



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

Nigeria

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.¹ 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. In 2023, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families recommended that Nigeria ratify or accede to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988 (No. 167), the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102).²

3. In 2021, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions stated that Nigeria should ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.³

4. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Nigeria make the declarations provided for in articles 76 and 77 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive communications concerning violations of the rights established by the Convention.⁴

III. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

5. The Special Rapporteur on summary executions stated that Nigeria should domesticate and implement the State obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and domesticate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁵



6. The Committee on Migrant Workers noted that the Labour Act was being reviewed and recommended that Nigeria amend its migration-related legislative framework to ensure its conformity with the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.⁶

7. In 2019, the Human Rights Committee stated that Nigeria should adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that included a comprehensive list of prohibited grounds of discrimination, including race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity and other status. The legislation should also cover direct, indirect and intersecting forms of discrimination, and provide for effective remedies, including judicial remedies.⁷

8. In 2023, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons stated that there was an urgent need for the President of Nigeria to give assent to the bill on older persons in order to address the absence of legal safeguards to counter ageism and age discrimination, which were pervasive.⁸

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

9. In 2021, the Committee against Torture noted that the National Human Rights Commission had a mandate to visit places of deprivation of liberty, receive complaints, conduct investigations, award compensation and request enforcement of its decisions. The Committee stated that Nigeria should strengthen the Commission so that it could effectively carry out its mandate, and should provide it with adequate resources.⁹ The Special Rapporteur on summary executions stated that Nigeria should protect and ensure the full independence of the Commission.¹⁰

10. Noting that the National Human Rights Commission had a mandate to address complaints from migrants, the Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Nigeria swiftly enact the National Human Rights Commission Bill 2022 to provide the Commission with sufficient resources to effectively discharge that mandate.¹¹

11. Noting the implementation of several sectoral migration-related policies and strategies, the same Committee recommended that Nigeria adopt a single and comprehensive national migration strategy with emphasis on the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It also recommended that Nigeria develop training programmes on the rights of migrant workers and ensure that such programmes were made available to all persons working in the area of migration.¹²

12. The United Nations country team noted that, on 26 April 2023, Nigeria had adopted a national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights, 2022–2026. It had also developed national action plans on gender equality and women’s empowerment.¹³

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

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

1. Equality and non-discrimination

13. The Human Rights Committee stated that Nigeria should repeal discriminatory provisions relating, *inter alia*, to marriage, polygamy, repudiation, divorce, succession and landownership; and conduct public awareness campaigns aimed at eliminating gender biases and stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of men and women in the family and society, and promote gender equality and non-discrimination.¹⁴

14. The Committee on Migrant Workers, referring to its previous recommendation,¹⁵ recommended that Nigeria deepen its legislative and policy measures to ensure that all migrant workers and members of their families within its territory or subject to its jurisdiction, regardless of their status, enjoyed without discrimination the rights recognized in the

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.¹⁶

15. The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, stated that provisions 249 and 250 of the Criminal Code and any other piece of legislation that discriminated against and criminalized persons because they were poor or homeless must be immediately repealed.¹⁷

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

16. The Special Rapporteur on summary executions stated that Nigeria should take steps to formally abolish the death penalty and repeal laws that imposed capital punishment, particularly for homosexuality, blasphemy and rape.¹⁸

17. The Human Rights Committee stated that Nigeria should establish a *de jure* moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it, and take steps towards commuting the death sentences imposed on persons on death row to life imprisonment.¹⁹ The Committee against Torture also urged Nigeria to commute all death sentences already handed down to prison sentences and to: consider declaring an official moratorium on the death penalty for all crimes; and prohibit the death penalty for all persons under the age of 18 years, in compliance with federal law, including in states that operated under sharia.²⁰

18. The Human Rights Committee was concerned that the Constitution allowed for a broad use of lethal force, and that the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Administration of Justice Act and Police Order 237 authorized the use of force without adequately restricting the nature of the force and setting out the principles of necessity or proportionality. It stated that Nigeria should revise legislation and policies controlling the use of force by law enforcement officials.²¹

19. Noting the definition of torture in the Anti-Torture Act, the Committee against Torture recommended that Nigeria bring its definition of torture fully into line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; include criminalization of attempts to commit torture in the Act; and ensure that there was no statute of limitations for the offence of torture and that torture was explicitly excluded from the scope of amnesty and pardon provisions.²²

20. The same Committee expressed concern about the lack of legal, operational and financial independence of the National Committee against Torture, which had been established by terms of reference rather than a legislative act. It urged Nigeria to align the functioning of that Committee with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and ensure that it had sufficient staff and adequate resources to effectively fulfil its preventative mandate in accordance with the guidelines on national preventative mechanisms of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.²³

21. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about allegations of the frequent use of torture by law enforcement agents. It stated that Nigeria should investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, prosecute alleged perpetrators and, if convicted, punish them with sentences commensurate with the gravity of the offence.²⁴

22. During her visit to Nigeria in 2019, the Special Rapporteur on summary executions noted patterns of violence, which, in several places, were seemingly spinning out of control, claiming the lives of thousands of people. She also noted patterns of the failure to protect communities against attacks by armed groups resulting in widespread insecurity, the use of lethal force by police and the military, in violation of applicable international standards, the lack of effective investigation, the absence of meaningful prosecution and the militarization of policing. She stated that those factors were compounded by a lack of transparency and the absence of effective public communication strategies, fuelling distrust and a breakdown of public confidence in the authorities.²⁵

23. The Special Rapporteur stated that Nigeria should: ensure that use-of-force guidelines were in line with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials; provide the Nigeria Police Force with adequate equipment and training and with

rules of conduct that were in line with international human rights law and standards; establish professionally staffed and appropriately equipped forensic laboratories in key regional centres; end all use of the military in public order situations and ensure that police officers were adequately trained and equipped to deal with crowd control situations with the minimum use of force, in line with international law and standards; and develop, enact and regularly update a national action plan to guide the management of public assemblies and seek technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or other specialized agencies, as appropriate.²⁶

24. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the long-standing conflict between nomadic cattle herders and farmers, notably in the Middle Belt region, which had led to thousands of deaths and displaced persons. It was also concerned about allegations of excessive use of force by the Nigerian air force to counter the spiralling communal violence. It stated that Nigeria should ensure that such allegations and all acts of inter-ethnic violence were investigated, those responsible brought to justice and victims granted reparations.²⁷

25. The Independent Expert on older persons stated that all customary and traditional practices that had harmful impacts and that were fuelled by gender-based, ageist and ableist stereotypes must be eliminated. Law enforcement actors must ensure that killings related to witchcraft were treated as murder and were investigated, and that perpetrators were prosecuted and punished, including under religious and traditional justice systems.²⁸

26. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Nigeria increase its efforts to prevent violence against migrants; and guarantee that the use of force in migration and security operations was governed by the principles of legality, absolute necessity and proportionality.²⁹

27. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of hate speech and incitement to religious hatred against religious minorities, particularly in the northern states.³⁰

28. The same Committee expressed concern about allegations of arbitrary arrests by law enforcement agents. It stated that Nigeria should ensure that no one was arbitrarily arrested or detained and that all cases of arbitrary arrest were investigated and those responsible were subjected to disciplinary action or judicial proceedings.³¹

29. The Committee against Torture expressed concern about reports of poor conditions of detention in all places of deprivation of liberty. It stated that Nigeria should: improve detention conditions in police cells and correction facilities and take measures to bring conditions in detention and operational procedures into compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules); put in place systems to separate juveniles from adult prisoners and convicted prisoners from remand detainees; ensure that women were detained in gender-sensitive conditions and that their children were immediately released from custodial facilities; ensure that inmates with disabilities were held in humane conditions and that prisons were adapted to their needs; provide adequate health services to all prisoners; and ensure that all instances of death in custody were impartially investigated.³²

3. International humanitarian law

30. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict expressed concern about the lack of safe access for humanitarian actors to the conflict-affected population, including children, and the detention of children for their alleged involvement with armed groups.³³

31. The Independent Expert on older persons called on Nigeria to pay additional attention to the needs of older persons in emergency situations, in particular by integrating the guidance contained in the National Policy on Ageing into humanitarian and emergency responses. She stated that all national risk reduction plans should address the risks faced by older persons.³⁴

4. Human rights and counter-terrorism

32. The Special Rapporteur on summary executions stated that Nigeria should amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, including by repealing the death penalty, providing that an

individual could be arrested only on reasonable suspicion of having committed a criminal offence, providing that all individuals must be promptly brought before a court and charged with a recognizable criminal offence, and providing that law enforcement officers (including the military when exercising such a function) could use force only when strictly necessary and to the minimum extent required.³⁵ The Human Rights Committee also called for a review of the Terrorism (Prevention) Act.³⁶

33. The same Committee expressed concern about the violence and widespread human rights abuses committed by Boko Haram and about allegations of serious human rights violations by the Nigerian security forces and the Civilian Joint Task Force during operations against Boko Haram. It stated that Nigeria should conduct investigations into allegations of human rights abuses committed in the context of the conflict with Boko Haram.³⁷

34. While appreciating the commitment Nigeria had made during the previous review to adopt measures to combat impunity, with an increased focus on the crimes perpetrated by Boko Haram, the Committee against Torture expressed concern about the continually deteriorating security environment owing to the systematic attacks by non-State armed groups, and about reports of the use of children as fighters or otherwise exploited in forced marriage, sexual slavery or forced labour by Boko Haram. It was equally concerned at the numerous allegations of extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced disappearances and sexual violence committed by military and Civilian Joint Task Force personnel during security operations, and reports of arbitrary and incommunicado detentions, including of women and children. It urged Nigeria to: increase its efforts to prevent violations of human rights by any party to the conflict and ensure that military and Civilian Joint Task Force personnel respected instruments on human rights and international humanitarian law and ceased detaining women and children on arbitrary grounds; ensure that registers of arrests and deaths in military custody were reviewed by a judicial body and immediately release children held in military detention facilities; and prevent the use of child soldiers and ensure that children were not used in support roles by the military.³⁸

35. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict stated that, between January 2019 and December 2022, the number of verified grave violations against children in north-east Nigeria had remained worryingly high. Most violations had been attributed to armed groups, notably Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (Boko Haram) and the so-called Islamic State West Africa Province, with the most prominent violations being killing, maiming and abduction of children. There had also been an increase in the number of cases of rape and sexual violence, notably against girls. Most girls were raped and forcibly married to members of the armed groups.³⁹

36. The Committee on Migrant Workers expressed concern about the impact of terrorist acts on the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families.⁴⁰

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

37. The Special Rapporteur on summary executions stated that the state of the administration of justice gave rise to extreme concern. The broken criminal justice system, the widespread loss of public trust and confidence, and the corruption and rampant impunity were all root causes of widespread unlawful killings perpetrated by security forces, armed groups and gangs alike. The authorities undermined the justice system, including the independence of the judiciary, by failing to implement court orders pertaining to security agencies.⁴¹

38. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports of political influence and corruption in the judiciary, delays in the administration of justice, the absence of legal representation in some cases, the general nature of some charges and the mass trials of terrorist suspects. It stated that Nigeria should strengthen the independence of the judiciary, ensure fair trial safeguards, including by providing legal aid in criminal cases, and reduce delays in the administration of justice.⁴²

39. While welcoming the enactment of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and the commitment Nigeria had made during its previous review to strengthen the justice system, the Committee against Torture expressed concern about shortcomings in the implementation of fundamental safeguards. It urged Nigeria to: ensure the right of detainees to be brought

promptly before a judge or to be freed, and to challenge the legality of their detention at any stage of the proceedings; ensure that arrested and detained persons were informed immediately of the accusations and charges against them and that they were able to have prompt access to a lawyer or to free legal aid throughout the proceedings; and provide the resources needed to ensure the proper functioning of all local branches of the Legal Aid Council.⁴³

40. The same Committee expressed concern at reports of the continuous use of torture in interrogations by the police. Despite existing safeguards, numerous reports highlighted that coerced confessions were accepted in practice, contrary to the law. The Committee stated that Nigeria should adopt effective measures to ensure that confessions and statements obtained through torture or ill-treatment were not admitted into evidence.⁴⁴

41. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, recommended that Nigeria: tackle corruption and the possible collusion of State officials in trafficking in persons as a means of fostering confidence in the judicial system; provide specialized training on trafficking in persons to law enforcement officials and the judiciary; increase the use of electronic evidence in courts and any other ways of securing evidence not requiring the physical presence of the victim; and ensure access to justice and compensation to victims of trafficking, as part of their right to an effective remedy, by implementing the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund.⁴⁵

42. The Special Rapporteur on summary executions stated that Nigeria should: create an interministerial working group to implement an integrated multidimensional justice and accountability road map; establish an expert commission to examine the failure of past investigations into extrajudicial killings and make recommendations on structural reform; create a long-term international unit embedded within the judicial system to advise and support investigations into extrajudicial killings and implementation of the justice and accountability road map; develop a transitional justice strategy identifying priorities and mechanisms for investigation, prosecution and reparations; implement a victim/survivor-centred methodology for courts that included actively encouraging and supporting the participation of victims and witness in trials; establish a victim/survivor-centred reparations programme; and implement the recommendations made during the second and third review cycles, held in 2013 and 2018.⁴⁶

43. The United Nations country team stated that Nigeria continued to strengthen efforts to reform the criminal justice system by strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks. It also continued to invest in training its justice sector officials. It considered the implementation of the relevant recommendations from the previous review to be ongoing.⁴⁷

6. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

44. The Human Rights Committee expressed concerns about allegations of discrimination against religious minorities, including discrimination against Christians in the northern states in terms of access to education, employment and land permits to build churches.⁴⁸

45. The same Committee expressed concern that slander, libel and defamation were criminal offences punishable by imprisonment. It was also concerned about reports that accusations of libel were used by State authorities against journalists in retaliation for negative reporting and that bloggers critical of the Government had allegedly been detained or arrested for such activities.⁴⁹

46. The United Nations country team noted that there had been a clampdown on civic space and that journalists, digital activists and the public continued to face harassment, threats and attacks from State authorities for peacefully expressing their opinions. It considered that the relevant recommendations from the previous review, which had enjoyed the support of Nigeria, had not been implemented.⁵⁰

47. The Human Rights Committee stated that Nigeria should make efforts to increase the participation of women in the political and public domains, particularly in decision-making positions.⁵¹

7. Right to privacy

48. The United Nations country team noted the signing into law of the Nigeria Data Protection Bill 2023, which would provide a legal framework for protecting and regulating personal data.⁵²

8. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

49. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, stated that Nigeria remained a source, transit and destination country for victims of trafficking for the purposes of both sexual and labour exploitation, as well as other forms of exploitation, including organ removal. Internal trafficking, mainly from rural to urban areas, was also reportedly rampant, although often overlooked. It mainly affected women and girls for the purposes of domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, and men and boys for the purposes of child begging and labour exploitation.⁵³

50. The Special Rapporteur recommended that Nigeria: ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation by strengthening the capacity of the relevant government agencies; improve the identification of victims of forced labour and labour exploitation, as well as other forms of trafficking, and their referral to appropriate protection services in areas affected by displacement, and integrate anti-trafficking responses in asylum procedures; shift from a law enforcement paradigm to a victim-centred and human rights-based approach to trafficking in persons, putting victims and survivors at the forefront of all anti-trafficking measures; ensure access to appropriate protection services, such as health care and accommodation, for all victims of trafficking; and identify and tackle the root causes and factors that increased vulnerability to trafficking, such as displacement, economic and gender inequality, poverty, unemployment and the disruption of support systems.⁵⁴

51. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Nigeria allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking in Nigeria, 2022–2026, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children.⁵⁵

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

52. The same Committee recommended that Nigeria: increase unsolicited and unannounced labour inspections, particularly in the informal sector of the economy; effectively implement the National Policy on the Elimination of Child Labour and its National Action Plan 2021; ensure that domestic migrant workers enjoyed the same level of protection as national workers with respect to social security, equal pay, minimum wage, hours of work, days of rest, termination, compensation, freedom of association and other conditions of work; guarantee all migrant workers the right to participate in trade union activities and to freely join unions; and ensure that they and members of their families were able to subscribe to social security schemes.⁵⁶

10. Right to social security

53. The Independent Expert on older persons welcomed the adoption of the revised National Social Protection Policy. She recommended that Nigeria formally recognize the right to social security, and establish legal grounds for a strong, inclusive and reliable social protection system that would benefit all people, including older persons. She emphasized that human rights-based approaches to adequate financing and reprioritization of budget reallocations were crucial to providing social protection floors for all citizens.⁵⁷

54. The United Nations country team noted the lack of implementation of the National Social Protection Policy and the lack of a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress and outcomes of social protection programmes.⁵⁸

11. Right to an adequate standard of living

55. In 2020, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing stated that housing must be recognized as a fundamental human right. Legislation recognizing the right to housing as a

fundamental human right should be enacted alongside human rights-based housing strategies and mechanisms for claiming that right.⁵⁹

56. She also stated that Nigeria should declare an end to forced evictions and establish legal and procedural safeguards to ensure that if an eviction occurred, it was in compliance with international human rights law. A national commission should be established to investigate gross and systematic human rights violations that had occurred during past forced evictions and to provide access to remedies.⁶⁰

57. She further stated that Nigeria should prioritize the upgrading of informal settlements, which must not result in displacement. Homelessness should also be addressed on an urgent basis as a human rights crisis, as part of the country's housing strategy.⁶¹

12. Right to health

58. The Independent Expert on older persons urged Nigeria to intensify its efforts to implement the health insurance scheme and ensure that all people were adequately covered by it.⁶²

59. The Committee against Torture expressed concern at the high rate of maternal mortality, resulting from, among other things, the criminalization of abortion, except for the purpose of saving the life of the mother, as it pushed women into illegal and unsafe abortions endangering their health and lives.⁶³

60. The Human Rights Committee stated that Nigeria should: ensure unimpeded access to sexual and reproductive health services, including effective access to quality prenatal and post-abortion health care for women and girls in all circumstances; review its legislation to ensure legal safe, legal and effective access to abortion where the life and health of the pregnant woman or girl was at risk and where carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the pregnant woman or girl substantial pain or suffering, most notably when the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest or where it was not viable; and ensure access to quality and evidence-based information and education about sexual and reproductive health, and appropriate and affordable contraceptive methods for women, men and adolescents nationwide.⁶⁴

61. The Independent Expert on older persons recommended that Nigeria allocate adequate resources to ensure the development of more age-specific health care and the prioritization of geriatric care.⁶⁵

62. She encouraged Nigeria to make dementia a public health priority and to further develop an appropriate and supportive legislative environment based on human rights standards. Access to mental health services for older persons and investments in the capacity-building of medical staff on those issues were essential.⁶⁶

13. Right to education

63. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noted that the Child Rights Act of 2003 enshrined the right of every child to free, compulsory and universal basic education, but had not been enacted in all federal states. It also noted that article 2 (1) of the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act of 2004 provided that every government in Nigeria would provide free, compulsory and universal basic education for every child of primary and junior secondary school age.⁶⁷

64. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Nigeria ensure that all migrant children enjoyed the legal right and practical access to preschool, primary and secondary education on an equal basis with nationals.⁶⁸

14. Development, the environment, and business and human rights

65. The Special Rapporteur on summary executions stated that, while Nigeria might be a middle-income country according to economic indicators, the situation in the country was spiralling into a human rights and humanitarian crisis that required urgent attention.⁶⁹

66. The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing stated that Nigeria should urgently pursue a comprehensive tax reform to increase non-oil revenues, prevent tax evasion,

enhance tax justice and reduce the country's extreme economic inequality. Specific measures must be introduced to curb real estate investment for money-laundering.⁷⁰

67. The Human Rights Committee stated that Nigeria should continue its efforts to combat corruption and promote good governance, transparency and accountability, including in the management of natural resources, and adopt legislation protecting whistle-blowers.⁷¹

68. The Committee on Migrant Workers expressed concern about reports that migrant workers and members of their families had fallen victim to corruption perpetrated by immigration officers, border guards and law enforcement officers, including about allegations of complicity of State officials in trafficking offences. It recommended that Nigeria thoroughly investigate all instances of corruption and adopt appropriate preventive and punitive measures, including the dismissal of public servants where appropriate, and establish safe, gender-responsive mechanisms to protect complainants from reprisals.⁷²

B. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women

69. The United Nations country team noted that challenges persisted in addressing sexual exploitation and abuse. It stated that "survival sex", where women and girls exchanged sex for money, goods, services or assistance, was prevalent among families of internally displaced persons. There had been an increase in reported cases of violence against women and girls following the lockdown implemented during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.⁷³

70. The Human Rights Committee stated that Nigeria should strengthen its efforts to curb gender-based violence, in particular by: ensuring the Violence against Persons (Prohibition) Act applied in all federal states; taking measures to ensure that cases of violence against women were reported and thoroughly investigated, alleged perpetrators were prosecuted and, if convicted, sentenced with appropriate penalties, and victims provided with full reparation and granted adequate assistance, including shelters; and raising awareness among religious and traditional leaders, police, medical staff and legal professionals, and society at large, about the negative effects of violence against women and harmful traditional practices.⁷⁴

2. Children

71. The Committee against Torture expressed concern about the prevalence of the use of corporal punishment on children in private settings, which was permitted in law. It stated that Nigeria should ensure that the Child Rights Act of 2003 was incorporated into law by all federal states, align the interpretation of section 11 of the Act with international standards, and explicitly prohibit in law and in practice the corporal punishment of children in all settings.⁷⁵ UNESCO noted that national legislation allowed for corporal punishment in educational institutions.⁷⁶

72. The Committee against Torture expressed alarm that female genital mutilation continued to be practised without any effective steps taken to eliminate it. The Committee urged Nigeria to prevent and eradicate female genital mutilation and provide protection measures for girls at risk.⁷⁷

3. Older persons

73. While commending Nigeria for the adoption of the National Policy on Ageing, the Independent Expert on older persons recommended that it allocate adequate resources to ensure the effective implementation of the Policy.⁷⁸

74. She stated that poverty in old age remained rampant and was exacerbated by age-based discrimination in employment and the lack of appropriate social protection floors, including pensions. Urgent efforts were needed to ensure that all persons had enough economic security in old age to enjoy all their rights.⁷⁹

75. She stated that older persons should have access to safe drinking water and age-sensitive sanitation facilities, as well as adequate housing, so as to enjoy their full right to an adequate standard of living.⁸⁰

76. She encouraged the creation of day-care and recreative centres for older persons to combat loneliness and social exclusion.⁸¹

4. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

77. The Human Rights Committee noted the lack of a comprehensive policy to protect the rights of ethnic minorities, including the linguistic rights of ethnic groups with lesser-used languages. It expressed concern about reports of discrimination against certain ethnic minorities. It expressed regret that ethnic minorities were not adequately represented at governmental levels, or were excluded from decision-making on issues of particular concern to them.⁸²

5. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

78. The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing stated that the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, as well as all other pieces of legislation that discriminated and criminalized on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, must be repealed. The right to privacy of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in their own homes was an essential element of the right to housing and must be protected.⁸³

79. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended repealing the criminal provisions that provided for punishment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, ending the persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex migrants, including by issuing pardons or granting amnesty to those who had been convicted, explicitly prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in the anti-discrimination legislation, and implementing campaigns against homophobia and to promote social inclusion and respect for diversity.⁸⁴

6. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

80. The same Committee expressed concern about the impact that border management measures might have on the human rights of migrants and asylum-seekers. It recommended that Nigeria: adopt a human rights-based approach to border management; ensure that border governance measures addressed and combated all forms of discrimination by State and private actors at international borders and were in accordance with the principle of non-refoulement and prohibition of arbitrary and collective expulsions; and allocate sufficient resources to strengthen border governance.⁸⁵

81. The same Committee recommended that Nigeria: decriminalize irregular migration and make provision for appropriate administrative penalties for such offences; adopt measures to phase out and ultimately put an end to immigration detention; immediately cease immigration detention of children; and ensure that alternative measures to detention were applied to asylum-seekers and refugees.⁸⁶

82. Noting the confirmation from Nigeria that expulsions were being carried out, the same Committee recommended that Nigeria: take the necessary legislative steps to suspend the expulsion of those persons whose cases were being appealed and guarantee due process and procedural safeguards to migrant workers and members of their families who were subjected to expulsion proceedings; and ensure that the principle of non-refoulement and the prohibition of collective and arbitrary expulsions were upheld.⁸⁷

7. Internally displaced persons

83. The United Nations country team noted that a national policy on internally displaced persons had been launched in March 2022.⁸⁸

84. The Committee against Torture expressed concern at allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in state-run camps for internally displaced persons and in informal camps. It urged Nigeria to take effective steps to protect internally displaced persons, especially women and girls.⁸⁹

8. Stateless persons

85. The Committee on Migrant Workers recommended that Nigeria ensure that all children of Nigerian migrant workers abroad and children born on its territory, particularly children born to migrants in an irregular situation and asylum-seekers, were registered at birth and issued with personal identity documents.⁹⁰

Notes

- 1 [A/HRC/40/7](#), [A/HRC/40/7/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/40/2](#).
- 2 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), paras. 17 and 51 (c).
- 3 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), para. 106 (d). See also [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 27 and 28.
- 4 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 15.
- 5 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), para. 106 (b) and (c).
- 6 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), paras. 12 and 13 (a).
- 7 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 17.
- 8 [A/HRC/54/26/Add.1](#), paras. 71 and 78.
- 9 [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 25 and 26 (a).
- 10 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), para. 106 (j). See also [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 11.
- 11 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), paras. 24 and 25 (a).
- 12 *Ibid.*, paras. 18, 19 and 27 (a).
- 13 United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Nigeria, pp. 1 and 2.
- 14 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 17.
- 15 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1](#), para. 28.
- 16 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 31.
- 17 [A/HRC/43/43/Add.1](#), para. 92.
- 18 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), para. 106 (d) and (e).
- 19 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 25.
- 20 [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 27 and 28 (a).
- 21 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), paras. 26 and 27.
- 22 [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 9 and 10.
- 23 *Ibid.*, paras. 21 and 22 (a).
- 24 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), paras. 32 and 33.
- 25 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), paras. 7 and 8.
- 26 *Ibid.*, para. 107 (a)–(e). See also [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), para. 14 (a).
- 27 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), paras. 28 and 29.
- 28 [A/HRC/54/26/Add.1](#), para. 83.
- 29 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 35 (a) and (b).
- 30 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 44.
- 31 *Ibid.*, paras. 36 and 37.
- 32 [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 19 and 20. See also [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), paras. 34 and 35; and United Nations country team submission, pp. 8 and 9.
- 33 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict submission for the universal periodic review of Nigeria, p. 1.
- 34 [A/HRC/54/26/Add.1](#), paras. 100–102.
- 35 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), para. 106 (a).
- 36 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 15.
- 37 *Ibid.*, paras. 30 and 31.
- 38 [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 23 and 24 (a), (c) and (d). See also United Nations country team, p. 10.
- 39 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict submission, p. 1.
- 40 [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 34 (a).
- 41 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), paras. 102 and 103.
- 42 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), paras. 38 and 39.
- 43 [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 11 and 12 (a), (c) and (d).
- 44 *Ibid.*, paras. 15 and 16 (a).
- 45 [A/HRC/41/46/Add.1](#), para. 90 (a), (b), (d) and (g).
- 46 [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), para. 106 (b)–(f), (h) and (i).
- 47 United Nations country team submission, p. 9, referring to [A/HRC/40/7](#), para. 148.159 (South Africa), paras. 148.160 and 148.161 (Singapore) and para. 148.175 (Switzerland); and [A/HRC/40/7/Add.1](#).
- 48 [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 44.
- 49 *Ibid.*, para. 46. See also UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Nigeria, para. 12.

- ⁵⁰ United Nations country team submission, p. 9, referring to [A/HRC/40/7](#), para. 148.145 (Belgium) and para. 148.184 (Italy); and [A/HRC/40/7/Add.1](#).
- ⁵¹ [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 17.
- ⁵² United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- ⁵³ [A/HRC/41/46/Add.1](#), paras. 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 21 and 77.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, paras. 85 (c), 86 (b)–(d), 87 (a) and (f) and 89 (a).
- ⁵⁵ [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 69 (a).
- ⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 39 (a) and (b), 47 (b), 49 and 51 (a).
- ⁵⁷ [A/HRC/54/26/Add.1](#), paras. 87 and 90.
- ⁵⁸ United Nations country team submission, p. 2.
- ⁵⁹ [A/HRC/43/43/Add.1](#), para. 83.
- ⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 82 and 85. See also [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), paras. 42 and 43.
- ⁶¹ [A/HRC/43/43/Add.1](#), paras. 90 and 91.
- ⁶² [A/HRC/54/26/Add.1](#), para. 94.
- ⁶³ [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), para. 31.
- ⁶⁴ [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 23. See also [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), para. 32 (c).
- ⁶⁵ [A/HRC/54/26/Add.1](#), para. 95.
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 99.
- ⁶⁷ UNESCO submission, paras. 3 and 4.
- ⁶⁸ [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 53 (a).
- ⁶⁹ [A/HRC/47/33/Add.2](#), para. 105.
- ⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, paras. 86 and 87.
- ⁷¹ [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 13.
- ⁷² [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), paras. 28 and 29 (a) and (b).
- ⁷³ United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- ⁷⁴ [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 21. See also [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 31 and 32 (a).
- ⁷⁵ [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 29 and 30 (a).
- ⁷⁶ UNESCO submission, para. 6.
- ⁷⁷ [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 31 and 32 (b).
- ⁷⁸ [A/HRC/54/26/Add.1](#), para. 78.
- ⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 73.
- ⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 92.
- ⁸¹ *Ibid.*, para. 96.
- ⁸² [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 50.
- ⁸³ [A/HRC/43/43/Add.1](#), para. 97. See also [CCPR/C/NGA/CO/2](#), para. 19.
- ⁸⁴ [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 35 (d).
- ⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, paras. 36 and 37 (a), (b) and (d).
- ⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, paras. 41 (a)–(c) and (e).
- ⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, paras. 42 and 43 (a) and (c).
- ⁸⁸ United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- ⁸⁹ [CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1](#), paras. 31 and 32 (b).
- ⁹⁰ [CMW/C/NGA/CO/1-2](#), para. 55 (a).
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