to undertake these prosecutions and aim to ensure scale and uniformity of standards across the states.

115. Nigeria has also shown commitment towards addressing the plight of victims.

116. In 2020, Delta State paid compensation to victims of a farmer-herder clash in Uwheru Kingdom.

117. In February 2021, the National Economic Council endorsed a resolution passed by the Governors' Forum to compensate victims of farmer-herder clashes in the country.

Recommendation 148.169: Intensify efforts to enable women to gain access to justice by increasing gender awareness among judges and other court personnel

118. In 2019, the UNODC launched a training module on gender dimensions in criminal justice responses to terrorism.

119. In 2020, the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria hosted workshops highlighting women's rights and gender equality.

120. In 2023, the Federal Ministry of Justice and NAPTIP organized a workshop on tackling SGBV in Nigeria.

121. In 2022, the Lagos State Government trained judges on best practices for adjudicating such cases.

Recommendations 148.170–171: Ensure that the perpetrators of violence and crimes against children as well as adults are brought to justice and implement safeguards to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of vulnerable persons and hold those responsible accountable

122. Kindly refer to the sections on Gender equality and the rights of persons living with disabilities, child rights, and trafficking in persons.

Recommendations 148.184–186, 190–191: Protect and promote freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in accordance with the Constitution in order to create a safe and favourable environment for all Nigerians without distinction of any kind, including human rights defenders, journalists and civil society

123. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 guarantees freedom of expression and assembly, and the Police Act, 2020 mandates the Police to protect citizens' rights.

124. Courts have upheld these rights, particularly regarding the requirement of a police permit for protests.

125. In June 2023, the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory ordered compensation for a journalist killed by the Nigeria Police.

126. Internal reforms include training officers on engagement rules and promoting the role of the police complaints response unit.

127. A new Complaint Response Unit for the Lagos State Command was commissioned in August 2023.

128. Following the #EndSARS protests, 30 sub-national units established judicial panels of inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations by the Police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

129. The governments of Ekiti and Lagos and the National Human Rights Commission have since paid compensation to victims of police brutality.

Recommendations 148.187–189: Enhancing dialogue among religious and ethnic groups and promoting the enjoyment of the rights of freedom of religion or belief

130. Section 38(1) of the Constitution provides that every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and to manifest and propagate his religion or belief.

131. Notably, in *Lagos State Government and Others v. Miss Asiyat Abdulkareem (minor)* (2022) LPELR-58517 (SC), the Supreme Court upheld the right of female Muslim students to wear hijabs in schools.

132. The decision is seen as a positive reinforcement of the right to freedom of religion following the decision by the Lagos State Government to ban the use of hijabs in Lagos schools.

133. At sub-national level, many states set up or continued to rely on peace-building bodies to promote dialogue among religious and ethnic groups.

134. The peace-building bodies were set up by Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Adamawa, Anambra and Ogun States.

Recommendations 148.192–193: Take further steps to deepen its democracy and expand the borders of its political arena containing every entity of its demographically rich society and adopt legislation that includes special measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life

135. In 2022, Gender Desk officers of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) underwent a bridge training workshop on how to get more women involved in the electoral process.

136. The objectives of the training included: familiarizing the officers with the concept of gender and its importance to elections; acquainting INEC national and state desk officers with national and INEC gender policies; ensuring increased participation of women in the electoral processes; and providing the tools for participants to view elections from a gender perspective.

137. More recently, the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill passed the second reading at the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

138. The bill is aimed at ensuring equal opportunities for every Nigerian, including women, in line with section 42 of the Constitution.

139. The proposed legislation also seeks to guarantee government protection and empowerment of women as well as female representation in government.

Recommendations 148.196–197: Strengthen political and institutional safeguards to ensure free and fair elections and call upon all parties and the security forces to refrain from violence and intimidation and accept the results declared by the INEC and consolidate the legal electoral framework in order to improve the inclusivity and transparency of the electoral process

140. A new Electoral Act was enacted in 2022 to replace the 2010 Act.

141. The Act empowers INEC to determine voting modes, transmit results, and review duress declarations. It legalizes technology in elections, redefines over-voting, and mandates INEC to support Persons with Disabilities.

142. The Act also changes election timelines and mandates political parties to meet candidate nomination requirements.

143. INEC has developed tools to support election conduct, including the Election Risk Management (ERM) framework, which provides 360-degree visibility on electoral risks and threats.

144. The Act also includes provisions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and allows INEC to suspend elections if polling disruptions occur, while the use of technology in election management promotes transparency and credibility.

Recommendations 148.286, 148.288: Maintain the positive dynamics of granting internally displaced person equal political participation. Ensure the protection of women and children from all forms of abuse and exploitation in IDP camps (Right of Women and children)

145. It is pertinent to note that the Commission had maintained positive dynamics in catering for the IDPs, even when there was no specific legal provision authorizing it to conduct elections in the Camps.

146. Prior to 2015 General Election, as a result of the insurgency in the North Eastern part of Nigeria, a huge number of people were displaced from their habitual places of residence.

147. The Commission, in order not to disenfranchise these voters in the camps, swiftly undertook an IDP Voting Operation for State of Emergency (SOE) States.

148. The Commission, in promoting inclusivity of the voters in IDP Camps, produced a framework and Regulation/guidelines for voting in the camps. This is in accordance with International Standards on IDPs as provided by the United Nations Guiding Principle and

Kampala Conventions and Section 26(1) of the 2010 Electoral Act (as amended) now Section 24(1) of the Electoral Act 2022.

149. Further, the procedure to be followed by Election Officials in the IDP Camps has been incorporated into the Manual for Election Officials 2023 on page 54.

E. Sexual orientation and gender identity

Recommendations 148.67, 71–81, 183: Fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and repeal the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act 2013 and ensure that nobody is punished because of their sexual orientation and release all individuals held in detention because of homosexuality

150. The 3rd Cycle UPR recommendations in respect of decriminalizing offences relating to sexual orientation and gender identity were rejected by the country.

151. The position of the Government is that the country's stance in respect of the matter is dictated by societal mores and values and the rejection of foreign impositions capable of damaging the social fabric of the nation.

F. Cooperation with UN bodies and related recommendations

Recommendations 148.15–18 requiring Nigeria to improve on the performance of her treaty reporting obligations

152. Nigeria is a member of all 14 UN Treaty Reporting Bodies and is improving on its reporting obligations.

153. Nigeria and its National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have submitted several reports to various bodies.

154. Nigeria has submitted follow-up to concluding observations during the 2021 and 2022 sessions of the Committee Against Torture (CAT), received on 1 December, 2022, and a report to the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW) received on 18 October, 2022.

155. It also submitted its report to the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) received on 7 March, 2022 and submitted its initial report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearance (CED) received on 26 March, 2021.

G. Crosscutting issues

Recommendation 148.19 requiring Nigeria to invite Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders, and the environment, including to the Niger Delta

156. Nigeria has not invited Special Rapporteurs but has been working on environmental remediation in the Niger Delta.

157. Kindly refer to discussion under oil spill, climate change and human rights mechanism.

Recommendations 148.20–24: Requiring Nigeria to strengthen her Legal and Institutional Framework for right protection

158. Right Protection is being strengthened by creation of alternative forum for grievance remedy.

159. The Citizens Department of the Federal Ministry of Justice has become functional and effective, investigating petitions on various issues and disputes.

160. Lagos State has established a functional Directorate of Citizens' Rights, with several critical units.

161. Other states, including Jigawa and Ogun, have taken similar steps.

162. *Ad hoc* fact and truth committees have been tested in Lagos State, with some recommendations adopted in the White Paper.

Recommendation 148.9: Adhere to the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention)

163. Nigeria has not signed or ratified the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR and has not supported every recommendation on the abolition of the death penalty.

164. However, it has ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) in July 2009 and signed the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) in 2012.

165. In 2021, the Federal Executive Council approved a new National Policy for IDPs, with the goal of strengthening the institutional mechanisms for the realization of the rights, dignity, and well-being of vulnerable populations.

166. The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and IDPs (NCFRMI) mandate is to protect, support, and safeguard the interest of Persons of Concern (PoCs), including Refugees, Migrants, IDPs Returnees, Asylum Seekers, and Stateless Persons. Nigeria is fulfilling its international obligations on PoCs through active participation in UNGA, EX Com, RABAT process, KHARTOUM process, Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), Global Compact on Migration (GCM), and COP27.

167. Nigeria has implemented resettlement city projects for IDPs in six locations.

168. The country has also implemented a sound process of Refugees Status Determination and other protection measures, such as routine registration of asylum seekers, issuing of Refugees Status and identification cards, attestation letters, Conventional Travel Documents, strict compliance with the Principle of Non-refoulement, ongoing rehabilitation of houses, registration of over 22,000 Cameroonian refugees, and registration of National Identification Numbers for registered refugees.

Recommendation 148.60: Take further steps to strengthen policies with a view to addressing transnational organized crime, particularly drugs trafficking

169. Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has launched a National Drug Control Master Plan to combat illicit drug abuse and trafficking.

170. The plan includes arrest and prosecution, with the agency focusing on muzzled drug traffickers and reducing demand through counseling, treatment, care, and rehabilitation.

171. In 2021, the NDLEA seized over 3.4 million kilograms of drugs, resulting in over N150 billion in cash and arrests.

172. The agency also plans to downsize the illicit drug market.

173. The NDLEA has a toll-free 24/7 call center and counseling and rehabilitation units in all 36 states and the FCT commands.

Recommendation 148.61: Join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group

174. Nigeria has not joined this code of conduct but her Armed Forces have been consistently restrained in tackling insurgencies and unconventional warfare to avoid civilian casualties.

175. The Army regularly organizes training and re-training programs for officers and soldiers on human rights issues.

176. The Nigerian Army's rule of "No Exception" on human rights has led to dire consequences for some offender soldiers.

177. The Armed Forces Act CAP A 20 of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 addresses all human rights issues.

Recommendation 148.166: Take concrete steps to remove all provisions that criminalize petty offences from both federal and state laws

178. Human Rights NGOs and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) are working to decriminalize petty offences in Nigeria.

179. A two-day workshop was organized in July 2021, with support from the Network of African National Human Rights Institution (NANHRI), the participants of which included the Ministry of Justice, Houses of Assembly, Nigeria Police, Nigeria Correctional Services, Legal Aid Council, and CSOs.

180. The Lagos and Oyo Houses of Assembly agreed to midwife the pilot scheme, even as the workshop also developed an action plan for decriminalization in South-West pilot states.

181. Some bills aimed at decriminalizing petty offences are currently before the Houses of Assembly.

182. A Project Review Meeting on decriminalization of petty offences within the African Region was held in Abuja.

Recommendation 148.290: Ensure equality in the transmission of nationality between men and women

183. The Nigerian Constitution allows citizenship by registration and naturalization, though only female spouses of male citizens can benefit from the registration regime. A proposal to amend this section to extend that benefit to male spouses of female citizens was approved by the Senate but defeated in the House of Representatives.

184. The Federal Government is expected to lobby for the amendment to be passed.

Recommendation 148.289: Take further measures to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) to protect women from sexual violence in IDP camps and ensure that allegations of misconduct are investigated and brought to justice, and, in this context, establish an oversight mechanism for security forces that meets with international human rights standards

185. A UNFPA Report in June 2020 highlighted Nigeria government's measures to combat GBV, including declaring a state of emergency, establishing the Inter-Ministerial GBV Management Committee, and approving the Sexual Harassment Bill.

186. The ECOWAS Commission also called for urgent action to protect children's rights.

187. The NHRC, Nigeria Police, and the NAPTIP signed an agreement to combat GBV.

188. The domestication of the VAPP Act in all but two states is helpful.

189. NGOs are collaborating with the government to combat GBV, with the Widows and Orphans Empowerment Organization (WEWE) and WomenAid Collective partnering to develop guidelines and practice directions.

190. The closure of IDP camps also reduces female inmates' exposure to GBV.

Recommendation 148.287: Ensure that the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families are respected and guaranteed by a legislative framework

191. Nigeria has a functional domestic legal framework for migrant workers, as highlighted in its October 2022 Report to the CMW.

192. The Nigeria Immigration Service National Border Management Strategy 2019-2023 strengthens this law.

193. The FGN is developing a National Migration Web Portal, uploading migration information, and attaching data from 2019 to 2021.

Recommendations 148.211–212, 214–215: Request to Nigeria to strengthen social investment programs in favor of the most vulnerable groups, including women and children

194. Nigeria has continued its social investment programs, targeting vulnerable groups.

195. In 2020, the Nigerian Government established the Nigeria Social Solidarity Fund (NSSF) to support the most vulnerable, strengthen healthcare systems, and re-skill Nigerian youths.

196. In 2022, the Federal Executive Council approved the Nigerian Social Investment Program (NSIP) Bill, aiming to continue government intervention.

197. The program has four cluster programs: N-POWER, Government Enterprise and Empowerment Program (GEEP), National Home Grown School Feeding Program (NHGSFP), and Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), which serve as social safety nets for the poor.

198. The NSIP is considered one of the most ambitious social investment programs globally, aiming to lift 100 million people out of poverty.

Recommendation 148.213: Continue efforts to protect human rights and ensure their effective implementation through achieving sustainable development

199. Nigeria faced its deepest recession in four decades in 2020, but growth resumed in the fourth quarter due to eased pandemic restrictions, recovered oil prices, and policy reforms.

200. The government implemented measures such as harmonizing exchange rates, eliminating gasoline subsidies, adjusting electricity tariffs, cutting non-essential spending, and enhancing debt management.

201. These measures protected the economy from a deeper recession and laid the foundation for earlier recovery.

202. In 2021, Nigeria's economy grew by 1.8% and the Nigerian State continued to make efforts to improve living conditions.

203. In June 2021, the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) launched the Nigeria SDG Implementation Plan 2020-2030, with support from the UNDP.

204. The government also commenced the Second Phase of scaling-up implementation in the Decade of Action for the Global Goals.

Recommendation 148.216: Continue the good work to guarantee access to adequate housing for all citizens

205. In February 2022, Nigeria announced a 10-year National Housing Strategy Plan to address the issue of inadequate housing for low-income earners.

206. The plan aims to create up to 300,000 homes under the Federal Government Social Housing programme.

207. The plan was launched in May 2023, with work ongoing in 46 sites, with 6,068 housing units in states and 2,870 units in the FCT.

208. The government is negotiating another 400 homes with the Millard Fuller Foundation and is negotiating with cement manufacture to provide cement at a 30% discount for mass housing projects.

Recommendation 148.217: Continue to implement the 2017–2020 Economic Recovery and Growth Plan to promote sustainable economic and social development and improve people’s living standards

209. The Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) aims to restore economic growth, invest in Nigerians, and build a globally competitive economy.

210. The Federal Government designed Nigeria's National Development Plan (NDP) for 2021-2025, aiming to unlock Nigeria's potential in all sectors.

211. The plan aims to establish a diversified economy, invest in critical infrastructure, strengthen security and governance, enable a vibrant, educated, and healthy population.

H. Economic, social and cultural rights

Recommendations 148.34, 148.214: Requiring Nigeria to take measures to make economic, social and cultural rights enforceable and to address poverty

212. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) guarantees these rights in Nigeria, which are enshrined in Chapter II of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

213. However, these rights are not justiciable under the Constitution, and the FGN has passed legislations, policies, and programs that cut across key provisions of the ICESCR.

214. The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act 2004 addresses issues relevant to the ICESCR, and the Nigerian government pledges to take necessary measures to modify or abolish existing laws, customs, or practices that constitute discrimination against women.

215. The FGN has established the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, which has implemented social intervention programs such as the National Home-Grown Feeding Programme, Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme, Federal Government Empowerment and Employment Programme, and N-Power Scheme.

216. The National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC) provides social services for the elderly and improves their quality of living through community-based prototype systems, community safety spaces, and day care centers.

Recommendations 148.219–225: Relating to the Development of the Health System in Nigeria

217. The National Health Insurance Act 2022 established the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund, improving funding for the health sector.

218. The FGN supports implementation through policies, funding, and an enabling environment.

219. The Act focuses on 11 strategic Pillars such as Enabled Environment for Sector Outcomes, Increased Utilization of Essential Package of Health, Protection from Public Health Emergencies and Risks, and Predictable Financing and Risk Protection.

Recommendations 148.240–241: Relating to strengthening the schools’ feeding programs to improve school enrolment, nutrition and health of pupils

220. The FGN has procured and distributed Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food to prevent malnutrition in school-age children in IDP Camps.

221. This complements school feeding programs and has increased the number of healthy children in IDP camps.

222. The Ministry has also partnered with NGOs to source and produce food locally.

223. Policies and guidelines have been developed to operationalize the National Health Policy, including the second National Strategic Health Development Plan, Annual

Operations Planning Guidelines, and guidelines for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support services.

Recommendations 148.229–242: Relating to improving the quality of education and promoting inclusive education

224. The FGN recognizes the importance of quality education for sustainable development and national prosperity.

225. To achieve this, a Ministerial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) was developed to reposition the country's educational sector, focusing on ten areas: Out of School Children; Youth and Adult Literacy; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics STEM and Technical, Vocational, Educational and Training TVET; Basic Education; Teacher Education; Curriculum and Policy Matters; Tertiary Education; Education Data and Planning; Information and Communication Teachers ICT in Education; and Library Service in Education.

226. Out of school children, including girl-child and *Almajiri* children, are impacted by socio-cultural factors, economic demand, and supply side factors.

227. To address these issues, the FGN has implemented mass sensitization campaigns and targeted funding.

228. The FGN plans to enroll 2,875,500 out-of-school children annually for the next three years.

229. The National Commission for *Almajiri* and Out-of-School Children Act 2023 aims to protect these children from destitution and exploitation by providing a multi-modal education system.

230. The FGN has approved the establishment of 37 new private universities, bringing the total number of private universities in Nigeria to 148.

231. The Students Loan (Access to Higher Education) Act, (2023), aims to ease financial burdens for indigent Nigerians in tertiary institutions.

Recommendations 148.93–95: Relating to reducing oil spills and other negative impacts of company activities on the enjoyment of human rights

232. Kindly see discussion on Recommendations 148.20–24: requiring Nigeria to strengthen her Legal and Institutional Framework for right protection.

233. The impact of activities of companies, particularly in the extractive industry, on the enjoyment of human rights in Nigeria is of great concern to the FGN.

234. In this respect, Nigeria subscribes to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and currently maintains an observer status.

235. Legislation and Regulations continue to exist in Nigeria to rein in companies from impunities that affect the rights of their employees, retirees, contractors, consumers, host communities *et al.*

236. Regulatory and consumer protection agencies such as Corporate Affairs Commission, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigerian Communication Commission, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, Standard Organisation of Nigeria, The National Pension Commission, ensure that apart from litigation, complaints against companies are capable of being redressed administratively.

I. International criminal court (ICC), torture, terrorism, insurgency *et al.*

Recommendation 148.14: Ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute towards Eliminating mass atrocities, war crime and crimes against humanity

Recommendations 148.31–32: Step up efforts to domesticate ratified conventions, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

237. Nigeria has not yet ratified the Kampala amendment to the Rome Statute and is yet to domesticate the Rome Statute. See Challenges.

238. Nigeria, a State Party to the Rome Statute, is under investigation for alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes under Articles 7 and 8.

239. Ten potential cases have been established, with seven against Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists and three against Nigerian security forces.

240. The FGN is cooperating with the ICC-OTP, and investigations continue at the Joint Investigations Centre (JIC).

241. The current status of detainees is 366 convictions, 896 discharged, about 2,000 case files are being reviewed for possible charges by the prosecutor at the Federal High Court and ongoing investigations by the JIC.

242. To meet Nigeria's complementarity obligation to the ICC, the Nigerian State and development partners have been training investigators and prosecutors to comply with the Rome Statute.

Recommendation 148.171: Implement safeguards to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of vulnerable persons and hold those responsible accountable

243. The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health has partnered with NAPTIP to develop guidelines for General/Mental Health for service providers assisting victims of trafficking and migrants exposed to violence.

244. The FGN has also partnered with NGOs and UN agencies to provide health education and life skills to vulnerable populations in IDP camps.

245. A handbook on Sexual and Reproductive Health has been developed for people with disabilities, and capacity building initiatives are ongoing.

246. A Swiss-funded project collaborating with several NGOs and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) is continuously training members of the armed forces and the Police on human right standards.

247. Kindly refer further to discussion on Trafficking and Rights of Persons living with Disabilities.

Recommendations 148.25, 153–158 on prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and conditions of detention and related issues. Nigeria is recommended to modify its Constitution and Force Order 237 to prohibit torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. This includes establishing a national preventive mechanism for independent monitoring of detention facilities, creating conditions conducive to preventing torture, modifying the law against torture for victim rehabilitation, speeding up the implementation of the Nigerian Prisons and Correctional Service Bill, and implementing the Nelson Mandela Rules

248. Nigeria has implemented the recommendation for the modification of Force Order 237 on the Police, and is closely interfacing with the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT).

249. The country is taking steps to comply with the requirements provided for the National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on Torture, Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

250. The National Torture Prevention Mechanism (NPM) has been designated as an independent department under the NHRC, and the National Committee Against Torture (NCAT) has been repositioned under the Federal Ministry of Justice.

251. In 2022, the NCAT reconstituted to enhance its effectiveness.

252. The government has also made efforts to provide computerization of data of inmates in about 89 out of the 244 correctional centers in the country.

253. The Model State Correctional Service Law aims to facilitate the enactment of State Correctional Service Law following the placement of Prisons/Criminal Service on the concurrent legislative list.

254. The Nigerian Correctional Service Act was signed into law in July 2019, providing for humane treatment of inmates, improved conditions of detention in line with Mandela rules, and non-custodial sentencing to reduce over-utilization of imprisonment.

255. The Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC) has targeted initiatives aimed at promoting the implementation the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

256. Special Investigative Panels were constituted at the sub-national level, and state governments have paid compensation to victims of torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, and extrajudicial killings by law enforcement agents.

257. The FGN disbanded the SARS police unit and strengthened the Police Complaints Response Unit.

258. Training of police officers in specialized police units on human rights policing and torture prevention was undertaken with the support of development partners and CSOs.

259. The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare and Action (PRAWA), with the support of the German Government GIZ program, carried out capacity building programs.

260. Initiatives were also undertaken to create awareness on torture prevention, rehabilitation of torture victims, and compliance with reporting obligations as mandated by the UN Committee Against Torture.

261. The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) established the office of the NAF ombudsman, which is open to both civilians and military personnel.

262. The Nigerian Navy conducts annual sensitization for staff across the Navy command.

Recommendations 148.15–24, 27–29, 56–57, 62, 64–65, 96–102, 168, 172, 176–177 on Human Rights Mechanisms and related issues: These recommendations urged the country to ensure the independence of the NHRC, adopt a national plan for implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, finalize the national human rights action plan 2017-2022, intensify efforts to eradicate impunity, make public the findings of the Presidential Investigative Panel, strengthen international obligations, and align national legislation with international obligations. Additionally, Nigeria was advised to invite Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders and the environment, including the Niger Delta

263. Nigeria has made significant progress in promoting and protecting human rights, demonstrating its commitment to these recommendations.

264. The NHRC has been granted operational and financial autonomy, and the government has constituted its council members.

265. The Strategic Plan 2019-2022 identifies strategic priorities for the Commission.

266. The NHRC has now established offices in all states to enhance accessibility.

267. The FGN has also approved the National Action Plan (2022-2026) for the promotion and protection of human rights.

268. Initiatives include ratifications of international conventions, such as the ILO Conventions on Occupational Safety and Health and Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

Recommendations 148.102–105, 145, 164 on Security, counterterrorism and Insurgency: These recommendations relate to the fight against impunity, terrorism and insurgency while still ensuring that the lives of civilians are protected, and human rights standards are upheld particularly in dealing with counter-insurgency operations. They also seek to ensure that extra-judicial killings by enforcement agencies especially during counter-insurgency operations are investigated appropriately

269. Significant steps taken by the FGN include the National Security Strategy of 2019, the National Cyber Security Policy and Strategy of 2021 and the inauguration of the National counterterrorism Centre.

270. The Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 provides for the effective implementation of international instruments on the prevention and combating of terrorism and suppression of the financing of terrorism.

271. Nigeria has led successful counter-insurgency operations targeting Boko Haram; the Global Terrorism Index 2022 acknowledged Nigeria as a leading cause of the reduction in terrorism deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa, as deaths caused by Boko Haram dropped by 92% from 2,131 in 2015 to 178 in 2021.

272. Between 2017 and 2022, the FGN constituted several boards of enquiry and four Presidential Investigative Panels.

273. The Presidential Investigative Panel and Army-led Special Board of Inquiry are open to organizations or individuals to present verifiable evidence of alleged human rights abuses by the Armed Forces.

274. The Panel is set up primarily to review extant rules of engagement applicable to the armed forces of Nigeria and the extent of compliance and the Board of Inquiry is to investigate circumstances that led to abuse incidents, determine the level of the soldiers' involvement, and recommend appropriate disciplinary measure.

J. Anti-corruption

Recommendations 148.82–90 on Corruption: Focus on fighting corruption and implementing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy to protect rights, promote good governance, and rule of law. They emphasize the need for continued efforts to eradicate corruption, support development, and repatriate funds for the population

275. Nigeria has been committed to addressing corruption through comprehensive approaches, with the extension of the National Anti-Corruption Policy to 2026.

276. The policy, initially developed for 2017-2021, has secured court convictions for 3000 individuals and recovered \$1 billion in loot, with \$322 million redeployed into social intervention programs with the Federal Ministry of Justice saving N1442bn (\$507m) from judgment liabilities between 2015-2023.

277. The implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) aligns with new commitments under the Paris Agreement.

278. The FGN has established anti-corruption institutions like the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) and Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) and adopted measures such as the *Whistleblower* Policy to encourage citizens to report corruption cases.

279. The implementation of NACS was extended from 2022–2026.

280. The FGN has also taken steps to repatriate funds resulting from corrupt activities for the benefit of the population. This includes more than \$660.4 million traceable to Sani Abacha.

281. In May 2022, the FGN signed the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Bill, 2022, which provides an effective framework for the recovery and management of proceeds of crime.

282. The Act establishes diverse law enforcement and security agencies to enforce and administer provisions.

283. The ICPC successfully completed the 4th phase of its Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Exercise, ensuring government-funded projects are executed fully to specifications.

284. The National Bureau of Statistics is conducting a National Corruption Survey to understand Nigerians' experiences with corruption.

285. Some Nigerian states (Lagos, Kano, Kaduna) have established anti-corruption agencies.

286. These agencies investigate and prosecute corruption cases, ensuring transparency and accountability in public procurement processes.

K. Oil spillage and climate change

Recommendations 148.93–94: Take effective measures to support communities that suffered from oil spills that have caused damage to the environment

287. The FGN established the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to monitor and respond to these incidents.

288. NOSDRA has intensified awareness campaigns on pipeline vandalism and trained oil-producing communities on monitoring and reporting spills.

289. The Rivers State Environmental Protection and Management Law of 2019 was enacted to curb pipeline vandalism.

290. The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) began preliminary remediation on polluted sites in 2018, costing up to \$1bn.

Recommendations 148.91–94 on Oil Spills and Climate Change. The recommendations focus on Nigeria's climate change and Paris Agreement commitment, as well as environmental protection measures. They emphasize the need to fully implement these policies, strengthen climate change policies, and support communities affected by oil spills in the Niger Delta

291. Nigeria has passed a Climate Change Act, adopted new Methane Guidelines, and implemented a National Climate Change Policy for 2021-2030.

292. The country has taken significant steps towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement and transitioning to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.

293. Nigeria has submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2020.

294. Nigeria has initiated various renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and hydro-power systems to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

295. The country has also initiated wind power projects in Katsina, Oyo, and Niger States.

296. Nigeria actively participates in global climate conferences and negotiations, collaborates with international organizations like the UNDP, the World Bank, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and engages with CSOs, environmental groups, and NGOs to promote awareness of climate change issues.

297. The FGN has partnered with NGOs and community-based organizations to implement climate adaptation projects and address climate vulnerabilities.
298. The FGN works closely with donor agencies like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to secure climate finance for projects aiming to reduce emissions and enhance climate resilience.
299. Lastly, the FGN collaborates with the private sector to promote sustainable practices and low-carbon technologies.
300. This collaboration has led to increased investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.
301. The FGN has collaborated with NGOs and community-based organizations to implement climate adaptation projects, focusing on community education, capacity building, and practical measures.
302. The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project, a 6-year strategic project, aims to improve the country's capacity to adapt to a changing climate by enhancing multi-sectoral convergence and technology modernization.
303. The project targets vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, IDPs, and minorities.
304. The FGN also works closely with donor agencies like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to secure funds for climate-related programs in arid and dry sub-humid regions.
305. The private sector is encouraged to promote sustainable practices and low-carbon technologies, with examples such as the Azura-Edo Independent Power Plant in Edo State and the cement industry's efforts to reduce emissions through alternative fuels and efficient production processes.
306. Public-private partnerships have been formed to develop waste-to-energy projects, reducing waste management issues and greenhouse gas emissions.
307. The Nigerian government has launched tree planting and reforestation programs to combat deforestation and increase forest cover.
308. NOSDRA acts between oil companies and communities at the local and state levels.
309. At the state level, Taraba and Ebonyi States restructured their Ministries of Environment to more effectively address environmental and climate change concerns.

L. Death penalty

Recommendations 148.124–136, 138–144, 148.124–137

310. The FGN noted recommendations for the abolition of the death penalty or ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. Despite the government's unchanged stance, efforts are ongoing to formalize the voluntary moratorium on the death penalty.
311. One of the significant steps taken by the FGN is reflected in section 12 (2)(c) of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019 which transmutes death sentence to life imprisonment for cases that have exhausted all legal remedies, where the sentence has not been executed after 10 years.
312. Though 3,298 inmates as at April 20 2023 are on death row, no execution has been carried out since the third cycle, a fact that suggest that a voluntary moratorium may be in place.
313. There is also a lot of awareness creation aimed at promoting the abolition of death penalty, such as was reported on 13 June 2023 by one of the main national dailies – *The Guardian*.¹
314. Report on number of death sentences in Nigeria shows a considerable decrease over the years. Statistics showed that 2016 had 527 sentences, 2017 had 621 sentences, 2018 had 46 sentences, 2019 had 54 sentences, and 2020 had 58 sentences.²

IV. Challenges in promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria

315. Constitutional bottleneck: Recommendations requiring amendment of the Nigerian Constitution take longer time to be acted upon because the Nigerian Constitution is a written and rigid one. A special majority of the two houses of the National Assembly and of two-thirds of the States' Houses of Assembly are required to amend any provision of the Nigerian Constitution.

316. Federalism: Recommendations requiring constituent Nigerian states to domesticate federal legislation enacted in fulfillment of treaty obligations task the Federal Government to convince states to see things its way. Since most matters fall within the concurrent list or are residual matters, the domestication of an international treaty has taken years, if not decades, in some instances for all constituent states of Nigeria.

317. Legal Pluralism: Nigeria's legal system recognizes not only the legislative autonomy of constituent states but also the validity of norms derived from customary and/or religious practices prevalent in each state. These practices can only be invalidated by Courts on account of being repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience or being incompatible to enacted law.

318. Insecurity: Nigeria has continued to face multi-dimensional insecurity spread across all geopolitical zones. Maintaining a balance between ending them swiftly and observing human rights and humanitarian law has challenged Nigeria's armed forces.

319. IDPs: The psychological impact of displacement cannot be understated. Furthermore, in the context of terrorism and insurgency, there are challenges related to humanitarian access.

320. Worsening Economy: This cycle is particularly difficult for the entire world following the COVID-19 Pandemic and its devastating effects. In 2020, Nigeria experienced its worst recession in four decades, resulting in the rise in poverty level. Recommendations involving appreciable spending like redressing oil spills, inviting rapporteurs/independent experts, became more challenging. Notwithstanding, the Nigerian government remains committed to them in subsequent cycles.

321. Addressing these challenges necessitates a comprehensive approach. Strengthening security forces' capacity to combat terrorism, coupled with respect for human rights standards, is imperative. Additionally, investing in conflict prevention, community engagement, and de-radicalization can help address the root causes of insecurity.

322. Public Policy Consideration: Some recommendations, such as those on sexual orientation and same-sex marriage, are opposed to our sensitivities. Nigeria may only continue to note them.

V. Request for technical assistance

323. Nigeria requires the following technical assistance to support and enhance the country's ongoing and new initiatives towards the promotion and protection of human rights:

(a) Capacity Building: Training programs for security forces and law enforcement agencies to ensure respect for human rights during counterterrorism operations.

(b) Psychosocial Support: Training and resources for mental health professionals to provide psychosocial support to victims of terrorism, insurgency, and displacement.

(c) Conflict Prevention and Resolution: Support in developing and implementing conflict prevention strategies, including designing community engagement programs to promote social cohesion.

(d) Data Collection and Analysis: Support in developing robust data collection mechanisms to monitor human rights violations and enable targeted interventions.

324. Nigeria can significantly enhance its promotion and protection of human rights, and address the challenges posed by insecurity if she receives technical assistance in these critical areas.

VI. Conclusion

325. In conclusion, Nigeria recognizes the milestones recorded, acknowledges the challenges outlined in this report and reaffirms its commitment to advancing human rights for all in Nigeria and beyond.

326. The valuable insights provided during this UPR process will guide our efforts. We remain open to international collaboration, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing to strengthen our human rights initiatives further. Nigeria is dedicated to creating a society where everyone enjoys their rights and freedoms, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, social and economic status.

Notes

¹ <https://www.guardian.ng>

² <https://www.statista.com/statistics>
