

**JOINT SUBMISSION OF DJIBOUTI UN COUNTRY TEAM (UNCT) FOR THE
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF DJIBOUTI, 3RD CYCLE**

30th Session, April-May 2018

INTRODUCTION

1. Djibouti has ratified all the core human rights instruments except the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It is a country in the Arab Region that has ratified more international human rights Instruments, including CEDAW (without any reservations) and is the only country in the region abolished the death penalty.
2. The Constitution was revised in 2008 to establish a Court of Auditors and in 2010 to abolish the death penalty, which subsequently was taken out of the penal code. The 2010 revision also provided for the creation of a Senate, which is now elevated to the rank of constitutional institution, and reduced the mandate of the President of the Republic from 6 to 5 years. The second revision of the Constitution in 2010 also provided for the establishment in August 2011 of a Legal and Judicial Reform Commission to modernize legislation and align national laws with international human rights obligations.
3. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) of Djibouti was established on 23 April 2008 by Decree No. 2008-0103/PR/MJAP. Amendments regulating its dispositions were done by a law adopted on 20 July 2014 to make it more compatible with the Paris Principles, particularly with regards to the Commission's independence from the government, giving the Commission investigative powers, stipulating the need for pluralism among its members and stressing the need for allocating human and financial resources. In line with the new law, seven new commissioners were appointed by presidential decree in May 2016 for a five-year mandate. The newly appointed commissioners have backgrounds from public administration, bar association, civil society, and religious and academic communities.

Methodology for the preparation of this report

This Joint UNCT Submission is made on behalf of resident and non-resident UN agencies¹ as a contribution to Djibouti's 3rd UPR Cycle scheduled to take place in April-May 2018.

The submission aims to provide an assessment of implementation of recommendations made during Djibouti's Second Cycle review, the significant majority of which has gained the support of the Government of Djibouti (GoD), challenges the country faces in meeting its human rights obligations and recommendations on the basis of available information.

I. National human rights framework

1. The reform of the 1992 Constitution and implementation of legislative reforms have led to positive progress in the fields of rights and freedoms. Yet, additional efforts to improve and scale up constitutional gains which integrate the civil and political rights and address rights and freedoms both at the procedural and substantive levels are still required.
2. The Constitution states that rights and freedoms can be limited by subsidiary legislations and regulations specifically governing their enjoyments. This creates an opportunity to the parliament to enact laws restricting the enjoyment of rights and freedoms without considering the necessity and proportionality of the restriction.
3. The UNCT commends the amendment, in 2014, of the Presidential decree that established the National Commission for Human Rights (NCDH), which gave the latter the power to conduct investigations, made pluralism among members a requirement, committed to build the Commission's human and financial resources, and established a five-year tenure for its Commissioners. These provisions contribute in making the NCDH complying with the Paris Principles.
4. The UNCT remains committed to and continues to provide technical and financial assistance to build institutional capacity of national and local institutions with mandates on good governance and human rights, including through the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

¹ UN entities that contributed to this joint submission are UNICEF, UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNHCR and UNOHCHR-Eastern Africa Regional Office (non-resident).

5. The UNCT, through the collaborative efforts of OHCHR-Eastern Africa Regional Office (OHCHR-EARO), UNDP, and other UN partners remains committed to build the capacity of CNDH, Minister of Justice, Penitentiary Affairs and Human Rights (MoJ) and other stakeholders to promote and safeguard human rights, with a particular focus on building their capacity to undertake human rights monitoring, analysis and reporting, as well as following-up on the implementation of human rights recommendations and concluding observations of international and regional human rights mechanisms.
6. The UNCT, with the support of OHCHR-EARO, has been assisting the government of Djibouti to meet its reporting obligations to the UN Human Rights Mechanisms as well as follow up of recommendations over the years. An inter-ministerial committee coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, operating on ad hoc basis, has been in charge of handling the reporting portfolio in Djibouti to date. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Djibouti recently requested OHCHR's support to establish a Standing National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow Up, in line with the technical assistance request made by the Government during its 2nd national Report under the Universal Periodic Review. OHCHR and UNDP, in collaboration with relevant members of the UNCT, are providing dedicated support towards the same.

Recommendations

The UNCT encourages that the GoD:

- To redouble efforts to ensure that CNDH becomes fully compliant with the Paris Principles.
- Continue collaborating with UNCT and other partners to enhance the capacity of relevant State entities, including law enforcement organs, to undertake their duties in line with international human rights standards.

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

A. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person

1. Among others, article 10 of the Constitution recognises the sacredness of the human person and guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of the person for all. It also upholds the principle of presumption of innocence and the right of defense, including that of assistance by an attorney of one's own choice. Yet, rights relating to sexual and reproductive health are not accorded with constitutional protection in both the 1992 and 2010 Constitution.
2. With respect to right to life, liberty, security and integrity of the person stipulated in Article 10 of the 2010 Constitution, the implementation of the Second Cycle UPR recommendations related to harmful traditional practices, including FGM (143.82, 143.83, 143.84, 143.85, 143.87, 143.88, 143.89, 143.90, 143.9, 143.92, 143.93), the UNCT commends the commitment of the GoD to develop a five-year strategy for the acceleration of efforts to abandon FGM, with the support and collaboration of UNICEF and UNFPA in 2017, which, in comparison with the previous strategy, pursues a rights-based and multi-faceted approach to end FGM, prioritizes prevention and care for victims of FGM, including through the adoption of legislation, provision of services and community mobilization to change social norms.
3. While some progress has been made, the continued widespread of harmful traditional practices, including FGM (78% of women of all ages and 29% of girls aged 0-9) is of concern.

Recommendations:

The UNCT encourages the GoD to:

- Step up the implementation of the 2017 five-year strategy to end FGM and other harmful traditional practices, including through allocation of sufficient human and capital resources.

- Pay particular attention to eliminate the least severe form of FGM, known as Sunna, and ensure systematic data collection to monitor results, especially regarding the gradual change in social norms.

Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

1. With respect to the implementation of the Second Cycle UPR recommendations to establish a juvenile justice system (143.107), the UNCT commends the GoD for adopting the 2015 Child Protection Code, which provides for, inter alia, alternative measures to detention, the use of mediation in cases of children accused of committing a crime and the use of detention as the last resort. A juvenile court with one judge has also been established.
2. The UNCT commends and remains ready to support the continued commitment of the GoD to harmonize the national legal and policy framework on children's rights in line with the Beijing Rules and the Riyadh Guidelines.
3. The UNCT commends the legal amendments done in 2014 regulating the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) of Djibouti created in 2008 to make it more compatible with the Paris Principles, providing the commission with independence from the government, giving investigative powers, pluralism among their members and appropriate human and financial resources.

Recommendation

- The UNCT encourages the GoD to take measures towards the implementation of the 2015 Child Protection Code, including putting in place by-laws and child-friendly procedural safeguards as well as developing Standard Operating Procedures/referral pathways to enforce provisions on alternative measures to detention.
- The UNCT encourages the GoD to issue the State's Party Report of the CRC (due since 31/10/2012), the CRC-OP-AC (due since 27/5/2013) and CRC-OP-SC (due since 27/5/2013).
- The UNCT encourages the GoD to issue the State party report under CAT - LoIPR (due since 25/11/2015).

Freedom of opinion and expression

1. The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression under art. 15. The Freedom of Communication Law protects the right of “everyone to create and freely use the media of their choice, to express their thoughts by communicating to others, or to access the expression of the thoughts of others”.
2. The UNCT commends the GoD to create National Communication Commission in March 2016, mandated to regulate radio, television and other broadcasting operators.
3. Yet, despite the Second Cycle UPR recommendations that enjoyed the support of the GoD to adopt legislation around the freedom of information, and create a legislative framework favoring the establishment of media (143.114, and 144.11), media freedoms are constrained and outlets continue to be state-owned and state-run.
4. While the Second Cycle UPR recommended for the Penal Code on defamation to be brought in line with international standards (144.12), defamation continues to be criminalized.

Recommendations:

The UNCT encourages the GoD to:

- Support the review and amendment of all legislation governing media freedom to conform to international standards as provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the ICCPR and other regional instruments.
- Decriminalize the defamation law and subsequently incorporate it into the civil code in accordance with international standards.
- Develop a freedom of information law in line with international standards.

Right to Marriage and family life

1. Rights relating to marriage and family life are governed by the Family Code of 2002, which is based on customary, Islamic and civil law regimes. These determine, among others, the legal age for marriage as well as the rights of spouses in marriage.

2. With respect to the implementation of the Second Cycle UPR recommendations to end early marriage (144.3, 143.61, 143.84), more remains to be done considering the rate of child marriage at national level stands at 8%, and as high as 20% in regions such as Arta and Dikhil. While the Family Code generally does not allow marriage below 18, marriage between minors aged above 16 is possible with the guardians'/parents' consent.
3. The UNCT commends the commitment of the GoD to revise the Family Code which is to be brought in line with principles of the equality of sexes and the empowerment of women.

Recommendations:

The UNCT encourages the GoD:

- To amend provision of the Family Code which stipulate the role of the man as head of the family to eliminate patriarchal and gender stereotypes, the unequal inheritance share of woman, as well as the disposals relating to marriage (the 18-year majority test - the principle of the emancipation of the minor) and the dissolution of the marriage in line with international standards.
- In addition to taking measures to end early marriage and pregnancy of minors, amend the Family Code to provide adequate protections to minors who get married following an unwanted pregnancy, especially given the prevalence of the practice and its impact on the Government's effort in combatting violence against women.
- Issue the State's Party Report of CEDAW (due since 1/7/2015). The Family Code takes due consideration of the crucial need to end child marriage in all its forms in line with international standards and Djibouti's human rights obligations.
- Take adequate measures, in collaboration with partners, to increase education and mobilization of girls, boys, parents, media, religious and community leaders to change discriminatory social norms, in particular harmful gender stereotypes on the girls' role in society, with particular focus in rural parts of the country.
- Take adequate measures to ensure all girls, especially married girls' rights to legal remedies, including protection from sexual violence and abuse, access to sexual and

reproductive health services to prevent early pregnancy, and legal recourse to void or leave child marriages, with particular focus in rural parts of the country.

B. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Djiboutian Constitution makes no reference to economic social and cultural rights.

Right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work

1. The UNCT commends GoD for the development of a gender-sensitive National Employment Policy 2014-2024, which also puts strong emphasis on social protection of workers. The UNCT collaborated with relevant organs of the GoD to promote decent job creation and livelihood with the view to enhance access to job opportunities by women and other vulnerable groups.
2. The UNCT, through UNDP, in collaboration with GoD, supported, on a pilot basis, 140 women and men to enter the private sector to gain professional expertise, out of whom 66 succeeded in getting employed. This initiative is being replicated for another cohort of 140 women and men.

Right to social security and adequate standard of living

1. The UNCT commends the development of a National Safety-net Strategy, in 2012, in collaboration with and support of the World Bank; and the GoD's ongoing commitment to develop another strategy for 2018-2022. The UNCT also commends the introduction of a universal health insurance scheme and the National Family Solidarity Programme.
2. Yet, strategies for targeting beneficiaries remain insufficiently developed, a policy for national social protection is yet to be put in place, and the social workforce to implement social protection interventions remains inadequate. In particular, safety-nets and sectoral budgets are planned with limited analysis of how they can impact the lives of children and women. Regarding the latter, the UNCT commends the ongoing discussions to upscaling safety nets to a full-fledged social protection system.

3. Recommendations:

The UNCT encourages the GoD:

- To ensure that the national social protection programmes adequately address the needs and interests of children and promote positive family caregiving practices, including on health and nutrition.
- To undertake initiatives aimed at analysis on child-focused budgeting, in collaboration with and support of the UNCT, through UNICEF.

Rights to food and water

1. Djibouti is party to the Maputo and Malabo Declarations, which require State parties to take steps towards increasing food production and stimulate the primary sector development. Nevertheless, around 200,000 people are still chronically food insecure (IPC phases 3 and 4) in the country. The right to food and nutrition is not expressly guaranteed in the Constitution nor in the country's legal framework.
2. The UNCT is implementing several programmes aimed at increasing the country's adaptation to climate change by investing on water harvesting and the introducing oasis shaded gardens to rural population. The UNCT promoted access of marginalized groups in sub-urban areas to water and basic services. Although there are steps taken to increase accessibility and availability of water to the population, including through the recently inaugurated water adduction system from Ethiopia, water scarcity in rural areas remains a critical challenge.

Recommendations

The UNCT recommends that the GoD:

- Takes concrete steps to fulfil the commitments of the Maputo and Malabo declarations to increase food production and stimulate primary sector development.
- Adopt and enact appropriate legislative framework which protects the right to food and nutrition.
- Takes measures to effectively address water scarcity in rural areas.

Right to health

1. Rights relating to sexual and reproductive health are not constitutionally protected.

2. The UNCT commends the GoD for enacting sets of laws and decrees which address a number of sexual and reproductive health issues over the years, namely the Law on Health Policy (Act No. 48/AN/99/4thL); the Act on the establishment of the National Institute of Public Health in Djibouti (Act No. 99/AN/10/6thL); the law establishing a national referral center for reproductive health "Housseina" (Law No. 106/AN/10/6thL).
3. The article 116 of Act No.48/AN/99/4th L on the *Guidance of Health Policy* highlights the focus areas for the health policy for mothers, including: reproductive health and family planning; screening for sexually transmitted diseases; prevention of early pregnancies and clandestine abortions; regular monitoring of pregnancies; management of pregnancies at risk; deliveries in a controlled environment, with the assistance of qualified personnel; nutritional and health education for pregnant women and preschool children; the compulsory health record for mothers, infants and children of pre-school age; promotion of breastfeeding; education campaigns on female genital mutilation and the social protection of the mother.
4. These actions are integrated and adapted to the different levels of the health pyramid, from the Health Center to the Hospitals. They are supported by several national UN funded programs.
5. The UNCT, through UNDP, in partnership with Global Fund to fight HIV, TB and Malaria supported the GoD to decentralize health services up to health posts, increase accessibility and put in place mobile units/clinics and to assure that all the services related to the three diseases are provided free of charge. The UNCT, through UNDP, provided support in strengthening the health system, developing capacity of health care providers, and procurement of health products and pharmaceuticals for TB, HIV and Malaria.
6. A national Policy on Family Planning has been developed with the assistance of the UNCT and is expected to be implemented shortly.
7. With respect to the implementation of the Second Cycle UPR recommendation to continue efforts related to the right to health of children (143.72), the UNCT commends the introduction of universal insurance coverage, which provides free access to primary healthcare in rural areas and that several basic services, including antenatal care, vaccination, are free across the country. The UNCT also commends the commitment of the

GoD to closely work with UNCT, through UNICEF, towards the policies and strategies that aim to provide for an enabling environment for healthcare interventions for women and children, delivering a package of basic services to prevent and treat childhood diseases and in conducting social and behavior change interventions to promote healthy and hygienic behaviors.

8. However, despite ongoing weekly medical ‘caravans’ organized by the Minister of Health in rural areas, concerns remain around malnutrition as stunting among children under five continue, with rates reaching above 40 per cent in the Dikhil, Obock and Tadjoura. The UNCT is also concerned vaccination services are not adequately accessible, particularly in rural parts of the country.
9. The UNCT is discussing with the Ministry of Health to include refugees into the national health system and the national health insurance plan. Additional funds are needed in order to provide quality care for refugees and asylum-seekers and to cover the high costs resulting from numerous referral cases to the hospitals in Djibouti-city, for chronic diseases or surgery. There is also a need to renew medical equipment such as beds and laboratory equipment in the camp-based health centers.

Recommendation:

The UNCT recommends that the GoD:

- To continue taking steps aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of data on the health sector, through regular national household surveys as well as its Health Management Information System.
- To fully integrate refugees and asylum-seekers into the national health system, and improve the quality of health services they can access; and improve the quality of medical equipment and facilities for refugees and asylum-seekers in the camp-based health centers.

Right to education

1. With respect to the implementation of the Second Cycle UPR recommendations to promote and protect the right to education of children (143.72, 143.131, 143.132, 143.135), the UNCT commends the development of a new Education Sector Plan (2017-2019), with the

support of and collaboration with the UNCT, through UNICEF. The plans aims at, among others, further developing pre-school education, increase access to education, particularly at secondary level, and measures to promote equitable access to education (including school canteens, free textbooks in rural areas, extension of dormitories in secondary schools, etc.).

7. The UNCT also commends GoD's commitment to adopt a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework which includes the integration of refugee children into the national education system. The UNCT, under the coordination of UNHCR, continues to provide technical support to the Government's efforts to ensure refugee children's access to education. The Ministry of Education and UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 28 August 2017, whereby the Ministry took over the responsibility for education in the refugee camps. The refugees will follow the national curriculum, translated into English. At the moment this only applies to the First Grade students, but will gradually be implemented for all grades. With the Ministry taking over this responsibility, the refugees will obtain recognized certificates. The Ministry has started translating the textbooks and other teaching materials into English.
8. However, the lack of specific measures for children from nomadic communities, migrant and street children who are a significant part of the population that is out of school, is of concern. Furthermore, children without birth certificates, including refugee children, particularly in urban areas, are unable to access formal schooling or to take exams. Poor quality of teaching and learning achievement remain challenges due to inadequate teacher training and high drop-out rates, the majority of whom are those with special needs, children from nomadic communities, girls in rural areas, children from vulnerable families, and migrant and refugee children. Efforts should be taken to facilitate access to school for refugees and asylum-seekers who are unable to access or afford birth certificates.

Recommendation

The UNCT recommends that the GoD:

- Conduct of further studies to identify out-of-school children and the introduction of targeted measures to enable all children, regardless of their gender, social status and origin, to enjoy their right to education in line with international standards.

- Continue integrating refugees and asylum-seeking children into the national curricula at all levels, regardless of their ability to afford or access official birth registration documents

Right to Development and Environmental Issues

1. The UNCT commends the GoD for aligning the SDGs with the newly developed national development strategy namely “Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée pour la Promotion de l’Emploi (SCAPE) 2015-2019. It also commends GoD efforts to formulate the Climate Change Strategy, which is being finalized, with UNCT support. The strategy aims at reducing energy consumption and increase energy efficiency, implementing a systematic solid-waste management in sustainable cities, improve health and reduce pollution, and promote sustainable practices in agriculture. The UNCT further commends the GoD for efforts aimed at formulating the first ever country’s Civil Code, which is expected to be adopted by end of 2017, which includes provisions for the ‘repair of environmental prejudice’.
2. While efforts to increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth pulled by investment in tertiary sector are commendable, these are yet to translate into poverty reduction. The percentage of relative and absolute national poverty levels are 79.4% and 41.9% (2012 - EDAM3-IS), respectively. The poverty level is worse for women and people living rural areas as shown below:

	Djibouti-city		Elsewhere in the country		Countrywide	
	Men%	Women%	Men%	Women%	Men%	Women%
Extreme Poverty	31.10	28.40	72.70	71.30	41.80	41.90
Relative Poverty	73.30	76.90	93.80	95.10	78.60	82.60

3. Protection and restoration of natural resources is one of the contributing factors to the economic development in rural areas. There have been significant investments (more than 1.2 billion USD, according to the Rapport national sur la resilience à la sécheresse), mainly from donors, to protect natural productive assets. However, due to persistent harsh environmental conditions, repeated droughts and lack of coordinated efforts, only modest progress could be achieved in attaining durable results, including in the areas of job creation

and poverty eradication in rural areas. Private sector participation in rural economic development is also minimal.

Recommendations:

- UNCT recommends that the government improve coordination mechanisms and promote private sector investments, including in the primary sector, through an appropriate legal and institutional framework.

C. Rights of specific persons or groups

Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons

- Djibouti continues to be a transit area for migrants aiming to reach the Gulf countries, with significant numbers of unaccompanied minors. While some of these children opt for voluntary repatriation, others are unable or unwilling to return to their countries of origin due to family problems, peer pressure or insecurity. Many of them end up living in the streets where they are vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. As migrant children usually do not have birth certificates, they are unable to access formal education and other social services. While they can access services provided by NGOs such as Caritas, which provides basic health, hygiene, psychosocial and education services, the Government currently has limited services for unaccompanied migrant children. The UNCT, through UNICEF, continues to advocate for and build GoD's capacity to addressing challenges unaccompanied migrant children face.
- As of 31 August 2017, the total population of refugees in Djibouti stood at 27,618 persons (18,685 refugees and 8,933 asylum seekers), of which 48 per cent are Somalis, 31 per cent Ethiopians, 16 per cent Yemenis, 4 per cent Eritreans and 1 per cent other nationalities. Women and children account for 73 per cent of the total. The majority (80 per cent) of the population of concern lives in three camps and 20 per cent is in urban areas.
- Until the end of 2016, refugee matters have been regulated by means of administrative decrees. However, on 5 January 2017, the Djibouti Head of State promulgated the National Refugee Law, which had been adopted by the Parliament in December 2016. The law ensures a favorable protection environment for refugees and enables them to enjoy

fundamental rights, including access to services and to education, employment and naturalization, among the others.

9. Regarding refugee status determination (RSD) procedures, the National Eligibility Committee (NEC) was established in 1977 for this purpose. While the NEC did not hold any sessions from 2005-2012, it was reactivated in 2013. Two sessions were convened in 2016 and a total of 110 Eritrean asylum claims were decided upon positively. In 2016, a total of 220 individuals (38 cases) departed for resettlement to the United States of America, out of which 32 individuals (7 cases) were Ethiopian and 188 individuals (31 cases) were Somali nationals. While the number of cases decided by the NEC has risen from 32 in 2013 to 83 in 2015 and 79 in 2016, there remains a backlog of 8,578 asylum claims, mostly from Ethiopians, whose cases are pending RSD procedures. The NEC is comprised of seven members who are top government officials. Many of them have either been promoted to other functions or retired and thus no longer available. Due to unavailability of its members, the NEC was not able to meet in 2017. Furthermore, there is no appeal procedure in place for asylum-seekers whose claims have been rejected at the first instance. The *National Refugee Law* foresees an appeal mechanism, which will be detailed in a Decree that is currently under preparation. The UNCT, through UNHCR, continues to advocate for a fully functional NEC.

10. The UNCT commends that Djibouti maintains an open-door policy and continues to offer protection and asylum space to refugees and asylum-seekers. In particular, Djibouti grants prima facie refugee status to Yemeni and Somali asylum-seekers originating from South and Central Somalia. Newly arrived asylum-seekers from Ethiopia and Eritrea follow individual refugee status determination procedures. Furthermore, at the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016, the Government of Djibouti committed to the importance of education for refugees and the inclusion of refugees into the national health care and insurance system. However, following a terrorist attack in May 2014 by Al-Shabaab, the Somali-Djiboutian border has been officially closed, hence asylum-seekers are obliged to enter the country through unofficial border points, putting their lives at risk. In addition, the Eritrean-Djiboutian border is also officially closed and Eritrean asylum-seekers are obliged to enter the country via military checkpoints.

11. Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendation no. 143.108: “Take the necessary measures to ensure easy and effective access to the free birth register, especially for those births outside hospitals”, as of 2013, the Government of Djibouti started issuing birth certificates to all children born to refugees and asylum-seekers residing in the three refugee camps. Civil birth registration takes place outside of the camps in government structures (“Prefecture”) where refugees and nationals obtain birth certificates. Refugees residing in urban areas have to initiate the birth registration process and cover the costs themselves. Many refugees in Djibouti city are not aware of this and not able to cover the expenses. Therefore, not all refugee children born in Djibouti city have a birth certificate. Most urban refugees are, consequentially, unable to attend school due to lack of a birth certificate. Many asylum-seekers continue giving birth at home and not in one of the hospitals, hence they are left without a birth notification, which is required to obtain a birth certificate. Another impediment is the fact that refugees need to pay \$6 USD to obtain a birth certificate, which many cannot afford.
12. Given the socio-economic context, with unemployment reaching 40 per cent in Djibouti, local integration is an extremely limited option for many of the refugees. Most of the refugees originate from countries where insecurity persists. Resettlement and voluntary repatriation thus remain the only viable options at the moment.

Recommendation:

The UNCT encourages the GoD to:

- Take steps to sign and ratify the International Convention on Protection of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
- Strengthen services for unaccompanied migrant children and to enable migrant children to be integrated into existing social services, including through the strengthening of child and social protection mechanisms that are sensitive to the needs of migrant children.
- Establish a mechanism for the issuance of late birth certificates (jugements supplétifs) for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Increase awareness amongst the urban refugee communities on the importance to register their new born within the two-days period required by law.

- Reduce or eliminate the cost of obtaining a birth certificate to facilitate the access of refugees and asylum-seekers to birth certificates.
- Increase the number of hearings carried out by the NEC in order to speed up the RSD process and clear the backlog of pending asylum claims and develop and implement an appeal procedure that is in line with international standards and made available to asylum-seekers whose RSD claims are rejected in the first instance.
- Reopen the Loyada border to allow asylum-seekers to enter Djibouti without harassment, and in full respect of the principle of *non-refoulement*.
- Take efforts to improve prospects for local integration, including by enhancing livelihoods and means of self-sufficiency for refugees and asylum-seekers who are unable to benefit from resettlement or voluntary repatriation. This include the development and promotion of livelihoods and activities aimed at fostering self-sufficiency.