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National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Chad

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

AFD	Agence Française de Développement (French development agency)
ARV	Antiretrovirals
CARMMA	Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa
HRC	Human Rights Council
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
CONACIAF	National Committee of the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children
DSRV	Direction de la santé de reproduction et de la vaccination (Directorate of reproductive health and vaccination)
UPR	Universal periodic review
E-MTCT	Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
FONAP	Fonds National d'Appui à la jeunesse (National fund in support of youth)
GNNT	Garde Nationale et Nomade du Tchad (Chadian national and nomadic guard)
UNHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
MDHLF	Ministère des droits de l'homme et de la promotion des Libertés Fondamentales (Ministry for Human Rights and the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms)
FGM	Female genital mutilations
MINURCAT	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
MoH	Ministry of Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
PAPST	Projet d'Appui à la Politique Sectorielle pour l'Education au Tchad (Project to support sectoral policy for education in Chad)
PASET	Projet d'Appui au Secteur de l'Education au Tchad (Project to support the education sector in Chad)
PASST	Projet d'Appui au Secteur de la Santé au Tchad (Project to support the health sector in Chad)
PNDS	Programme Nationale pour le Développement Sanitaire (National Health Development Programme)
PNG	Politique Nationale Genre (National gender policy)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

PNSA	Programme Nationale pour la Sécurité Alimentaire (National food security programme)
PRAJUST	Programme d'Appui à la Justice (Programme to support judicial reform)
CAR	Central African Republic
SIPEA	Stratégie Intermédiaire Pour l'Education et l'Alphabétisation (Intermediate strategy for education and literacy)
SNG	Stratégie Nationale Genre (National gender strategy)
UA	African Union
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus

I. Introduction

1. This report is part of the second cycle of the universal periodic review (UPR) following the first review of Chad in May 2009.
2. After the first review, Chad received 112 recommendations, 86 of which were accepted, 12 rejected and the response to 14 is pending.
3. Since then, Chad has made huge progress towards improving the human rights situation in both institutional and legal terms. In this connection, several national instruments have been adopted while others are in the process of being adopted. Chad has also entered into new international human rights commitments.

II. Methodology for drafting the report

4. This report is the fruit of a participative process, involving a number of institutions, which reflects the desire of the Government of Chad to involve all stakeholders. As part of this process, on 26 March 2013 the interministerial follow-up committee on international agreements organized a meeting in collaboration with Chad's partners, the outcome of which was to be the UPR report.
5. The follow-up committee and the senior officials from the Ministry for Human Rights and Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms responsible for following up and drafting the report set up a select committee charged with gathering and harmonizing data in order to draft the report. The national report was approved at a workshop held from 13 to 15 June 2013 at Douguia, some 100 km north of Ndjamena; all the stakeholders responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in Chad took part in the workshop.
6. This report has taken into account the provisions of the annex to resolution 16/21, of 25 March 2011, on the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council and decision 17/119 of 17 June 2011 on follow-up to the Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 with regard to the universal periodic review. The report focuses on the implementation of the recommendations from the review of Chad in May 2009 and on developments in the human rights situation since 2009.

III. Changes in the normative and institutional framework since 2009

A. Signature and ratification of international legal instruments

7. Since 2009, Chad has either signed or ratified the following human rights treaties:
 - The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which it ratified on 27 July 2009;
 - The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), which it ratified on 27 July 2009;
 - The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, which it ratified on 28 August 2012;

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which it ratified on 28 August 2012;
- The Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), which it ratified on 11 July 2011;
- The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which it ratified on 24 November 2010;
- The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, which it ratified on 10 August 2009;
- The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, which is before the National Assembly for ratification;
- The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, which it signed on 24 December 2012.

B. National legislation

8. At the national level, a number of legal texts have been drawn up by Chad in order to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights:

- The ongoing review of decree No. 100/AFF-soc of 18 June 1963 relating to the protection of children and adolescents;
- Act No. 06/PR/2010 setting out the fundamental principles applicable to town planning;
- Act No. 007/PR/2010 instituting the electoral code;
- Act No. 09/PR/2010 relating to audiovisual communication;
- Act No. 10/PR/2010 on tobacco control;
- Act No. 017/PR/2010 on the regime applicable to the press in Chad;
- Act No. 013/PR/2010 setting out the statute and attributions of the traditional and customary authorities;
- The draft code on the protection of children has been adopted by the Council of Ministers and is before the National Assembly for adoption;
- The Act on civil status, adopted by the National Assembly in April 2012;
- The Code of Civil Procedure, which was adopted in June 2013;
- The Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure are being revised;
- The draft family and personal code is being adopted by the Government, following approval of its second reading in 2009.

C. National human rights policies

9. The Government of Chad has implemented several programmes for the purpose of strengthening and promoting human rights:

- The programme to support judicial reform (PRAJUST) which has several components, including access to the law and to justice for poor populations, increasing the number of courts with a view to bringing justice closer to those under its jurisdiction and raising awareness of and educating people about human rights;

- The national human rights action plan, adopted as a result of the national human rights forum held from 9 to 11 March 2010;
- The plan of action for children associated with armed groups and forces, signed on 14 June 2012 by Chad and UNICEF, completed by a road map on 14 May 2013, which provides for the exchange of information and for joint action to combat the recruitment of children in armed conflicts;
- The National Development Plan (NDP) adopted in April 2013 by the Government for the period 2013–2015, which is designed to consolidate the foundations of economic and social growth for the period up to 2025;
- The national policy on gender, which was adopted and approved in December 2011, has made it possible to introduce the national strategy on gender which takes into consideration the concerns of women in respect of gender violence and discrimination affecting women;
- The 2009–2015 national campaign to combat violence against women, which is intended to combat the different forms of violence that affect women each day;
- The National Forum on HIV and Human Rights, organized from 31 May to 2 June 2012, was intended to incorporate the human rights dimension into the national response to HIV and AIDS.

D. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH)

10. Act No. 031/PR/1994 instituting this Commission was reviewed and harmonized at a workshop, held from 6 to 8 March 2012, in order to bring the institution into line with the Paris Principles as regards its independence. The bill will provide the action of CNDH with a fresh impetus and renewed credibility.

The Supreme Council of the Magistrature (CSM)

11. This institution's organization and functioning were modified by Ordinance No. 003/PR/2010 of 1 October 2010 amending Act No. 005/PR/98, which determines the organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of the Magistrature, so as to provide it with greater means of action and powers thereby enabling it better to supervise the judiciary, who are responsible for ensuring respect for and protecting human rights.

The creation of the Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic

12. This institution, which was set up by Act No. 031/PR/2009, has replaced the Office of the National Ombudsman, and provides a means of settling disputes between users and the State administrations so as to ensure respect for the rights of citizens.

The interministerial follow-up committee on international legal instruments

13. This committee, which was set up by decision No. 3912 of the Prime Minister, dated 12 December 2011, comprises 24 members and is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the international instruments to which Chad is a party, for drafting national reports to the appropriate United Nations and African Union bodies, for disseminating the reports, making recommendations on draft instruments intended to harmonize national legislation with the international human rights instrument and for popularizing recommendations, conventions and laws on human rights.

The establishment of the National Training School for Judges (ENFJ)

14. The establishment of the National Training School for Judges (ENFJ) in 2009 has provided a valuable asset for the training of judges and judicial officials and officers (clerks to the court, prison managers and warders), particularly as regards human rights.

IV. Changes in the human rights situation in Chad since 2009

15. Since 2009 Chad has faced a welter of challenges in the field of human rights. They have involved the exercise of freedom of the press, difficulties affecting relations between the Government and the opposition, the problem of impunity, the issue of child soldiers, child labour, violence against women, social upheavals and the persistence of poverty.

16. In order to take up these challenges, the Government has adopted a range of measures to promote and protect civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of women and the rights of the child.

A. Civil and political rights

1. Political dialogue

- Recognition for the status of the democratic opposition under Act No. 20/PR/2009 of 4 August 2009, making possible a permanent and constructive dialogue among politicians;
- Introduction of a new framework for dialogue (the national committee for political dialogue) in conformity with the agreement of 13 April 2013 between politicians and civil society and intended to prepare the future elections.

2. Reform of the judicial system

17. With the support of the European Union, a programme to support judicial reform (PRAJUST) was set up in 2010. Thanks to the participation of human rights organizations, this programme has made it possible to:

- Build courts in certain areas where there were none;
- Establish a lawyers' centre to provide assistance to poor persons dealing with the courts;
- Build detention centres (at Doba, Sarh, Moundou and Bongor);
- Carry out a campaign to inform and raise awareness among the population about access to the law and to justice.

Acting through the Ministry of Justice, the Government has:

- Built six new prisons in the towns of Kelo, Korotoro, Am-Timan, Abeche and Koumra;
- Improved the conditions of detention in the main towns of the country;
- Developed social rehabilitation of prisoners by providing training in carpentry and market gardening;
- Built, in 2011, a national judicial training school to train judicial officials and auxiliaries;

- Carried out a far-reaching reform of legal texts and in particular a review of the Criminal Code, of the Civil Code and of the Code of Civil Procedure.

18. In addition, with the assistance of UNDP, between 2010 and 2012 the Government operated:

- A programme to strengthen judicial departments, human rights and gender equity.

3. Reform of the security sector

19. The Government of Chad has carried out the following actions:

- Capacity-building for persons who bear arms, through the development of training modules on human rights and international humanitarian law, with the support of ICRC;
- Since 2011, deployment of the integrated security detachment (DIS) in the east has been extended to the south of Chad to combat violence against women and to protect and secure the refugee camps;
- Adoption, since 2011, of the programme in support of the internal security forces, with the support of the European Union in order to enhance the capacity of the security forces (the Chadian national and nomadic guard (GNNT), the police and the gendarmerie), to repair and build suitable facilities and to provide them with equipment.

4. Freedom of the press

20. The Government has adopted the following measures:

- Adoption of Act No. 17/PR/2010, instituting the regime applicable to the press and abrogating Ordinance No. 5 of 2008, which introduced censorship (with the requirement to submit articles prior to their publication);
- The establishment of the media centre to provide journalists with a suitable working environment;
- An increase in the press support fund;
- Measures to make it easier for the private press to gain access to public sources of information.

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Actions in the sphere of health

21. Since 2010, with the support of its partners the Government has carried out numerous actions in the sphere of health:

- Organization of monthly meetings on the state of public health, chaired by the Head of State;
- Rehabilitation and construction of numerous hospitals and health centres and provision of equipment for them;
- An increase in the annual recruitment quota for the health sector;
- With the support of partners, recruitment of paramedical staff and of midwives;
- Training for specialists in all areas of health;
- Free emergency care for the whole population;

- Free mother-and-child care;
- Free antiretrovirals (ARV) and drugs to treat tuberculosis, together with subsidies for means of prevention;
- Cost-free treatment for opportunistic infections associated with HIV;
- Cost-free distribution of impregnated mosquito nets to combat malaria, which is the leading cause of mortality in Chad.

2. Social dialogue

- Creation of a national framework for social dialogue charged with easing consultation between the Government, employers and trade unions;
- On 28 March 2013, signature by the Government and the trade unions of an agreement putting an end to a prolonged strike and making it possible to revive the implementation of the draft agreement of November 2011.

3. Actions in the education sector

22. As part of its national development plan (PND) 2013–2015, the Government has drawn up a number of projects, which include:

- The project in support of reform of the education sector in Chad (PARSET);
- The project in support of the implementation of the sectoral policy for education in Chad (PAPST);
- The project to monitor and evaluate teachers.

23. The purpose of these projects is to adapt education policy in Chad to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and in particular the goal for education. They make it possible to:

- Enhance the Ministry's capabilities by training and hiring teachers;
- Repair, build and fit out schools.

4. Combating poverty

24. Major actions have been carried out since 2010:

- The creation of the National Youth Support Fund (FONAJ) for entrepreneurship;
- A microcredit fund for women and youth;
- Making available land for farming and providing tractors to mechanize farming so as to achieve food self-sufficiency.

C. Women's rights

25. The Government of Chad has implemented a number of actions to strengthen protection for women's rights:

- A national gender policy (PNG) was approved in December 2011 and is currently being adopted;
- A national strategy to combat gender violence (SNVBG) has been approved and the relevant plan of action is being developed;

- A national campaign to combat all forms of violence against women has been implemented during the period 2009–2013;
- National legislation has been revised so as to take into account the need to punish violence against women;
- Women have taken on greater responsibility in decision-making bodies;
- A women's centre is being completed in N'Djamena; it will help women more fully to enjoy their rights.

D. The rights of the child

26. The Government has implemented several programmes relating to the rights of the child:

- In 2010, the national strategy on behalf of orphans, which makes it possible to meet the social and educational needs of orphans and to find them a place in society;
- The second integrated national plan of action for 2012–2015 to combat the worst forms of child labour, trafficking and exploitation;
- The national health development plan (PNDS) for 2009–2012 which will make it possible more rapidly to reduce child mortality and morbidity by ensuring access to proper basic care;
- The plan of action of the Chad-UNICEF cooperation group for 2012–2016, which has set up a database on indicators of protection as a means of recording violence against children and its impact on their living conditions, so as to define protection policies for the benefit of children;
- The opening of the modern mother-and-child hospital in N'Djamena which provides high-quality care for children and pregnant women and which will help to reduce infant and maternal mortality, etc.;
- The adoption, at a conference held from 7 to 9 June 2010, of the N'Djamena Declaration on ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed forces and groups, together with its road map;
- The introduction of coordination among government focal points and the United Nations Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict to implement the road map and action plan.

V. Implementation of the recommendations of the first review cycle

27. The 86 recommendations accepted by Chad at the time of the first review in 2009 have been ranked by topic, on the basis of their objectives.

A. Civil and political rights

Topic 1: improve conditions in places of detention and combat impunity (recommendations 24, 49 to 52 and 85)

28. One element of the programme to support judicial reform (PRAJUST) concerns improvements to existing prisons in order to bring them into line with international

standards. Six places of detention (Am-Timan, Korotoro, Kelo, Abeché, Koumra and Mongo) have been built taking international requirements into consideration and three others are under construction (Sarh, Mongo and Doba). Ordinance No. 032 of 4 October 2011 instituting the regime applicable to prisons strengthens the rights of prisoners as regards hygiene, safety and food.

29. In 2011, acting through the Ministry of Good Governance and Public Stabilization, the Government set up operation Cobra in order to prosecute unscrupulous officials for acts of corruption or embezzlement of public funds. A special court was set up in 2011 to deal with offences of this kind committed by members of the armed forces.

Topic 2: implement the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry regarding the events of February 2008 and the political dialogue in conformity with the 13 August 2007 agreement (recommendations 53 to 57 and 61)

30. With a view to implementing the recommendations of the Commission of Enquiry into the events of February 2008 and the political dialogue under the agreement of 13 August 2007, in 2008 the Government of Chad set up a committee of enquiry, whose composition was reduced and revised in 2011. An investigating magistrate has been appointed and the investigation is going ahead.

31. The working conditions of judges have been considerably improved by the Government and the Ministry of Justice has received significant material and financial resources. However, a number of challenges still have to be faced as regards the professional independence of judges.

32. The agreement of 13 August 2007 between the Government and the political parties has made it possible to organize presidential, legislative and local elections. As the agreement has now achieved its aims, a new forum for dialogue, in which all political persuasions and representatives of civil society are present, was set up in April 2013.

Topic 3: strengthen freedom of the press (recommendations 59, 60 and 86)

33. Act No. 17/PR/2010 of 31 August 2010 on the regime applicable to the press has enhanced freedom of the press by abolishing censorship in the form of the requirement introduced by Ordinance No. 5 of 26 February 2008 to submit articles prior to publication. A media centre has been established and funds made available by the Government and its financial partners to build a headquarters for the centre.

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

Topic 4: strengthen action to ensure the right to education and literacy (recommendations 62 to 68)

34. National education is a priority for the Government. With the support of its partners, it has invested considerable resources for the education of children, particularly in rural areas and has reinforced its policy on behalf of adult literacy, particularly that of women. In 2010 and 2011, 42,000 adults, including women, learned to read and write. Measures are planned to increase the number of people who can read and write, the number of literacy outreach workers and to purchase books.

35. This is illustrated by the fact that in 2010 and 2011 the crude primary-school enrolment rate of girls was 80 per cent and 28 per cent of children completed primary school.

36. Under the Intermediate strategy for education and literacy (SIPEA), the Government has set the target of building 1,500 classrooms per year until 2015 so that every child in Chad may have the opportunity to attend school.

37. The same government policy provides for the recruitment and training of teachers to provide a proper education. Another aim of SIPEA is to narrow the gap between girls and boys as regards enrolment in school. In 2010 and 2011, for every 100 boys enrolled in school there were only 75 girls. SIPEA also plans to improve the teacher-pupil ratio to 1 teacher per 55 pupils.

38. The Government has introduced incentives to encourage girls to attend school and to remain in school for longer. The policy focuses essentially on basic education, which goes from preschool education to the first cycle of secondary education.

39. Thanks to the purchase and distribution of manuals and handbooks there will be three books per pupil by 2015.

Topic 5: efforts to combat poverty (recommendation 16)

40. The Ministry in Charge of Microfinance on behalf of the advancement of women and youth was established to make it easier for women and young people to obtain loans to develop income-generating activities.

41. The National Food Security Programme (PNSA) was set up by the Government as a capacity-building measure to enable peasants and small farmers to increase agricultural output and improve their living conditions. The declared objective of the Programme is to “help to overcome hunger and to combat food insecurity at the national level by 2015 by sustainably increasing output and yield, in combination with measures to ensure the population has access to food of sufficient quantity and quality while preserving natural resources, so as to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015”.

C. Rights of specific groups

Topic 6: strengthen legal protection for women against all forms of discrimination, violence and female genital mutilation (recommendations 25 to 36)

42. Pending the adoption of the family and personal code, which would guarantee the rights of women, the bill to revise the criminal code has incorporated penalties for gender violence in order to protect women from such acts (arts. 273 et seq.). The Government has also introduced a national gender strategy to combat these forms of violence.

43. Article 18 of the 1996 Constitution and Act No. 06/PR/2002 of 18 April 2002 on the improvement of reproductive health prohibit all forms of violence, including female genital mutilation, against human beings. The draft criminal code (arts. 273 et seq.) includes severe penalties for those who commit acts of violence, including female genital mutilations, and their accomplices. Furthermore, female genital mutilation is banned in Chad, as is early marriage, forced marriage, domestic violence and sexual abuse. These practices have been taken into consideration by the 2009–2015 national campaign to combat all forms of violence against women. Each year, a campaign is run by the Ministry of Social Action in collaboration with UNFPA and UNICEF to make the population aware of the harmful consequences of such practices and the penalties they face, in order to discourage them.

44. As part of efforts to implement key national commitments (poverty reduction, the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV) and above all implementation of the 2009–2015 road map for the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality developed and implemented by DSRV/MoH, the Government has drawn up a

plan for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (e-MTCT) covering the period 2012–2015. The e-MTCT plan puts into operational practice international guidelines together with those contained in the Strategic National AIDS Response Plan for 2012–2015. The purpose of e-MTCT is to help improve the maternal and child survival rate by eliminating new paediatric HIV infections and keeping mothers alive.

45. The policy implemented by the Government on behalf of women has made it possible for more women to occupy positions of responsibility at all levels, allowing them to influence decision-making and thereby overcome the discrimination by which they are frequently affected. The intermediate strategy for education and literacy (SIPEA) places special emphasis on disparities between boys and girls in the education system.

Topic 7: take measures to prevent the enlistment of children in armed conflicts, violence against children and to protect their rights (recommendations 9, 10, 15, 21, 22, 37 to 48, 78, 83 and 84)

46. Chad has recently finalized its third, fourth and fifth periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Chad has also ratified two United Nations conventions on crime and trafficking involving children (see the paragraph on the normative framework, above). A code for the protection of children is currently being adopted by the National Assembly in order to bolster protection for the rights of the child.

47. The bill to revise the Criminal Code lays down penalties for the perpetrators of violence against children. The remit and resources of the children's department of the Ministry of Social Action have been reinforced to enable it to address the difficulties faced by children in Chad.

48. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Government has carried out a number of actions. They include awareness-raising, advocacy and harsher legal penalties under the Criminal Code to combat the enlistment of children in the armed forces. The action plan, signed by Chad and the United Nations team on 14 June 2012, counts among the priorities of the Government. Each year, with the support of UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Action, and other national and international partners organizes campaigns to raise awareness in those parts of the country affected by conflicts in order to combat the enlistment of children and its consequences. A programme for the demobilization and reinsertion of child soldiers, which has the financial support of UNICEF, is also being implemented by the children's department.

49. Also in respect of child soldiers, between 2009 and 2013, 1,031 child soldiers were demobilized from the ranks of the defence forces and armed groups with the support of UNICEF. However, the problem of the recruitment and use of child soldiers by non-governmental armed groups will be resolved by the adoption of the code on the protection of children.

Topic 8: protect refugees and displaced persons (recommendations 69 and 70)

50. Although for almost 10 years Chad has received waves of refugees from Sudan, Libya and the Central African Republic, thanks to the support of UNHCR and humanitarian organizations, it has been able to accommodate the influx and provide the refugees with protection in conformity with the international conventions.

51. The Integrated Security Detachment (DIS) continues to guarantee security in and around the camps as well as protecting convoys of refugees returning to their country of origin. DIS also protects women from sexual and sexist violence in and around the camps and takes action to prevent children from being recruited by armed groups.

D. Ratification and implementation of the international human rights instruments

Topic 9: ratification of the international human rights instruments (recommendations 1 to 7)

52. As a member of the United Nations and of the African Union, Chad has always been committed to ratifying or signing human rights conventions or treaties. Since 2009, Chad has signed and ratified a large number of international legal instruments, taking into account the actual needs of the country, such as the need to protect the rights of the child. In particular it ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 27 July 2009 and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption on 24 December 2012 (see the paragraph on improvements to the normative framework).

53. The Government of Chad is committed to continuing to sign or ratify international norms while at the same time ensuring that those it has already ratified may be incorporated into domestic law. An interministerial follow-up committee on international legal instruments was set up by decision No. 3912, taken by the Prime Minister on 12 December 2011.

Topic 10: strengthen national human rights policy (recommendations 8, 11 to 14 and 82)

54. The capacity of the Ministry for Human Rights and for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms is gradually being enhanced with the financial and technical support of Chad's partners. Examples are the training on report writing being provided for regional delegates, the establishment of the interministerial committee on the preparation of the national report for UPR and the drafting of the national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights in Chad for 2013 to 2015.

55. A training, education and outreach programme on human rights has been drawn up and will be carried out shortly with the support of partners in communities and schools.

Topic 11: strengthen cooperation with the international community and call on the technical assistance of United Nations agencies to promote human rights and build a State in which the rule of law and peace prevail (recommendations 71 to 77 and 79 to 81)

56. Chad has always called on the international community for technical and/or financial assistance in order to implement its programmes.

57. Where human rights are concerned, the Government has received technical support from UNDP and from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to draw up its national plan of action for 2012 to 2015 and to train its staff in the regions.

58. Training for regional human rights delegates took place in 2011 and further training will take place in June 2013.

59. The campaign that began in a number of regional human rights delegations in 2011 to raise awareness of human rights and the international instruments is continuing.

60. As part of cooperation between Chad and UNDP, in 2012 a programme to strengthen the judicial services, human rights and gender equity was introduced.

61. In addition, UNFPA provides Chad with support for its gender policy, UNICEF in the field of child protection and UNHCR in that of protection for refugees and displaced persons.

62. Thanks to the support of international partners it has been possible to implement programmes such as PRAJUST (Programme to support judicial reform in Chad).

Topic 12: cooperate with the special procedures (recommendations 17 to 20)

63. Although Chad has been late in submitting reports, it has presented:

- Its report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (a combined report for 2009, 2010 and 2011) in July 2012;
- Its report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (4th and 5th reports) in December 2012; and
- Its report under the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (16th, 17th and 18th reports) in September 2012;
- It has also finalized its report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

64. As regards the special procedures, although Chad has not been visited by any special procedures mandate holders, it is willing to receive visits from them if they wish.

65. In respect of recommendation 19, on 12 June 2012 the Government of Chad already sent an open-ended and permanent invitation to the special procedures.

Topic 13: harmonize national legislation with the international instruments (recommendations 23 and 58)

66. Out of a concern to ensure conformity with international standards, a number of revisions are under way to harmonize existing domestic legal instruments with the international instruments to which Chad has acceded (Criminal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and Code for the Protection of the Child).

67. The draft revision of the Criminal Code has incorporated, into its article 376, a definition of torture as required by the United Nations Convention against Torture: *“torture means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person by an official or traditional holder of authority or by any person acting in an official capacity, at their instigation or with their express or tacit consent for the purpose of obtaining from them or from a third person information or a confession, punishing them for an act they or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, intimidating them or bringing pressure to bear on them or intimidating or bringing pressure to bear on a third person or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind”*.

68. As regards territorial administration, the Act relating to civil status was adopted in 2012.

VI. Difficulties and constraints

- Difficulties deriving from traditional and customary practices;
- The limited capacity of the Ministry and of national human rights institutions;
- Failure sufficiently to publicize the recommendations of UPR and the plan of action that has been implemented.

VII. Government priorities

69. The Government of Chad has determined the following priorities:

- Efforts to combat inequalities, poverty and social exclusion;
- Improving governance;
- Protecting the environment and combating climate change;
- Developing the rural sector and ensuring food security;
- Developing basic economic infrastructure.

VIII. Expectations of the Government of Chad for strengthening its national human rights institutions

70. The Government of Chad requests the international community's technical and financial support in order to strengthen its national institutions and in particular the National Human Rights Commission, the regional human rights delegations, the technical departments of the Ministry for Human Rights, the traditional and customary authorities, the interministerial follow-up committee on international agreements, the prison administrations, civil society organizations and the local authorities.

71. The Government of Chad expects the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to put into practice its decision to open an office in Chad.

IX. Conclusion

72. The Government of Chad would like to express its gratitude to the Council for its willingness to engage in an interactive dialogue and for this exchange of opinions which makes it possible for Chad to improve its national system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

73. Since 2009, the Government of Chad has made considerable progress towards improving its normative and institutional framework so as to further the human rights situation in Chad.

74. These efforts and determination notwithstanding, the persistence of social and cultural attitudes, together with the challenges referred to in the report constitute obstacles to the effective implementation of the recommendations of UPR and of national policy for the promotion and protection of human rights.

75. Nonetheless, the Government of Chad is ready and willing to receive support from its partners to help it define other strategies for carrying out action on behalf of human rights.

76. The Government of Chad would like to express its gratitude to the agencies of the United Nations system for their permanent collaboration and is willing to undertake further efforts along the same lines in order to promote and protect human rights.