

**Universal Periodic Review  
(12<sup>th</sup> session, 3-14 October 2011)**

**Contribution of UNESCO**

**TOGO**

**I. Human rights treaties which fall within the competence of UNESCO and international instruments adopted by UNESCO**

1. Table:

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations /reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>	<i>Reference to the rights within UNESCO's fields of competence</i>
Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960	-	<i>Reservations to this Convention shall not be permitted</i>		Right to education
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education. 1989	-			Right to education
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972	15/04/1998 (acceptance)			Right to take part in cultural life
Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003	05/02/2009			Right to take part in cultural life
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005	05/09/2006			Right to take part in cultural life

## II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

### 1. Right to education<sup>1</sup>

#### *Normative framework*

##### a) Constitutional framework

2. The Constitution of Togo of 1992, as amended in 2003, recognizes the right to education in Article 35 which states that « the State recognizes the child's right to education and creates positive conditions to this end. School is compulsory for children of both sexes until fifteen. The State gradually ensures free public education. »<sup>2</sup>

##### b) Legislative framework

3. The Education reform of 1975, established by the ordinance No. 16 of 6 May 1975, recognizes equality between boys and girls: « Along the course's curriculum, school should provide equal opportunity to boys and girls ».

4. Law on technical education and vocational training orientation, 2002.

5. The decree No. 2007-07/PR, adopted on 29 June 2007, establishes the Auxiliary Teachers framework.

#### *Cooperation*

6. The « Initiative Fast Track » aimed at helping every low-income country which shows a strong involvement towards the achievement of universal primary education, granted 45 millions of dollars to Togo in May 2010. The Education Sectoral policy that Togo initiated, will benefit from the financial help of about thirty donors among which, Japan, Italy, Belgium, France, Russia, Switzerland, Norway, the United States, UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources:

- i) Marie-France Lange, *Inégalités de genre et éducation au Togo*, study realized for 2003/2004 EFA Monitoring Global Report, June 2003, [http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/file\\_download.php/2b2a27087cddfc082f8345752fea83adInegalites+de+genre+et+education+au+Togo.doc](http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/file_download.php/2b2a27087cddfc082f8345752fea83adInegalites+de+genre+et+education+au+Togo.doc) (accessed 21/02/2011);
- ii) EFA GMR 2010, <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001875/187513F.pdf> (accessed 21/02/2011).

<sup>2</sup> Non official translation from French, the original is as following : « *L'Etat reconnaît le droit à l'éducation des enfants et crée les conditions favorables à cette fin. L'école est obligatoire pour les enfants des deux sexes jusqu'à l'âge de quinze ans. L'Etat assure progressivement la gratuité de l'enseignement public* ».

## 2. Right to take part in cultural life

7. Togo has ratified the 1972, 2003 and 2005 UNESCO Conventions. Activities have been carried out to implement the 1972 and 2003 Conventions but initiatives are yet to be launched for the 2005 Convention. In 2009, the UNESCO Accra office collaborated with Togo in the development of a National Cultural Policy. UNESCO has supported initiatives for the implementation of the World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Conventions.

8. Normative framework - The teaching of Batammariba culture and language was included in primary and secondary school curricula in Togo by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education by decree n° 164/MEPSA/CAB/SG of 22 September 2009.

9. Institutional framework - The *Centre d'Action Culturelle* (CRAC), an inter-state teaching and training centre for cultural development professionals and officials, was created. A UNESCO Chair in cultural policies for development was established in 1999 at the CRAC.

10. Policy measures - The National Cultural Policy was elaborated with UNESCO's support and finalized in 2009. It is currently awaiting parliamentary approval. Intangible cultural heritage activities have reinforced policy with regards to: (1) sensitization of the population on the Slave Trade, and (2) management of the World Heritage Site of Koutammakou.

11. Cooperation - International assistance is made available within the framework of the three cultural conventions administered by UNESCO to support efforts by Togo to implement them.

12. Work with civil society - Local communities and community organizations are involved in UNESCO's programme and projects related to the intangible cultural heritage.

13. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints - Within the framework of intangible cultural heritage project entitled "Safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of the Batammariba of Koutammakou", a code of good conduct has been made available to external visitors to the World Heritage site of Koutammakou.

14. Within the same project, the teaching of Batammariba culture was included in primary and secondary school curricula in Togo by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (decree n° 164/MEPSA/CAB/SG of 22 September 2009) and implemented beginning in the school year 2010-2011.

15. The teaching of the Litammari language in twelve primary schools of the Koutammakou started after teachers from the schools were trained in teaching the Litammari language and using it in teaching other disciplines such as arithmetic.

16. The Oral Heritage of Gelede was Inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2001) through a joint request by Togo, Benin and Nigeria.

17. Capacity-building and technical assistance provided and/or recommended by UNESCO - In the framework of the development of the Slave Route project in Togo, several joint initiatives are taken, such as inventorying and signage of sites, development of materials, training of guides etc.

18. Capacity for the teaching of the Litammari language should be reinforced to make the initiative sustainable (e.g. training of teachers workshops, using manuals developed in Togo).

### **3. Freedom of opinion and expression**

#### Capacity-building and technical assistance provided and/or recommended by UNESCO

19. Consistent with its mandate, UNESCO collaborates at different levels with Togo to reinforce the right to freedom of expression. A study had been undertaken in 2006 to produce a report on the state of the press in Togo: “*Les Réalités de la presse togolaise - Des origines à nos jours*”. The study documented advances in the national policy and legal frameworks as well as the participation of women in media.

### **4. Human Rights and bioethics**

20. Capacity-building and technical assistance provided by UNESCO: UNESCO has provided technical assistance for the establishing of the National Bioethics Committee (NBC) of Togo and the subsequent capacity-building to ensure its viability and sustainability. The major aim of the NBC of Togo is to serve as a platform designed to implement UNESCO's three main Declarations in bioethics - the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1997), the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data (2003) and the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005), as well as to contribute to advancing the public debate on bioethical issues and become the advisory body on ethical issues of life sciences and public policies.

## **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Right to education**

21. Togo should be encouraged to ratify the 1960 UNESCO's Convention against Discrimination in Education and the 1989 UNESCO's Convention on Technical and Vocational Education.

### **2. Right to take part in cultural life**

22. A sensitization campaign closely involving the civil society and community organizations in the development of programmes and projects integrating the principles of the 1972, 2003 and 2005 UNESCO Conventions should be promoted.

23. Efforts to capitalize on common heritage between countries in the region should be promoted to strengthen regional economic and social integration.

### **3. Freedom of opinion and expression**

24. There are several opportunities for developing and protecting freedom of expression in Togo. UNESCO recommends:

- i) to introduce provisions in the existing legislation to guarantee Freedom of expression, media freedom and the right to access information;
- ii) to guarantee the independence of its media self-regulatory body.

### **4. Human Rights and bioethics**

25. Togo is encouraged to continue the activities of its National Bioethics Committee as foreseen in the Memorandum of Understanding signed with UNESCO.