



---

**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-seventh session**  
Geneva, 4–15 November 2024

## **Equatorial Guinea**

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

#### **I. Background**

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

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

2. In 2019, the Human Rights Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should take all the measures necessary to expedite the process of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.<sup>2</sup>

3. In 2022, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) noted that Equatorial Guinea had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.<sup>3</sup>

4. In 2024, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that Equatorial Guinea should be encouraged to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>4</sup>

5. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the repeated delays by Equatorial Guinea in fulfilling its reporting obligations and implementing the Committee's recommendations and views.<sup>5</sup>

6. UNICEF noted that Equatorial Guinea had submitted a long-overdue report on its compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, combining its reports due in 2009, 2014 and 2019.<sup>6</sup>

7. In 2022, Equatorial Guinea submitted its midterm report regarding the implementation of the recommendations made during the third cycle of the universal periodic review, in 2019.<sup>7</sup>

8. Equatorial Guinea is covered by the Regional Office for Central Africa of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).<sup>8</sup>



### **III. National human rights framework**

#### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

9. In 2022, the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights welcomed the adoption of a new penal code in Equatorial Guinea abolishing the death penalty. She noted that Equatorial Guinea had not carried out a death sentence since January 2014, when a temporary moratorium on the death penalty had been imposed.<sup>9</sup>

#### **2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures**

10. The Human Rights Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should establish an independent national human rights institution with a broad human rights protection mandate and adequate human and financial resources, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).<sup>10</sup>

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

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

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

11. The Human Rights Committee noted the legislative framework, including constitutional provisions that prohibited discrimination. Nevertheless, it regretted the absence of legislation defining and prohibiting direct and indirect discrimination and covering all prohibited grounds for discrimination enumerated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.<sup>11</sup>

12. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should take the necessary measures to: (a) enact comprehensive legislation providing full and effective protection against multiple discrimination in all spheres and on all grounds enumerated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (b) provide access to effective and appropriate remedies for all victims of discrimination; (c) effectively protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, persons living with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities, and safeguard their fundamental rights, while ensuring that all cases of discrimination were duly addressed; and (d) conduct wide-ranging education and awareness-raising campaigns promoting equality, tolerance and respect for diversity.<sup>12</sup>

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

13. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the lack of information provided on any specific provisions regarding the appropriate use of force and firearms by law enforcement personnel and security forces and by reports of excessive use of force and firearms by law enforcement personnel.<sup>13</sup>

14. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should take measures to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of excessive use of force by police and security officers, including by: (a) adopting appropriate laws and policies to control the use of lethal force by law enforcement officials; (d) intensifying the provision of training for law enforcement personnel on international standards on the use of force; and (c) ensuring that all cases of excessive use of force were independently investigated, that the perpetrators were prosecuted and sentenced to penalties commensurate with the seriousness of their acts and that victims were provided with comprehensive reparation.<sup>14</sup>

15. In 2021, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs noted that, on 7 March 2021, a series of explosions had been recorded at the armoury of the Nkuantoma gendarmerie and military barracks in Bata, the economic capital of Equatorial Guinea. The Office noted that, according to official records, 107 people had lost their lives due to the explosions, which had also caused extensive damage to residential areas and in the military

compound. More than 700 people had been wounded, including women and children in the army barracks and in the residential areas near the military compound. The Office indicated that the Government had described the situation as catastrophic and had called for the international community's support to respond to humanitarian needs. The Office noted that there were environmental concerns over possible water and soil pollution, that support for medical treatment for persons affected had been provided and that damage to schools had been reported.<sup>15</sup>

16. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern at reports of the systematic use of torture by the police, especially in police stations, against persons who refused to "cooperate", whether they were suspected of political or ordinary offences.<sup>16</sup>

17. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should, as a matter of urgency, put an end to the practice of torture and ill-treatment, in particular by: (a) ensuring prompt, thorough and effective investigations of all allegations of torture and ill-treatment and, where appropriate, prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offence; (b) taking all necessary measures to prevent torture, including by enhancing the training given to judges, prosecutors and members of the police, the military and the security forces; (c) and establishing an independent mechanism for investigating complaints of torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials.<sup>17</sup>

18. The same Committee expressed concern about reports of arbitrary arrest and detention beyond 48 hours without charge, incommunicado detention and the use of detention as a means of intimidation. It also expressed concern about allegations that persons had been detained for long periods without the benefit of legal guarantees. The Committee encouraged Equatorial Guinea to: (a) take appropriate measures to ensure that no person under its jurisdiction was subjected to arbitrary arrest or imprisonment, or incommunicado detention; (b) ensure that those who had been detained enjoyed all legal guarantees, in accordance with articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and (c) amend its national legislation to limit the duration of pretrial detention, in accordance with the criteria established in article 9 of the Covenant.<sup>18</sup>

19. The same Committee also expressed concern at reports that prisons remained overcrowded and that incarceration conditions were harsh, in particular with regard to access to food, sanitation and health care. The Committee further expressed concern at reports that, in some prisons, there was no separation of women, men and minors, or of those held in pretrial detention from those convicted of a crime.<sup>19</sup>

20. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should: (a) effectively implement measures to reduce overcrowding, in particular through the promotion of alternatives to detention; (b) safeguard the right of all persons deprived of their liberty to be treated with humanity and dignity, and ensure that the conditions in which prisoners were held complied, in all places of detention, with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules); (c) take the necessary measures to separate prisoners according to age, sex and grounds for deprivation of liberty; and (d) establish a centralized official register of the names and places where individuals were held and ensure that that register was made readily available and accessible to those concerned, including relatives.<sup>20</sup>

### **3. Human rights and counter-terrorism**

21. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern that the definition of terrorism included in national legislation could, in view of its imprecise and ambiguous nature, be applied to a specific group of persons, in particular civil society and members of political parties, and to peaceful activities carried out pursuant to the rights to freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly. The Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism were fully compatible with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and were directed solely at the suspected perpetrators.<sup>21</sup>

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

22. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the lack of independence of the judiciary, in particular the absence of a transparent procedure for the appointment and dismissal of judges and prosecutors, and the fact that many of them did not have adequate legal training.<sup>22</sup>

23. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should continue its efforts to reform the justice system and ensure that all court proceedings were conducted in full observance of the due process guarantees set forth in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In particular, it should: (a) guarantee the tenure and independence of judges and the impartiality of public prosecutors, by protecting the work of the judiciary from any interference; (b) intensify its efforts to eliminate corruption in the judiciary by, *inter alia*, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators, including any judges and prosecutors who were complicit therein; and (c) ensure that judges and public prosecutors were appointed through an independent process that was based on objective, transparent criteria for assessing candidates' suitability in terms of the required skills, competence and reputation.<sup>23</sup>

24. The same Committee, while noting measures taken by Equatorial Guinea, expressed concern about reports that corruption remained widespread, especially at the highest levels of the Government, and that preventive measures were inadequate. The Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should: (a) intensify its efforts to combat corruption, including money-laundering; (b) strengthen the capacity of the prosecution service and law enforcement agencies to combat corruption, in particular through the provision of in-service training and adequate resources; and (c) ensure that all acts of corruption were investigated in an independent and impartial manner, and that those responsible were brought to justice and, if found guilty, appropriately punished.<sup>24</sup>

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

25. UNESCO stated that reports indicated that the media was largely controlled by political parties close to the Government. It also noted reports indicating that opposition party websites and social media had been repeatedly blocked, especially around the time of political events such as elections, and that international journalists were routinely denied visas or subjected to strict censorship if admitted into the country.<sup>25</sup>

26. UNESCO encouraged Equatorial Guinea to introduce a freedom of information law that was in accordance with international standards, establish an independent oversight institution with the capacity to implement the access to information law and ensure progress on target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms.<sup>26</sup>

27. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the severe restrictions on freedom of expression in Equatorial Guinea, in particular those set out in Act No. 6/1997 on the press, publications and audiovisual media. The Committee also expressed concern about reports of harassment and persecution of journalists and about the seizure and blocking of some publications.<sup>27</sup>

28. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should: (a) review all restrictions imposed on press and media activities, so as to ensure that they were strictly in accordance with the provisions of article 19 (3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and (b) protect journalists and the media from any form of undue interference, harassment or attack, promptly investigating all such acts and bringing those responsible to justice.<sup>28</sup>

29. UNESCO encouraged Equatorial Guinea to decriminalize defamation and to place it in the Civil Code, in line with international standards.<sup>29</sup>

30. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the restrictive and disproportionate rules governing the registration of civil associations. It expressed particular concern about the high cost of the registration process and the lack of transparency in related decisions. In addition, the Committee expressed concern about reports that human rights defenders operating in Equatorial Guinea were harassed and frequently arrested. The

Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should take and implement, without delay, effective measures to protect civil society organizations, in particular those defending human rights, and enable them to register and operate freely and without fear of harassment, violence or intimidation, or the threat thereof, ensuring that perpetrators of such acts were brought to justice.<sup>30</sup>

31. In 2019, several special procedure mandate holders sent a communication concerning allegations of serious acts of repression against the activities of civil society organizations in Equatorial Guinea, in particular the dissolution of the Centre for Studies and Initiatives for the Development of Equatorial Guinea.<sup>31</sup>

32. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the disproportionate restrictions on the right to freedom of movement in Equatorial Guinea, in particular owing to the large number of security checkpoints, and about reports that arbitrary restrictions were placed on the movement of specific people, especially members of civil society and opposition parties. It stated that Equatorial Guinea should guarantee freedom of movement, lift all restrictions incompatible with article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ensure that all persons who were in its territory legally had the right to move about freely without prior notice, regardless of their political affiliation or any other reason.<sup>32</sup>

33. The same Committee also expressed concern about reports that opposition candidates were subjected to persecution, intimidation, harassment and detention. It further expressed concern about reports that the political system of Equatorial Guinea limited political pluralism. The Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should ensure that its electoral regulations and practices were in full compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular article 25, by guaranteeing, *inter alia*, the full and effective enjoyment of rights by all, including opposition candidates, and national elections that promoted political pluralism, through the adoption of rules on the equal treatment of political parties in elections.<sup>33</sup> In 2022, UNICEF indicated that the country had held peaceful presidential, municipal and legislative elections. In the months preceding the elections, action to control young people in conflict with the law and undocumented migrants had been intensified.<sup>34</sup>

## **6. Right to privacy**

34. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about reports that civil society activists, opposition members, journalists and foreign diplomats were subjected to Internet and telephone surveillance. It stated that Equatorial Guinea should ensure that all types of surveillance activities and interference with privacy, including online surveillance for the purposes of State security, were governed by appropriate legislation that was in full accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular article 17, including with the principles of legality, proportionality and necessity.<sup>35</sup>

## **7. Right to marriage and family life**

35. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern that some provisions of the domestic law, including customary law, of Equatorial Guinea remained incompatible with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and that there were still discrepancies between the various sources of law applied. Specifically, the Committee noted with concern articles 70 and 71 of Act No. 5/2009 on the application of customary rules to separations or the annulment or dissolution of marriages celebrated in accordance with traditional rituals, as well as to decisions on the guardianship and custody of children from such marriages and to the distribution of estates.<sup>36</sup>

36. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should take all possible steps to ensure that traditional and customary norms were consistently harmonized and made compatible with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, accordingly, it should eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage, guardianship and inheritance, and ensure that the provisions applied by the traditional courts were in line with the Covenant.<sup>37</sup>

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

37. While noting the efforts made by the country to combat trafficking in persons, the Human Rights Committee expressed concern at the extent of such trafficking, in particular of women, girls and boys, for economic and sexual exploitation. It also expressed concern about the insufficient efforts being made to combat forced labour, including the situation of boys, girls and women subjected to domestic servitude.<sup>38</sup>

38. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) encouraged Equatorial Guinea to intensify its efforts to detect and punish situations of trafficking in persons, in particular women, for both sexual and labour exploitation and requested the country to provide information on the number of judicial procedures initiated and the judicial decisions handed down under section 3 of Act No. 1/2004 on the illicit trafficking of persons and migrants, with an indication of the penalties imposed on the perpetrators.<sup>39</sup>

39. The Human Rights Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should: (a) enforce anti-trafficking legislation by conducting gender- and age-sensitive investigations and ensuring that perpetrators, including public officials who were complicit in trafficking, were prosecuted and appropriately punished; (b) train law enforcement officials on standards for the early identification of trafficking victims and their referral to appropriate assistance and rehabilitation services; and (c) take all measures necessary to eliminate forced labour and all forms of child labour, in particular in the domestic sector.<sup>40</sup>

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

40. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that Equatorial Guinea had indicated, in its 2022 report for its voluntary national review of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, that a new gender equality policy had been elaborated but that certain strategic actions still needed to be implemented, including a national plan for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls. The Committee asked the country to take every step necessary in order to address gender stereotypes and promote women's participation in the labour market, in particular for jobs with career prospects and higher pay.<sup>41</sup>

## **10. Right to social security**

41. UNICEF indicated that, although a draft law on social protection had been submitted to the Parliament for approval, the country still lacked a non-contributory social protection system. The most deprived children faced financial barriers that limited access to social services and the fulfilment of rights.<sup>42</sup>

## **11. Right to an adequate standard of living**

42. In 2023, the Independent Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) stated that Equatorial Guinea still faced significant challenges in terms of reducing poverty and inequality. Progress had been made in the areas of health and education, but the country still had a very low average number of completed years of education and life expectancy. There was also a significant gap in the level of human development between the capital, on Bioko Island, and the regions on the mainland.<sup>43</sup>

43. In 2022, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation sent a communication noting that the legal framework of Equatorial Guinea does not explicitly recognize the human rights to water and sanitation. The Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the lack of policies to prevent the water supply from being cut off for failure to pay and to ensure access to water services during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, especially for vulnerable persons. He also drew attention to information that he had received revealing a substantial inequality in terms of access to water between rural and urban areas.<sup>44</sup>

## 12. Right to health

44. UNICEF indicated that the health system in Equatorial Guinea was highly centralized and faced significant challenges in providing equitable and quality services.<sup>45</sup> It noted that Equatorial Guinea was still slowly emerging from the aftermath of damage caused by a three-pronged crisis: the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the 2021 explosions in Bata and an outbreak of Marburg virus disease in 2023.<sup>46</sup>

45. UNICEF indicated that, despite overall progress, no vaccine coverage had reached the recommended minimum of 80 per cent, with large disparities remaining across districts.<sup>47</sup>

46. UNICEF noted that Equatorial Guinea reported the highest proportion of HIV prevalence among adults aged 15–49 years in West and Central Africa. HIV prevalence among young women aged 15 to 24 years was 2.2 times higher than among men of the same age group. Prevalence in the insular region was lower than that on the mainland. A recent HIV initiative implemented by the Government and supported by UNICEF was helping improve early infant diagnosis and HIV treatment.<sup>48</sup> The Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP indicated that, in recent years, HIV had been the leading cause of death in the country and that it had accounted for 18.5 per cent of total deaths in 2020.<sup>49</sup>

47. The Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP noted that the country had approved its National Health Development Plan 2021–2025, which was aimed at reducing HIV prevalence from 6.2 per cent to 4 per cent, increasing the number of patients receiving antiretroviral treatment and implementing the mechanism for documenting complaints about discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV.<sup>50</sup>

48. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the high rates of adolescent pregnancy and about the reports received of a lack of appropriate reproductive health services and very poor sexuality education. The Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should ensure full access to sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education for men, women, boys and girls throughout the country, including in rural and remote areas.<sup>51</sup>

49. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should amend its legislation to guarantee safe, legal and effective access to the voluntary termination of pregnancy when the life or health of the pregnant woman or girl was at risk or when carrying the pregnancy to term could cause the pregnant woman or girl substantial harm or suffering, especially in cases where the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest or when it was not viable, and ensure that women and girls who had recourse to abortion and the doctors who attended to them were not subjected to criminal penalties, given that the existence of such penalties obliged women and girls to resort to unsafe abortions.<sup>52</sup>

50. The same Committee expressed concern that, despite the major improvements achieved, maternal mortality remained very high, in particular in rural areas.<sup>53</sup>

## 13. Right to education

51. UNICEF noted that education was free and mandatory for preschool and primary education. It stated that, in the 2018/19 academic year, 80 per cent of preschool children had been from urban areas and 20 per cent from rural areas and that, in secondary education, only 3 per cent of students had been from rural areas. It also noted that the number of private schools had grown steadily over the years at the preschool, primary and secondary education levels, which could affect equitable access, and that in secondary education, 20.3 per cent of schools were public and 79.7 per cent were private.<sup>54</sup>

52. UNESCO observed that the end of compulsory education at the age of 12 was below international standards on compulsory education. It recommended that Equatorial Guinea extend compulsory education to secondary education to cover at least nine years and ensure that the end of compulsory education was aligned with the minimum age of employment.<sup>55</sup>

53. UNESCO indicated that Decree No. 1 of 18 July 2016 by the Ministry of Education strictly prohibited access to classrooms for pregnant students and encouraged Equatorial Guinea to repeal that decree and guarantee pregnant students' right to education in the education law.<sup>56</sup>

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

54. The Human Rights Committee noted the information provided by Equatorial Guinea, according to which a proportion of the profits generated by the extractive industries were invested in social projects. Nonetheless, it was concerned at reports of a lack of civil society participation and transparency in natural resource management. The Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should take the measures necessary, including the enforcement of Decree No. 42/2007 on the inclusion of civil society in the transparency initiative relating to the extractive industries, to ensure transparent management of natural resources, with the participation of civil society.<sup>57</sup>

### B. Rights of specific persons or groups

#### 1. Women

55. UNICEF indicated that gender equality still faced challenges. It stated that gaps in the labour market between men and women persisted, which was possibly a result of the fact that 47.1 per cent of economically active women had not attended high school, compared with 29.5 per cent of men. Although the gender-based violence legislation was still in draft form, the national plan on gender and disabilities had been approved. For the first time, a woman had been appointed as Prime Minister.<sup>58</sup>

56. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the persistence of traditional gender stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men in the family and in society. It also expressed concern about women's low level of representation in political and public life. The Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should: (a) strengthen measures to raise public awareness with a view to combating gender stereotypes in the family and in society; (b) eliminate from its domestic legislation all provisions that discriminated against women; and (c) take all necessary measures to promote women's equal participation in all aspects of public life and in legislative and judicial bodies.<sup>59</sup>

57. The same Committee expressed concern that Equatorial Guinea did not have a comprehensive legal framework for protection designed to prevent and eliminate violence against women, including domestic violence, and punish perpetrators.<sup>60</sup>

58. The same Committee stated that Equatorial Guinea should: (a) adopt, in consultation with civil society, a comprehensive law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, in both the public and the private spheres; (b) encourage women and girls who had been victims of violence to report cases to the police, prosecute all acts of violence against women and girls and punish perpetrators appropriately; and (c) conduct nationwide awareness-raising initiatives and training programmes for State officials, especially judges, prosecutors, police officers and medical personnel, to ensure that they responded effectively in all cases of domestic violence and gender-based violence.<sup>61</sup>

#### 2. Children

59. UNICEF indicated that 46,000 births had been registered in 2023, corresponding to 35 per cent of children between 0 to 5 years. The coverage had slightly improved compared with the 30,000 children registered in 2022.<sup>62</sup>

60. UNESCO indicated that, under the Civil Code of 1889 as amended in 2011, the minimum legal age of marriage was 18 years (art. 46), but judicial exceptions permitted marriage from 14 years old (art. 48). UNESCO stated that Equatorial Guinea should be encouraged to revise the Civil Code to ensure that there were no exceptions to the minimum age of marriage of 18 years of age.<sup>63</sup>

61. UNESCO noted that corporal punishment was not explicitly prohibited in the legal framework and stated that Equatorial Guinea should be encouraged to explicitly prohibit it in the education law.<sup>64</sup>



### 3. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

62. The Human Rights Committee remained concerned at reports of discrimination against and persecution of the country's minority ethnic groups. In that connection, it expressed concern about reports of expropriation of lands from the Bubi people without the right to compensation. It stated that Equatorial Guinea should take effective measures to combat discrimination against minority ethnic groups. It should further ensure, when land expropriations did occur, that they complied with the law, that they were not discriminatory, that they were duly compensated and that the affected persons were provided with an effective and appropriate remedy.<sup>65</sup>

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

63. OHCHR stated that, in 2023, escalating instances of human rights violations and abuses and statements issued by government representatives inciting violence and hatred against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in some countries in Central and East Africa, including Equatorial Guinea, had been observed.<sup>66</sup>

#### Notes

- 1 [A/HRC/42/13](#), [A/HRC/42/13/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/42/2](#).
- 2 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), para. 35.
- 3 UNICEF, "Country office annual report 2022: Equatorial Guinea", p. 2.
- 4 UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Equatorial Guinea, para. 25.
- 5 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), para. 16.
- 6 UNICEF, "Country office annual report 2023: Equatorial Guinea", p. 2.
- 7 See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Equatorial-Guinea-3rd-cycle-mid-term-report.pdf>.
- 8 OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2023*, p. 140.
- 9 See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/comment-acting-un-high-commissioner-human-rights-nada-al-nashif-after>.
- 10 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), para. 15.
- 11 *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- 12 *Ibid.*, para. 25.
- 13 *Ibid.*, para. 36.
- 14 *Ibid.*, para. 37 (a), (b) and (d).
- 15 See <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/equatorial-guinea/2021-bata-explosions-equatorial-guinea-multi-clustersector-initial-rapid>. See also [S/2021/517](#), paras. 39 and 61.
- 16 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), para. 38.
- 17 *Ibid.*, para. 39 (a), (b) and (d).
- 18 *Ibid.*, paras. 44 and 45 (a), (c) and (d).
- 19 *Ibid.*, para. 40.
- 20 *Ibid.*, para. 41.
- 21 *Ibid.*, paras. 22 and 23.
- 22 *Ibid.*, para. 48.
- 23 *Ibid.*, para. 49 (a)–(c).
- 24 *Ibid.*, paras. 18 and 19 (a)–(c).
- 25 UNESCO submission, paras. 16 and 18.
- 26 *Ibid.*, para. 34.
- 27 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), para. 52 (b).
- 28 *Ibid.*, para. 53 (b) and (c).
- 29 UNESCO submission, para. 35.
- 30 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), paras. 56 and 57 (a).
- 31 See communication GNQ 2/2019, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24805>.
- 32 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), paras. 46 and 47.
- 33 *Ibid.*, paras. 58 and 59.
- 34 UNICEF, "Country office annual report 2022: Equatorial Guinea", p. 2.
- 35 [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), paras. 50 and 51.
- 36 *Ibid.*, para. 10.
- 37 *Ibid.*, para. 11.
- 38 *Ibid.*, para. 42.

- <sup>39</sup> See [https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID,P13100\\_COUNTRY\\_ID:4116515,103117](https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4116515,103117).
- <sup>40</sup> [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), para. 43 (a), (b) and (d).
- <sup>41</sup> See [http://ilo.ch/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID,P13100\\_COUNTRY\\_ID:4348154,103117](http://ilo.ch/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNTRY_ID:4348154,103117).
- <sup>42</sup> [E/ICEF/2023/P/L.26](#), para. 18.
- <sup>43</sup> UNDP, *Independent Country Programme Evaluation: Republic of Equatorial Guinea* (New York, 2023), p. 1.
- <sup>44</sup> See communication GNQ 1/2022, available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26999>.
- <sup>45</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2022: Equatorial Guinea”, p. 2.
- <sup>46</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2023: Equatorial Guinea”, p. 1.
- <sup>47</sup> [E/ICEF/2023/P/L.26](#), para. 9.
- <sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 8.
- <sup>49</sup> UNDP, *Independent Country Programme Evaluation Republic of Equatorial Guinea*, p. 9.
- <sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>51</sup> [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), paras. 32 and 33 (c).
- <sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 33 (a) and (b).
- <sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 32.
- <sup>54</sup> [E/ICEF/2023/P/L.26](#), para. 10.
- <sup>55</sup> UNESCO submission, paras. 8 and 27.
- <sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 6 and 28.
- <sup>57</sup> [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), paras. 18 and 19 (e).
- <sup>58</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2022: Equatorial Guinea”, p. 2.
- <sup>59</sup> [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), paras. 28 and 29 (a), (b) and (c).
- <sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 30 (a).
- <sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 31 (a)–(c).
- <sup>62</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2023: Equatorial Guinea”, p. 4.
- <sup>63</sup> UNESCO submission, paras. 5 and 29.
- <sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 7 and 30.
- <sup>65</sup> [CCPR/C/GNQ/CO/1](#), paras. 26 and 27.
- <sup>66</sup> OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2023*, p. 135.
-