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Togo

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Introduction

1. The submission of the present report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review reflects the willingness of the Government of Togo to continue engaging in a constructive and fruitful dialogue with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. During the previous review in 2016, 195 recommendations were made. Of those, 167 were accepted and 28 were noted. Of the recommendations that were accepted, 26 were already being implemented at the time.

2. After the second cycle review of Togo, the Government took the following steps:

- Communication to the Council of Ministers
- Presentation and dissemination of the recommendations to all stakeholders in regional capitals
- Preparation of an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations that had been accepted
- Preparation and submission of a midterm report

3. Various initiatives, including the harmonization of legislation with instruments ratified by Togo and the adoption of national and sectoral policies and programmes, have been undertaken in order to implement the recommendations that were accepted and strengthen cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

4. In addition, the Government of the Togolese Republic has taken various measures in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in accordance with Act No. 2020-005 of 30 March 2020 whereby the National Assembly authorized the Government to take measures falling within the scope of the Act by ordinance. This authorization allowed the Government to take urgent and medium-term measures, in line with its “Three R’s: Response, Resilience and Recovery” strategy, in order to minimize the negative impacts of the pandemic and ensure the exercise of individual and collective freedoms and the enjoyment of political, social, economic and cultural rights.

5. The Government of Togo welcomes the constructive engagement of its technical and financial partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Organization of la Francophonie (IOF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the European Union and friendly countries.

I. Methodology and process for preparing the report

6. The report was prepared in a participatory and inclusive manner.

7. The process started with an announcement to the Council of Ministers about the universal periodic review process. The process was coordinated by the Ministry responsible for human rights and was led by the Interministerial Committee for Reporting and Follow-up to Recommendations on Human Rights, which organized national consultations with the National Human Rights Commission and other State institutions, decentralized services and local authorities, traditional chiefs, civil society organizations, trade unions, the private sector and the media, through around 10 regional and national workshops.

II. Implementation of accepted recommendations

A. Cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms (recommendation 128.37)

1. Reports presented

8. Fifth periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (2021)

- Third periodic report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2019)
- Combined sixth to eighth periodic reports under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (2018)
- Combined eighteenth and nineteenth periodic reports under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (November 2016)

2. Reports submitted

9. Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2019)

- Initial report under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2019).

3. Visits conducted by special procedure mandate holders

10. Visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences (2019).

B. Acceptance of international standards (recommendations 128.1, 128.15, 128.16, 128.9, 128.10, 128.11, 128.12, 128.13, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8 and 128.14)

11. The Togolese Republic is a party to the nine main United Nations instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights.

C. General framework for the protection of human rights at the national level

1. Normative framework

Changes to the Constitution (recommendation 130.10)

12. Act No. 2019-003 of 15 May 2019 amending the Constitution of 14 October 1992 includes provisions that embed the abolition of the death penalty and of life imprisonment in the Constitution; change and limit the terms of office of deputies and senators; allow for the legitimacy of the Presidents and Bureaux of the National Assembly and the Senate to be reviewed periodically; extend the duration of parliamentary sessions; limit the term of office of the President of the Republic; establish that the President should be elected through a two-round single-member election; improve the status of former Presidents; alter the composition of the Constitutional Court and limit the term of office of its members; affirm the principle that Constitutional Court proceedings should involve the participation of both parties; establish regional courts of auditors and change the way in which the national Court of Auditors operates; clarify the responsibilities of the President as the guarantor of the independence of the judiciary; modify the composition, responsibilities and functioning of the Supreme Council of Justice; establish the jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice over former Presidents and members of the Government and extend the list of authorities that are required to declare their property and assets to the Ombudsman.

Legislative amendments (recommendations 128.87 and 128.136)

- Act No. 2021-021 of 11 October 2021 amending the Act establishing the conditions for the exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly and protest
- Act No. 2021-020 of 11 October 2021 amending Act No. 207-011 of 13 March 2007 on decentralization and local freedoms
- Act No. 2021-019 of 11 October 2021 amending Act No. 2012-002 of 29 May 2012 on the Electoral Code

- Organic Act No. 2021-015 of 3 August 2021 amending Organic Act No. 2018-006 of 20 June 2018 on the National Human Rights Commission
- Act No. 2021-012 of 18 June 2021 on the Labour Code
- Organic Act No. 2020-003 of 24 January 2020, as amended by Act No. 2021-013 of 1 June 2021, on the rules governing the declaration of property and assets by high-ranking officials, senior civil servants and other public officials
- Act No. 2021-007 of 21 April 2021 on the Code of Civil Procedure
- Act No. 2021-005 of 1 April 2021 on the computerization of the national criminal record system
- Organic Act No. 2021-006 of 1 April 2021 establishing the composition, organization and functioning of the Office of the Ombudsman
- Act No. 2020-007 of 26 June 2020 on school meals
- Act No. 2020-006 of 10 June 2020 on the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Act No. 2020-001 of 7 January 2020 on the Press and Communications Code
- Act No. 2020-002 of 7 January 2020 amending Act No. 2018-028 of 10 December 2018 establishing commercial courts
- Organic Act No. 2019-023 of 26 December 2019 on the Constitutional Court
- Act No. 2019-015 of 30 October 2019 on the Judicial Code
- Act No. 2019-016 of 30 October 2019 on the rules governing audiovisual communication
- Act No. 2019-014 of 29 October 2019 on the protection of personal data
- Act No. 2019-009 of 12 August 2019 on internal security
- Act No. 2019-010 of 12 August 2019 amending Act No. 2011-010 of 16 May 2011 establishing the conditions for the exercise of freedom of peaceful public assembly and protest
- Act No. 2019-006 of 26 June 2019 amending Act No. 2007-011 of 13 March 2007 on decentralization and local freedoms, as amended by Act No. 2018-003 of 31 January 2018
- Act No. 2019-005 of 17 June 2019 on the Investment Code
- Organic Act No. 2018-029 of 10 December 2018 amending Organic Act No. 2004-021 of 15 December 2004 on the High Audiovisual and Communications Authority
- Act No. 2018-026 of 7 December 2018 on cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime
- Act No. 2018-024 of 9 November 2018 on the Tax Code
- Act No. 2018-010 of 8 August 2018 on promoting the production of electricity from renewable energy sources in Togo
- Act No. 2018-005 of 14 June 2018 on the Land and Property Code
- Uniform Act No. 2018-004 of 4 May 2018 on combating money-laundering and terrorist financing in States members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union

Regulations

- Decree No. 2021-032/PR of 24 March 2021 turning the National Police Academy into the Security Forces Training College and establishing the responsibilities, organization and functioning of the new entity
- Decree No. 2021-044/PR of 29 April 2021 on the implementation of the law on the criminal record system

- Decree No. 2021-038/PR of 14 April 2021 on the organization and functioning of the Office of the Ombudsman
- Decree No. 2020-111/PR of 9 December 2020 on the organization and functioning of the Personal Data Protection Authority
- Decree No. 2019-125/PR of 18 September 2019 on the responsibilities, organization and functioning of the State Inspectorate
- Decree No. 2019-076/PR of 15 May 2019 on the organization and functioning of the Interministerial Committee for Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism
- Decree No. 2019-026/PR of 20 February 2019 on the responsibilities, organization and functioning of the Finance Inspectorate
- Decree No. 2019-097/PR of 8 July 2019 on the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct in Public Procurement
- Decree No. 2018-128/PR of 3 August 2018 on the establishment, responsibilities, composition and functioning of the National Committee for the Coordination of Activities to Combat Money-Laundering and Terrorist Financing
- Decree No 2018-034/PR of 27 February 2018 establishing legal advice centres
- Decree No. 2018-130/PR of 28 August 2018 on the status of civil servants in the field of education

2. Institutional framework (recommendation 128.95)

13. Progress in the area of democratic governance has resulted in the establishment and strengthening of various constitutional institutions:

- Completion of the process launched in 2019 to ensure that the Economic and Social Council is operational
- Change of membership of the National Assembly in 2018, the Constitutional Court in 2019 and the National Human Rights Commission in 2019
- Election of mayors and municipal councillors in 2019
- Re-election of the President of the Republic in 2020
- Strengthening of the independence of all institutions through Act No. 2019-003 of 15 May 2019 amending the Constitution of 1992

14. The State Secretariat for Human Rights regained the status of a ministry in 2019, becoming the Ministry of Human Rights, Civic Education and Relations with State Institutions.

3. Human rights-based strategies and approaches (recommendations 128.30, 128.31, 128.32, 128.34, 128.35, 128.99 and 128.104)

15. Togo has a public policy on human rights and the consolidation of democracy, which serves as a human rights framework for the Government. Programme 2 of the policy is focused on strengthening measures for the implementation and protection of human rights in Togo.

16. This programme has been incorporated into strategic focus 3 of the 2018–2022 National Development Plan, which relates to the consolidation of social development and the strengthening of inclusion mechanisms.

D. Policy measures

1. Ratification of international human rights instruments (recommendations 128.1, 128.2, 128.3, 128.4, 128.5, 128.6, 128.7, 128.8, 128.9, 128.10, 128.11, 128.12, 128.13, 128.14, 128.15, 128.16, 129.1, 129.2, 129.3 and 129.4)

17. The Togolese Republic has ratified the following instruments:

- 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (2021)
- 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (2021)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2020)
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa (2021)
- African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection

2. Harmonization of national legislation with the instruments ratified by Togo (recommendations 128.18, 128.22, 129.5, 129.6 and 129.11)

18. Togo has begun to make amendments to its legislation in order to better incorporate international human rights standards, as mentioned above (normative and institutional frameworks).

3. Strengthening of national human rights institutions (recommendations 129.7, 129.8, 129.9 and 129.10)

19. The National Human Rights Commission is an independent constitutional body that is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights (Constitution, art. 153). It is subject only to the Constitution and the law (Constitution, art. 152).

20. It is regulated by Organic Act No. 2021-015 of 3 August 2021 amending Organic Act No. 2018-006 of 20 June 2018. Article 7 of the Act states that candidacies for the Commission must be independent and individual.

21. This Act strengthens the independence of the Commission, thus enabling it to maintain its A status for compliance with the Paris Principles.

4. Capacity-building for judicial personnel (recommendation 128.94)

22. In 2017, 167 members of the judiciary received training on the fight against torture.

- In 2017 and 2018, 95 prison officers attended two in-service training courses on respect for human rights in prison settings.
- In November 2020 and March 2021, two further training courses were organized, in partnership with the Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (Network of Associations against Impunity in Togo), to provide prison officers with the means to respect the rights of prisoners.
- Two capacity-building sessions were organized for members of the defence and security forces on the prevention of violence in the context of law enforcement.
- Various capacity-building sessions have been organized for clerks, secretaries of public prosecutors' offices and senior police officers.

23. Since the Judicial Careers Training Centre was set up, it has seen a gradual increase in the human and material resources available to it. Thanks to grants from the State and partners, its budget rose from 202,255,550 CFA francs (CFAF) in 2017 to CFAF 241,172,297 in 2020.

5. Promotion of cooperation with human rights mechanisms

24. Togo has been a member of the Human Rights Council since 2016. It responds regularly to questionnaires sent out by special procedure mandate holders as part of the preparation of their reports.

6. Human rights training and education (recommendations 128.23, 128.24, 128.36, 128.68, 128.113, 128.116 and 128.124)

25. Human rights are included in the new civic and moral education curricula that are followed by primary and secondary schools and technical and vocational training institutes.

26. Human rights modules that were initially taught in law and political science faculties have now been incorporated into the courses taught in other faculties.

27. Human rights are part of the initial and in-service training provided to members of the defence and security forces. The Ministry responsible for human rights provided training for teachers on human rights in 2019 and training for inspectors on civic and moral education in 2018. In 2018 and 2019, as part of a project aimed at building the capacities of human rights defenders to monitor the implementation of recommendations made during the universal periodic review or by treaty bodies, the Ligue Togolaise des Droits de l'Homme (Togolese Human Rights League) organized five training and awareness-raising workshops for human rights defenders on their role.

28. In 2017, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture provided training on the prevention of torture to human rights defenders.

29. In the Maritime Region in 2018, the National Human Rights Commission conducted visits to a series of schools to raise awareness of children's rights and held a discussion on the exercise of freedom of public assembly and protest with representatives of civil society organizations, trade unions, village development committees and neighbourhood development committees.

30. Between 2017 and 2019, the Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre provided training to 180 human rights defenders and 17 journalists as part of a project aimed at professionalizing the work of human rights defenders.

7. Equality and non-discrimination (recommendations 128.50 and 128.52)

(a) Measures to ensure gender equality (recommendations 128.20, 128.38, 128.40, 128.44, 128.47, 128.51, 128.81, 129.16 and 130.3)

31. The 2011 National Policy on Gender Equality and Gender Equity and the corresponding action plan, which was updated in July 2019 to include an implementation strategy, serve as a framework for all action taken for the advancement of women in Togo.

32. Gender equality is enshrined in articles 2 and 11 of the Constitution. In collaboration with several partners, the Government is undertaking numerous initiatives to promote gender equality:

- Implementation of a project involving the establishment of trained peer educator clubs in the fields of political leadership, peace and development. A total of 591 women have been trained since 2016.
- Development and implementation of two national programmes on women's leadership, the first relating to the political sphere and the second to the professional sphere, with a view to increasing access to leadership roles for women working in the public and private sectors, in order to improve the performance of institutions.
- Promotion of women in State institutions, government agencies and so on.

(b) Combating harmful cultural practices (recommendations 128.56, 128.59, 128.60, 128.79, 129.14 and 129.17)

33. There is a legal framework (comprising the Constitution, the new Criminal Code, the Persons and Family Code and the Children's Code) that protects against harmful cultural practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, levirate marriage and sororate marriage.

8. Right to life and security of person

(a) Trafficking in persons (recommendations 128.20, 128.58, 128.61, 129.20, 130.2 and 130.6)

34. Trafficking in persons is defined and established as a punishable offence in articles 317 to 334 of the new Criminal Code, in accordance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

35. Decree No. 2021-104/PR on the establishment, responsibilities, organization and functioning of the National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Togo was adopted on 29 September 2021.

- (b) *Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (recommendations 128.21, 128.67, 128.69, 128.71 and 129.19)*

36. Torture is defined and established as a punishable offence that is not subject to any statute of limitations in article 198 of the new Criminal Code, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention against Torture.

37. The preliminary draft of the new Code of Criminal Procedure establishes the right of every accused person to be assisted by counsel at all stages of the proceedings, to be examined by a doctor of his or her choice and to communicate with a relative, in accordance with article 16 of the Constitution.

38. The National Human Rights Commission has been designated as the mechanism for the prevention of torture. The Commission's strategy for the period from 2021 to 2025, which was approved in June 2021, includes a national action plan for the prevention of torture.

9. Respect for human rights in the judiciary and the prison service

- (a) *Reform of the judiciary (recommendations 128.77, 128.82, 128.83, 128.88, 128.89, 128.90, 128.91, 128.92, 128.93 and 128.96)*

39. Several legislative and regulatory measures have been taken in order to reform the judicial system (see normative framework).

40. As regards the independence and depoliticization of the justice system, the principle of the independence of the judicial branch from the legislative and executive branches is enshrined in the Constitution (art. 113). Members of the judiciary are recruited through a competitive examination. Their career development and disciplinary matters concerning them are handled by the Supreme Council of Justice. Seventy-five per cent of the members of this body are members of the judiciary.

There are several legal provisions that protect the independence of judges. For example, judges must hand down decisions in accordance with the law and their conscience. They also enjoy security of tenure.

41. Members of the judiciary who are alleged to have engaged in corruption or other misconduct are brought before the disciplinary board of the Supreme Council of Justice. Between 2017 and 2021, 18 sanctions, ranging from warnings to disqualification, were imposed on members of the judiciary as a result of such proceedings.

42. With a view to ensuring that local justice services are provided efficiently and free of charge, the Head of State has established 14 legal advice centres. These centres offer conciliation and mediation as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Steps are being taken to set up such centres throughout the country.

43. The defence and security forces are republican and apolitical forces, pursuant to the laws in force, including article 1 of the Act on the General Status of Military Personnel and article 47 of the Act on the Special Status of the National Police.

44. As one of the measures taken to combat corruption, the toll-free number 1014 has been set up to allow members of the public to report any abuses committed by defence and security officers. Between 2016 and 2021, 33 members of the defence and security forces were brought before the courts for various offences. Every year, the Minister of Security and Civil Protection holds a press conference during which he announces any disciplinary measures taken against members of the security forces in connection with misconduct.

(b) Reform of the prison service (recommendation 128.77)

Conditions of detention (recommendations 128.70, 128.72, 128.73, 128.74, 128.75, 128.76, 128.78, 128.84 and 128.92)

45. Togo has 13 prisons and a centre for access to the law and justice for children, which was built in Lomé with the support of the European Union and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In prisons, adults are separated from children and women are separated from men.

46. Prisoners may be visited by relatives, friends and human rights defenders, subject to the regulations in force.

47. Prisoners can communicate with the outside world using the telephone booths that are available in all prisons. The prison service regularly forwards all correspondence from prisoners to the judges handling their cases. Legal clubs have been set up in all prisons to assist prisoners with the submission of requests.

48. As of June 2021, the national prison occupancy rate is 171 per cent. Pretrial detainees account for 58.79 per cent of the prison population, compared with nearly 70 per cent in 2007.

49. In order to reduce prison overcrowding and the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 1,048 inmates have been granted a presidential pardon. Other measures, such as the holding of extraordinary hearings, led to the release of more than 360 prisoners in 2017 and 2018 and a reduction in the rate of pretrial detention.

50. As far as food and health care are concerned, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in the number of meals served and an improvement in the quality of those meals. In addition, a prison hospital has been set up to limit the spread of COVID-19 among prisoners.

51. In order to prepare prisoners for reintegration into society, vocational training workshops offering activities such as sewing, hairdressing, basketwork, sculpture, shoemaking and carpentry have been set up in some prisons. In 2019, thanks to a partnership with the Lomé Trades Association, 23 inmates passed their end-of-apprenticeship examination.

52. In accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), prison staff receive regular training on the rights, health, nutritional needs and welfare of prisoners.

10. Civil and political rights*(a) Freedom of expression and opinion (recommendations 128.98, 129.22, 129.23 and 129.25)*

53. Act No. 2020-001 of 7 January 2020 on the Press and Communications Code guarantees the exercise of freedom of expression. Article 10 of the Act establishes the right of all persons to information, while articles 11 and 24 of the Act make it illegal to prevent or prohibit any media worker from having access to sources of information. The High Audiovisual and Communications Authority, an independent constitutional body, guarantees and ensures the freedom and protection of the press and other mass media.

54. The legislation on the High Audiovisual and Communications Authority as amended in 2018, the amended Press and Communications Code and the Act on cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime protect online journalists and all Internet users from illegal and arbitrary surveillance, hacking and data interception.

55. In addition, a joint observatory on public demonstrations was established in November 2017. It is composed of security officials, representatives of the National Human Rights Commission and of human rights organizations and organizers of demonstrations.

56. The role of this independent mechanism is to engage in consultations, monitoring, preventive and early warning activities and supervision of public demonstrations. It also protects media workers and human rights defenders who have been subjected to attacks, threats, intimidation, harassment or violence and facilitates their work.

57. Several training courses for the professionalization of journalists have been organized with the support of partners.

(b) *Protection of the rights of human rights defenders (recommendation 128.85)*

58. Article 4 of the Organic Act on the National Human Rights Commission, as amended, states that the Commission is responsible for the protection of human rights defenders. A law on the recognition and protection of human rights defenders is being adopted.

(c) *Democratic freedom (recommendations 128.97 and 129.24)*

59. The legal environment is conducive to the enjoyment of public freedoms.

60. Peaceful demonstrations are supervised in accordance with the law and the international standards relating to the maintenance and restoration of public order.

61. The Act establishing the conditions for the exercise of freedom of peaceful public assembly and protest, as amended in 2019, was further amended by a law adopted on 11 October 2021, in order to give full effect to the provisions of the Constitution that guarantee freedom of assembly and expression while taking into account the outcomes of the national consultations with political actors and the concerns raised by international and regional human rights mechanisms and various other partners on the amendments made in 2019.

62. It is important to note that the Togolese Government has continued to ensure the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms despite the restrictions imposed on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, restrictions on freedom of movement and assembly have consistently been applied in a geographically targeted and proportionate manner, through temporary lockdowns and curfews imposed only in areas with high infection rates. All the relevant actors have been continually consulted on and involved in the process of implementing these measures.

(d) *Fight against corruption (recommendation 128.96)*

63. Improvements to the legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks (see normative framework) have helped to prevent and combat corruption and to promote good governance.

64. The High Authority for Preventing and Combating Corruption and Related Offences has set up the toll-free number 8277 to allow anyone to report acts of corruption. A national strategy for preventing and combating corruption and related offences is being developed.

65. The Government has strengthened the roles of the national Court of Auditors, the State Inspectorate and the Finance Inspectorate, whose general and ongoing responsibilities include administrative supervision, auditing, investigation, evaluation and the promotion of good governance.

(e) *Civil registration services, including birth registration (recommendations 128.25, 128.26, 128.27, 128.28, 129.12 and 129.13)*

66. Togo has 1,139 registry offices staffed by 1,408 persons. The vast majority of these offices are located in cantons and villages and in health centres, the aim being to bring civil registration services closer to users. By Decree No. 2018-132/PR of 28 August 2018 on the reform of the civil registration system, the Government established a technical committee on civil registration with a view to providing all Togolese persons with birth certificates.

67. During a meeting of the Council of Ministers on 15 September 2021, the Minister responsible for territorial administration was instructed by the Government to continue carrying out evaluations in order to determine the practical arrangements that should be made to ensure that civil status certificates are universally available free of charge.

68. The State and its partners organize activities to raise awareness of the importance of birth registration on a regular basis.

E. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to health (recommendations 128.109, 128.110, 128.111, 128.112 and 128.117)

69. In order to improve the health of the population, Togo has adopted a national health development plan for 2017–2022, in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, including the target of achieving universal health coverage. This plan comprises five strategic lines of action for combating disease and accelerating the reduction of maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality.

70. The measures taken to improve maternal and child health include the development of integrated community-based maternal and newborn care, the prevention of child malnutrition, the promotion of emergency obstetric and neonatal care, the stepping up of family planning activities, the prevention and free treatment of severe malaria in pregnant women and children, the free provision of antiretroviral drugs, vaccines and insecticide-treated mosquito nets to women and children, and the provision of services via mobile clinics in underserved areas since 2018.

71. Maternal and infant mortality in Togo dropped from 39 per cent of live births in 2010 to 27 per cent in 2014 (according to the 2014 demographic and health survey), thanks to the development and implementation of several plans and programmes, including:

- A project to strengthen the health system, focusing on reproductive health and sexual rights, with support from the German Agency for International Cooperation
- A project to improve maternal and neonatal health, funded through the Muskoka Initiative: Maternal, Newborn and Under-Five Child Health

72. As a result of these efforts, the rate of maternal and neonatal deaths from direct obstetric causes in health-care facilities fell from 1.74 per cent in 2019 to 1.3 per cent in 2020, while the target set in the National Health Development Plan was 1.72 per cent (2020 performance report of the Ministry of Health, Hygiene and Universal Access to Health Care).

73. In addition, the Government has just launched the following programmes and projects:

- A programme for the provision of support to pregnant women and newborns, in 2021
- A project on ensuring access to quality essential health-care services in order to achieve universal health coverage, for the period 2021–2026

74. The budget allocated to the Ministry of Health for the implementation of such activities increased by CFAF 40.55 billion (48.45 per cent) between 2019 and 2020, from CFAF 83.691 billion in 2019 (6.78 per cent of the overall State budget) to CFAF 124.235 billion in 2020 (9.51 per cent of the overall State budget).

75. The Ministry of Health has adopted a plan for the development of human resources for health for 2016–2020 and a training plan for 2019–2022. During the period under review, eight new training colleges were established.

76. In the fight against HIV/AIDS, particular emphasis has been placed on the following:

- Free comprehensive care for people living with HIV
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Delegation of the provision of antiretroviral treatment to people living with HIV to midwives, nurses and birth attendants at centres for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission
- HIV prevention through awareness-raising, counselling and screening of women of childbearing age and pregnant women and their partners and children
- Implementation of the plan to accelerate paediatric HIV treatment

77. These achievements have helped to reduce the average prevalence of HIV/AIDS among persons aged 15 to 49 years from 2.5 per cent in 2014 (third demographic and health survey) to 2 per cent in 2020 (Spectrum, 2020).

78. The decades-long fight against malaria continued throughout national territory in 2020 with the implementation of the following measures:

- Prevention through the use of long-lasting insecticidal nets for vector control, intermittent presumptive treatment for pregnant women and seasonal malaria chemoprevention for children under 5 years old
- Malaria management, including diagnosis and treatment, in accordance with national guidelines at the community and hospital levels
- Monitoring of resistance to antimalarial drugs and the safety and quality of such drugs

79. The implementation of the 2018–2022 Integrated Strategic Plan for Combating Non-Communicable Diseases has resulted in improvements in key indicators as follows:

- The percentage of persons living with a disability who have access to physical rehabilitation rose from 2 per cent in 2017 to 70.61 per cent in 2020.
- The percentage of primary health-care facilities that offer the package of essential interventions for the integrated management of non-communicable diseases rose from 10.29 to 36.01 per cent over the same period (annual performance reports of the Ministry of Health, Hygiene and Universal Access to Health Care for 2017–2020).

80. In the pharmaceutical sector, the 2019–2022 National Strategy for Optimizing the Health Product Supply Chain in Togo is being implemented.

81. Progress has also been made since 2018 in the field of clinical pathology through the gradual implementation of the Quality Management System and efforts to strengthen the diagnostic capacities of laboratories.

82. Access to COVID-19 vaccination and treatment is ensured, as medical care and testing are available free of charge.

2. Right to education (recommendations 128.114, 128.115, 128.117, 128.118, 128.119, 128.120, 128.121, 128.122, 128.123, 128.125, 128.126, 128.127 and 128.134)

Reduction of the primary school dropout rate

83. Major steps taken by the State and its partners have helped to increase access to education, to improve the quality of teaching and training¹ and to enhance the performance of the education system, as measured by various indicators.

84. Togo ranks first among the States members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union in terms of the proportion of girls enrolled in school (121.5 per cent). As regards progress towards achieving universal primary education and reducing the dropout rate, attendance rates (grade repetition and completion) are as follows:

- Access to school: 63.8 per cent in 2019/20
- Completion: 87 per cent (primary) and 51.7 per cent (lower secondary) in 2019/20
- Enrolment: 37.2 per cent in 2017 and 43.7 per cent in 2019/20 (preschool) and 94.3 per cent in 2019/20 (primary)

(Sources: National Yearbook of School Statistics and Yearbook of Technical and Vocational Education Statistics 2020.)

85. Measures taken in this regard include:

- Awareness-raising via radio.
- Revision of preschool and primary school curricula.
- Distribution of school kits.
- Abolition of preschool and primary school fees.
- Payment by the State of registration fees totalling around CFAF 2 billion for 484,755 people taking various school and professional examinations.

- Continuation of the school meals programmes² for the benefit of 97,000 students, mostly located in the poorest cantons across the country. Between 2018 and 2020, CFAF 5,270,196,192 were spent on these programmes (2020 report of the National Agency for Support to Grass-roots Development).
- Provision of free health care to 2,546,131 students for the period up to 2020 under the “School Assur” insurance scheme.
- Halving of school fees for girls.
- Provision of school supplies and payment of school fees for orphans and children from disadvantaged families across all 39 prefectures and all 5 arrondissements of Lomé by the National Solidarity Agency. A total of 6,000 students, including 3,000 girls, have benefited from this initiative.
- Waiving of public secondary school fees.

Quality of education and training

86. Recruitment of 8,121 primary, secondary and technical school teachers between 2016 and 2021.

- Recruitment of 300 trainee inspectors and educational advisers in 2021.
- Establishment of a thematic group on inclusive education with a view to rolling out the inclusive education model more widely and institutionalizing it.
- Establishment of a system of specialized roving teachers to provide better support for students with disabilities in the inclusive education system in almost all regions, with the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- Provision of State subsidies to specialized schools every year.
- Construction and renovation of 5,300 classrooms, including the equipment of 300 classrooms with information and communications technology, between 2017 and 2020.
- Equipment of several schools with modern laboratories, libraries and drinking water and sanitation systems, under the Emergency Community Development Programme.
- Construction of 15 lower secondary schools in the Maritime and Plateaux Regions, equipment of those schools with furniture and teaching materials and equipment of 30 lower secondary schools with drilled wells and piped water, as part of a project to support the reform of lower secondary education, financed by the French Development Agency.
- Construction of 240 classrooms, 160 toilet blocks and 20 drilled wells in 18 deprived prefectures under the Education and Institution-Building Project.

87. Measures continue to be taken to improve the quality of girls’ education, such as:

- Updating of the Education Sector Plan to incorporate gender issues.
- Establishment of new vocational training centres that are accessible to all.
- Implementation of the Girls’ Academic Excellence and Leadership Project since 2017.
- Implementation of a project to support the advancement of girls in the technical and vocational training sector through merit scholarships.
- Promotion of girls’ education through communication and awareness-raising campaigns. Distribution of uniforms to all girls enrolled in primary school and distribution of menstrual hygiene kits to all girls in the top two classes of primary school (12,489 girls in total) in four prefectures (Anié, Kpélé, Dankpen and Kpendjal) where primary school completion rates are below 40 per cent, the national average being 72 per cent.
- Recruitment of 49 community change agents to conduct awareness-raising campaigns to promote girls’ education and keep girls in school, in 520 schools in the four most deprived prefectures, over a four-month period at the start of the academic year in

2017 and 2018. These campaigns reached a total of 155,576 people in 2017/18 and 163,355 people in 2018/19.

88. The enrolment rate for girls rose significantly between 2015 and 2018. The primary school enrolment rate for girls is roughly equal to the rate for boys (128.2 per cent for girls, compared with 125.4 per cent for boys, in 2017/18).

(Sources: National Yearbook of School Statistics and Yearbook of Technical and Vocational Education Statistics 2017–2018.)

89. A national scoping study on gender-based violence in schools was conducted in 2016. On the basis of this study, measures have been taken to combat gender-based and other forms of violence in schools.

90. In addition, in their role as supervisors on the ground, inspectors have an obligation to report any acts that violate the applicable rules of ethics and professional conduct.

91. Significant investments have been made in the legal protection of young children and in preschool education. Over the period 2018–2021, the Government allocated nearly 20 per cent of the budget (excluding debt) to the education sector, including 8 per cent to preschool and primary education.

92. Several initiatives are under way in the areas of technical and vocational training and youth employment, including in the agricultural sector.

3. Protection of workers' rights

93. Act No. 2021-012 of 18 June 2021 on the Labour Code strengthens equality of treatment of workers and protects women and persons with disabilities against discrimination in employment.

4. Combating the worst forms of child labour (recommendation 128.66)

94. In order to effectively combat child labour, especially the worst forms of child labour, Order No. 1464/MTEFP/DGTLS of 12 November 2012 determining the types of work that children are not allowed to perform has been replaced by Order No. 1556/MFPTRAPS of 22 May 2020 on the same subject, which takes into account new types of work, such as motorcycle washing, scrap metal and plastic collection and the burning of objects to recover metal.

95. The 2020–2024 National Plan of Action to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour has also been revised.

96. An outreach and awareness-raising campaign on trafficking in children and child labour reached nearly 10,000 people.

97. Steps have been taken to build the capacities of 128 labour inspectors to enable them to better monitor compliance with child labour legislation.

5. Poverty reduction (recommendations 128.100, 128.103, 128.108 and 129.26)

98. The main tool for reducing poverty is the 2018–2022 National Development Plan. It is being implemented at the level of communities and communes through various projects and programmes that are specifically focused on poverty reduction.

99. The programmes and projects that are under way include:

- The National Fund for Inclusive Finance, the role of which is to establish financial mechanisms to support financial inclusion efforts aimed at vulnerable groups. Between 2017 and 30 June 2021, a total of 282,867 persons, including 132,370 women, benefited from the Fund's activities (www.fnfi.tg).
- The Fund to Support Young People's Economic Initiatives. From 2018 to 2020, this Fund helped to equip and finance 7,889 young entrepreneurs, of whom 1,499 were women.

- The Project to Support Youth Employability and Employment in High-Growth Sectors. From 2017 to 2020, support was provided under this scheme to 88 small and medium-sized enterprises and industries, of which 52 received financing; 1,389 first-time entrepreneurs, of whom 771 received financing; and 2,037 groups and 237 groups of first-time entrepreneurs, all of which received financing (2020 report of the Project to Support Youth Employability and Employment in High-Growth Sectors).
 - The Social Safety Net and Basic Services Project, under which the poorest communities throughout the country are provided with basic socioeconomic services, such as primary education, health care, water, sanitation and social protection, in line with minimum standards.
 - The 2017–2026 National Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security Programme, which deals with nutrition, environmental issues, resilience, social inclusion and social protection.
 - The food security programme of the German Agency for International Cooperation, which is implemented by Programme d'Aide pour le Développement Économique et Sociale (Economic and Social Development Aid Programme), an NGO based in Kara.
 - The Shared Risk Agricultural Financing Incentive Mechanism, established in 2018. During the pilot phase, 120,000 actors received guidance, support and financing.
 - The month of October has been declared the month of consuming locally.
100. In order to mitigate the negative socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable persons, the Government has taken the following measures:
- Implementation of the Novissi (Solidarity) Electronic Cash Transfer Programme, the beneficiaries of which are mainly women
 - Payment by the State of the social portion of water and electricity bills and reduction of network connection costs
101. In the field of grass-roots development, between 2017 and 2020, the organizational and operational capacities of 1,717 associations, 1,351 grass-roots development committees and 1,017 tradespeople were strengthened, 277 pieces of infrastructure were built and 77 multifunctional platforms were set up.
102. A total of 219 action plans have been drawn up for local planning purposes.
103. In addition, building on the National Development Plan, the Government has adopted a road map for 2020–2025,³ which places particular emphasis on strengthening social inclusion and social harmony (Objective 1) and creating jobs for young people (Objective 2), taking into account the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. Right to food and access to safe drinking water and sanitation (recommendations 128.101, 128.102, 128.105 and 128.107)

104. The framework for action within the agricultural sector in connection with the right to adequate food is the 2016–2030 Agricultural Policy. Within this framework, the 2017–2026 National Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security Programme is being implemented through several projects, including the Agricultural Sector Support Project, the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme and the Project to Support Agricultural Development in Togo.
105. The following key initiatives have been undertaken:
- At the institutional level:
 - Establishment of the Agency for the Promotion and Development of Agropoles and the Shared Risk Agricultural Financing Incentive Mechanism in 2018.
 - Establishment of 12 agricultural interbranch organizations.
 - Launch of the Marketplace component of the Agriculture and Food Exchange e-commerce platform, in June 2020.
 - In relation to land use and the organization of the agricultural sector:

- Development of 1,500 ha of irrigated land and 2,500 ha of lowlands under the Togo Agrifood Processing Project.
 - Creation of 21 planned agricultural development zones, measuring over 100 ha on average, for the benefit of women and young people.
 - Granting of CFAF 8.116 billion in credit to the various actors in the value chain.
 - Provision of support to 804 cooperatives with over 20,874 members in 2020, compared with 545 cooperatives with 11,000 members in 2019.
 - Signing of agreements with three financial institutions (Union Togolaise de Banque, DEKAWOWO and NSIA Banque). A total of 15 institutions have now granted loans totalling CFAF 13.409 billion to more than 87,000 actors.
106. In order to improve productivity and increase production:
- A total of 172 tractors and other pieces of equipment purchased through the Project to Promote Rural Development and Agriculture in Togo were put to use during the 2018 farming season.
 - Three warehouses were built for three associations of cashew nut producers.
 - Cocoa production increased from 12,863 tons in 2017 to 14,155 tons in 2020, while coffee production increased from 18,486 tons in 2017 to 21,023 tons in 2020.
 - Between 2017 and 2018, fish production increased by almost 120 per cent, from 132 to 290 tons.
107. In the areas of resilience, nutrition and social inclusion:
- Development of a COVID-19 response plan that had an impact on 256,000 farming households through the implementation of the Yolim Project in 2020.
 - Effective drought and flood insurance provided by African Risk Capacity.
 - Subsidies for the purchase of fertilizer continued to be provided through the “Electronic Wallet” scheme, which benefited 159,832 vulnerable farmers in 2020 (65.35 per cent of the target), compared with 66,186 in 2017.
 - Measures to create and ensure the continued existence of approximately 222,698 jobs, including 178,626 for young people and 44,072 for women.
108. The Government has prepared and revised a number of policies, including the 2018–2022 National Hygiene and Sanitation Policy, the National Water and Sanitation Policy and the National Action Plan for the Water and Sanitation Sector.
109. Various projects and programmes are being implemented to ensure access to water, including:
- The Togo Water and Sanitation Project, whereby support is provided to communes in the areas of sanitation and water conveyance.
 - Construction of 574 drilled wells in 2016 through projects financed by the Islamic Development Bank, including the Council of the Entente pilot project and the Plaine de Mô integrated project.
 - Launch of the Drilled Well and Water Indicator Monitoring System, which allows for real-time updates on the state of water points and helps to reduce the time taken to repair drilled wells. During the pilot phase, 1,000 drilled wells were monitored and 250 users received training.
 - Establishment of the Togo Water and Basic Sanitation Consultative Council platform in 2017 for the provision of training to civil society actors working in the field of water, hygiene and sanitation.
 - Restoration of 2,491 drilled wells equipped with hand pumps and construction of 906 additional wells of that kind in order to meet the needs of the population, especially the most disadvantaged communities.
110. Achievements relating to the preservation of water resources include:

- The installation of measuring tools as part of the integrated water resources management process.
- The establishment of an integrated water information system.

7. Environmental issues (recommendations 128.106 and 128.136)

111. In line with its policy on controlling industrial pollution and monitoring extractive industries, the Directorate General of Mines and Geology carries out periodic inspections of small-scale operations and classified establishments (see the Mining Code).

112. The development of communities living near mining areas is taken into account, as mining companies are required to make a fixed contribution to development at the local and regional levels (Act No. 2011-008 of 5 May 2011 and Decree No. 2017-023 of 25 February 2017).

113. Committees have been set up to manage the relocation of villages affected by mining and to settle conflicts in mining areas.

114. In addition, communities living near mining areas are made aware of their rights through the dissemination of reports published by the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

F. Rights of specific groups

1. Children (recommendations 128.19, 128.29, 128.33, 128.63, 128.64, 128.65, 128.128, 128.135 and 129.18)

115. The Children's Code provides a framework for the protection of children.

116. In order to provide the relevant actors with a guiding reference framework on child protection, the Government prepared a national policy on child welfare. This policy was approved by all the actors concerned on 30 and 31 July 2019. The National Committee on the Rights of the Child was established in 2019.

117. Measures taken to combat child marriage include the implementation of the National Programme to Prevent Adolescent Pregnancies and Child Marriage in School and Out-of-School Settings between 2015 and 2019.

118. Efforts are made to involve traditional and religious leaders in the fight against practices that are harmful to children, in order to achieve lasting results.

119. The practice of female genital mutilation is becoming less and less common. According to the 2013–2014 demographic and health survey and the 2017 multiple indicator cluster survey, the rate of female genital mutilation fell from 5 to 3.1 per cent among women aged 15 to 49 years and from 1 to 0.3 per cent among children up to 14 years old, between 2014 and 2017.

120. The measures taken to combat trafficking in children are as follows:

- Strengthening of the national legal framework through the promulgation in 2015 of the new Criminal Code, which reinforces the provisions of the Children's Code by establishing trafficking in persons as a criminal offence and the involvement of children as an aggravating circumstance.
- Organization of awareness-raising campaigns in various parts of the country since 2018. These campaigns have reached about 60,000 people.
- Signing of a bilateral agreement between Togo and Gabon on 25 September 2018 with a view to strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the fight against trafficking in children.
- Signing of a tripartite cooperation agreement on the protection of children in situations of cross-border mobility, between Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso, on 23 December 2019.

121. A number of convictions for sexual violence against women and girls have been handed down under the new Criminal Code. Between 2016 and June 2019, 228 people were convicted of such acts. In June 2021, 18 cases of paedophilia, 16 cases of rape and 1 case of incest were tried.

122. The minimum age for marriage is 18 years (Children's Code, art. 267). Article 268 of the Persons and Family Code prohibits parents and guardians from promising children in marriage.

123. Birth registration is compulsory, under article 39 of the Act on the Civil Registration System.

124. Access to health care and education is not limited to those who have a birth certificate. Consequently, all children without distinction have access to these services.

125. Under the current regulations on the organization of the judiciary, Lomé Court is the only court that has a juvenile court attached to it. In the other courts, there are juvenile judges.

126. The following measures have been taken to improve access to justice for children in Togo:

- Implementation of the 2016–2020 Project to Improve Access to Justice for Children in Togo.
- Improvement of the legal and policy framework for juvenile justice (ongoing revision of the Children's Code and preparation of the national strategy on juvenile justice in Togo).
- Capacity-building for people working in the juvenile justice system, including members of the judiciary, lawyers, sociologists, psychologists, social workers, special educators and health workers.
- Construction of the centre for access to the law and justice for children in Lomé.
- Establishment of a system for the coordination of the actors involved in providing judicial and social support to children in contact with the law.
- Provision of training on child rights and child protection to 162 paralegals, of whom 98 were women, with a completion rate of 115 per cent.
- Provision of care to 3,178 children, of whom 2,372 were girls who had been subjected to violence.
- Provision of assistance to 1,301 children in conflict with the law.
- Release of 14 children from pretrial detention.
- Renovation of the guidance and reintegration centre for young people in difficult circumstances in Cacavéli, Lomé, and the Don Bosco centre in Kara.

2. Women

Economic and social empowerment of women (recommendations 128.39, 128.41, 128.42, 128.45, 128.49 and 128.85)

127. Togo has undertaken the following initiatives to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women:

- Adoption of the 2016–2030 Agricultural Policy and the corresponding strategic plan for the period up to 2030, which comprises four strategic areas of focus. The second of these areas covers the issue of women's access to productive resources and income, placing emphasis on the need to build their productive capacity and on the management and control of their income.
- Implementation of the Project for the Empowerment of Rural Women in Togo.
- Establishment of private sector support structures to help women entrepreneurs and other working women take full advantage of entrepreneurship and job creation opportunities in the formal sector.

- Implementation in Togo of the Economic Community of West African States project called “50 Million African Women Speak”, which is intended to facilitate the empowerment of women through the creation of a virtual platform for networking, sharing and access to financial and other information for the purposes of entrepreneurship and enterprise development.
- Awarding of 20 per cent of government contracts to young entrepreneurs and women entrepreneurs in 2018, in order to promote women’s entrepreneurship. This proportion rose to 25 per cent in 2019.
- Development of urban roads and rural tracks to open up the regions and facilitate the transport and sale of agricultural products, mostly by women.
- Provision of mechanical and electrical equipment to women’s associations for their economic activities.
- Launch of a project to support the financial inclusion of vulnerable women (women living with HIV, widows, porters, women who have been treated for obstetric fistula and women with disabilities) in July 2017.

128. The number of women supported through this project totalled 3,500 in 2019, 5,655 in 2020 and 6,609 as of June 2021.

129. Various measures have been taken to improve the living conditions of women with disabilities in particular. For example, the standard amount of capital available to them through the National Fund for Inclusive Finance has been increased and the repayment period extended.

Participation in political life (recommendations 128.43, 128.46 and 128.53)

130. Several measures have been taken to promote the participation of women in national political life:

- Launch of the 2019–2023 Equality for Girls national campaign, which is intended to bring about a social shift towards equality for women and girls.
- Measures to raise awareness among the various political parties of the issues of gender equality and the participation of women in decision-making.
- Provision of training in leadership and communication techniques to potential women candidates.
- Plans to establish trained peer educator clubs in the fields of political leadership, peace and development in all cantons. A total of 591 women have been trained since 2016.
- Establishment of a political academy for women leaders with a view to increasing the participation of women in public life. During its 2018 session, the academy provided training to 132 women in areas such as leadership, personal development, political career planning and political communication.
- Implementation of the “Women Running for Municipal Councillor” project, which helped to build the campaigning skills of 219 women candidates in the 2019 municipal elections.

131. Table showing the participation of women in political bodies:

<i>Institutions</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Percentage of women (%)</i>
Government	35	23	12	34.30
National Assembly	91	74	17	18.68
Mayors	117	105	12	10.25
Deputy mayors	175		24	13.70
Municipal councillors	1 527		192	12.60

Combating violence against women (recommendations 128.17, 128.48, 128.54, 128.55, 128.57, 128.62, 128.80, 128.86, 129.15, 130.4 and 130.5)

132. The new Criminal Code prohibits gender-based violence, including rape, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

133. Action is taken within the framework of the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence and various sector-specific programmes that include measures to encourage women to report cases of violence, to ensure that perpetrators and accomplices are brought to justice, to protect victims of violence, to provide legal remedies and to facilitate the reintegration of victims.

134. Advocacy and awareness-raising activities are also carried out.

135. Support is provided to victims of violence in various ways:

- Psychosocial support in the form of counselling and ongoing care is provided to victims at home and in counselling centres.
- Victims are referred to health centres and other services, such as the police, courts and legal advice centres.
- Victims are provided with financial support for the development of income-generating activities.
- In 2019, the Group for Policy and Action, Women, Democracy and Development set up an online system for reporting violence against women, with the aim of preventing gender-based violence and providing legal assistance to victims.

3. Persons with disabilities (recommendations 128.129, 128.130, 128.131, 128.132 and 128.133)

136. Persons with disabilities are fully taken into account in the development, education and health strategy. A committee responsible for monitoring the inclusion of persons with disabilities was established by Order No. 030/2016/MASPF/CAB of 4 November 2016.

III. Implementation of noted recommendations

137. Although recommendations 130.10 and 131.21 were noted, they have been implemented in the context of the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law:

- Amendment of the Constitution on 15 May 2019 to limit the term of office of the President
- Holding of local elections on 30 June 2019
- Amendment of the Press and Communications Code in 2020
- Amendment of the Act establishing the conditions for the exercise of freedom of peaceful public assembly and protest in 2021

IV. Progress, best practices and challenges linked to the implementation of the recommendations

138. The progress made includes:

- Constitutional and institutional reforms that will have an impact on political and public life
- Adoption of core instruments relating to the promotion and protection of human rights that will allow for greater enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- Establishment of a framework for national consultations with political actors
- Establishment of a joint observatory on peaceful public demonstrations

139. As regards best practices, Togo has set up the Interministerial Committee for Reporting and Follow-up to Recommendations on Human Rights, a government body responsible for coordinating the drafting of reports and the follow-up to recommendations made by human rights mechanisms.

140. It has also prepared an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review and submitted a midterm report.

141. The Government has established a multi-stakeholder platform for collaboration between the Government, the National Human Rights Commission and other State institutions, and civil society organizations, which serves as a forum for exchanging information on human rights issues.

142. The Government has set up a body to monitor the human rights situation during the COVID-19 health crisis. The body is composed of representatives of the Government, the National Human Rights Commission and human rights organizations.

143. As regards the difficulties encountered in implementing the recommendations, it should be noted that, despite the strong political will and determination of the Government, progress towards the desired outcomes has been slowed by the lack of resources and other new challenges facing the country.

V. Expectations and needs in terms of assistance

144. The Government of the Togolese Republic is committed to the principles of democracy, human rights and good governance and remains open to support of all kinds from its technical and financial partners that will help it to achieve the relevant outcomes in these areas.

Conclusion

145. Progress has undeniably been made since Togo last appeared before the Human Rights Council. However, there are still challenges to be overcome, particularly when it comes to instilling a culture of human rights in the individual and professionalizing human rights organizations.

146. The Government of Togo thanks its national and international partners once again and welcomes the opportunity to engage in dialogue with all nations.

Notes

¹ Autres actions réalisées : (i) la mise en œuvre du plan sectoriel de l'éducation (PSE 2020-2030) ; (ii) la mutualisation des ressources et outils de formation professionnelle entre les pays de l'UEMOA avec l'adaptation des programmes mutualisés au contexte togolais ; (iii) l'harmonisation des normes de compétences professionnelles pour les métiers d'éleveur de volailles, de maçonnerie et de plomberie entre le Togo, le Ghana et le Nigéria ; (vi) la préparation à la qualification de la main d'œuvre dans le secteur de l'industrie pour la Plateforme industrielle d'Adétikopé (PIA) ; (vii) la réalisation de la phase III du projet PAFPE pour l'aménagement et l'équipement de sept (7) centres de formation technique et professionnel (viii) l'implémentation de l'environnement numérique du travail inauguré le 2 juillet 2018 et effectif dans 10 établissements d'enseignement technique et les 2 lycées scientifiques ainsi que la branche technique du Collège Militaire Eyadéma pour un encadrement pédagogique efficient ; (ix) l'adoption du schéma directeur de la formation par apprentissage de type dual.

² <https://www.republiquetogolaise.com/education/1802-5170-cantines-scolaires-76-millions-de-repas-et-22-milliards-fcfa-depuis-2008>.

³ <https://primature.gouv.tg/>.