



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
3 March 2025

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

List of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth to tenth periodic reports of Togo*

Women's rights and gender equality in relation to the pandemic and recovery efforts

1. Please describe efforts made and mechanisms put in place to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its long-term impact, and ways to apply them in the State Party's response to current and future crises, such as armed conflict, food and water insecurity, the energy crisis and other relevant areas, in line with the Committee's guidance note on the obligations of States Parties to the Convention in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, issued on 22 April 2020. Please provide information on strategies taken to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are a fundamental requirement in addressing such crises and in elaborating adequate responses, such as policies, the scope of essential services, assistance programmes, recovery efforts and the application of the rule of law. Please also provide information on measures taken to ensure the equal and meaningful participation of women in those processes and to ensure that such crises will not lead to a reversal of progress made in the protection and promotion of women's rights.

Visibility of the Convention

2. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Committee's previous concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7](#)), please provide further details on:

(a) Measures taken to raise awareness, specifically among women and girls, about their rights under the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations, including steps taken to make it available in accessible formats;

(b) Any court judgments in which judges have invoked the Convention or the Committee's general recommendations in deciding cases, including under family law, criminal law, civil law and labour law;

(c) Efforts made to give visibility to the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations, so that they are made an integral part of educating judges, lawyers, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials. Please also provide information on the measures taken to disseminate the Committee's previous concluding observations.

* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group on 26 February 2025.



Legislative framework

3. The Committee notes the information provided in paragraphs 67 to 69 of the combined eighth to tenth periodic reports submitted by the State Party (CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10) on the completed law reforms. Please provide information on steps taken to repeal all discriminatory legal provisions that persist in national legislation, in particular those relating to polygamy, inheritance and the rights of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women.

Access to justice

4. With reference to paragraph 13 of the Committee's previous concluding observations and general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, please provide data on:

(a) The number of women receiving State-provided legal aid, including through the newly launched volunteer programme and legal advice centres for alternative dispute resolution (see CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10, para. 96), or legal assistance from civil society organizations, disaggregated by age, disability, region, type of complaint and outcome;

(b) The number of discrimination complaints lodged by women and girls, disaggregated by age, disability, region, type of complaint and outcome;

(c) Measures taken by the State Party to ensure access to courts and legal proceedings, including the provision of services in local languages, Braille and sign language, in both urban and rural areas, as well as specific measures to improve accessibility for women and girls with disabilities within the judicial system;

(d) The proportion of judges, prosecutors, police and other law enforcement officers having received capacity-building on women's human rights and gender-responsive investigation and interrogation methods.

Women and peace and security

5. Please indicate the steps taken to develop a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and subsequent resolutions, in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, and ensure the equal representation of women in the formulation, adoption and implementation of the plan. In addition, please provide gender-responsive impact assessments on the effects of the Sahel crisis on women and girls in the State Party.

National machinery for the advancement of women

6. In the light of paragraph 17 of the previous concluding observations, please provide updated information on:

(a) The human, technical and financial resources allocated to the national machinery, including measures taken to enhance cooperation with civil society organizations to ensure effective implementation of gender policies;

(b) The budget allocated to the Directorate General for the Promotion of Women over the past five years and how the national gender policy is monitored and evaluated;

(c) Concrete efforts taken to mainstream gender across national and regional policies and programmes and raise awareness among decision makers on gender

equality and the empowerment of women, including as a means to advance democracy, reduce poverty and implement sustainable development.

National human rights institution

7. Please provide information on:

(a) Measures taken to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission to enable it to effectively and independently discharge its mandate in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (see General Assembly resolution [48/134](#) of 1993);

(b) The human, technical and financial resources allocated to the National Human Rights Commission, as well as information on its mandate, in particular in relation to women's and girls' rights, and the number of complaints about violations of women's and girls' human rights received and considered over the past five years.

Temporary special measures

8. Recalling the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, please provide detailed information on the application of temporary special measures to advance substantive equality of women and men, in particular as regards women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination, such as women with disabilities, rural women and other marginalized groups of women (e.g. women in informal employment). In particular, please outline time-bound targets and benchmarks used to assess progress, and provide information on how impact assessments are used to inform the design and implementation of temporary special measures. Please also describe measures taken to raise awareness among politicians and the general public of the non-discriminatory nature of temporary special measures and their importance in accelerating the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in all areas.

Gender stereotypes and harmful practices

9. The Committee notes the absence of a comprehensive strategy to address stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society and harmful practices, and requests information on steps taken to develop such a comprehensive strategy to address sororate, levirate, child and forced marriage, polygamy and female genital mutilation. Please also provide:

(a) Information on recent measures taken to eliminate gender stereotypes and harmful practices, including awareness-raising activities targeting communities where such practices persist, addressing negative portrayals of women in traditional and social media, digital/cyberspace and advertisements, and promoting positive images of women as active participants in economic, social and political life, and any impact assessments of these initiatives;

(b) Information on the revision of school curricula and textbooks, as well as teacher training initiatives, aimed at eliminating gender stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society;

(c) Updated disaggregated data on the prevalence of child marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices affecting women and girls, the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions, and the penalties imposed on those responsible for such harmful practices in the past five years.

Gender-based violence against women and girls

10. Please provide information on:

(a) Whether the revised Penal Code comprehensively criminalizes all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, in line with general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19; and disaggregated data on the prevalence of all forms of gender-based violence, as well as on the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions, and the sentences imposed on perpetrators;

(b) Victim/survivor support services, including resources allocated, capacity of shelters and efforts to improve access to those services, in particular for marginalized groups such as rural women, adolescent pregnant girls, women and girls with disabilities and migrant women and girls;

(c) Measures taken to establish a confidential, gender-responsive complaint mechanism for victims and witnesses of gender-based violence, and efforts to remove barriers to reporting, including awareness campaigns to address judicial gender bias and capacity-building for law enforcement and other officials interacting with victims/survivors to prevent revictimization;

(d) Steps taken to adopt legislation specifically criminalizing domestic violence, the current mechanisms in place for obtaining protection orders and measures taken to ensure their effective enforcement and monitoring. Please also provide information on the number of protection orders issued and violated.

Trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution

11. With reference to the National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 115), and recalling the Committee's general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, please provide:

(a) Information on the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the National Commission, the number of reported cases, criminal investigations, prosecutions and convictions, and the types of reparations and social reintegration programmes for victims of trafficking;

(b) Disaggregated data on identified victims of trafficking, as well as on measures taken to ensure the early identification of victims of trafficking in women and girls and their referral to appropriate support services;

(c) Information on efforts to address the root causes of trafficking and exploitation of women and girls in prostitution, including limited access to education, poverty and sustainable employment opportunities, and any rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for women in prostitution, including exit programmes for those who wish to leave prostitution;

(d) Information on measures taken to reduce the demand for prostitution and amend article 91 of the Criminal Code to decriminalize prostitution, and on the number of prosecutions and convictions of women in prostitution.

Participation in political and public life

12. Recalling the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, and in relation to the initiatives to improve women's participation in political and public life outlined in paragraphs 123 to 136 of the report, please provide:

(a) Information on: (i) human, technical and financial resources allocated to the national programme for women's political leadership and the national programme for women's professional leadership; (ii) outcomes, including the number of women benefiting from the initiatives to improve women's participation in political and public life outlined in paragraphs 124 and 125 of the report; and (iii) any impact assessments conducted on these initiatives;

(b) Information on measures taken to increase women's representation and participation in decision-making roles, specifically in the judiciary, the military, educational institutions, local governance, traditional chiefdoms and in the foreign service and international organizations;

(c) Information on measures taken to improve women's access to leadership positions on boards of both public and private enterprises.

Nationality

13. In relation to the amendments to the Persons and Family Code, which now allows women to retain nationality acquired through marriage, even after divorce (art. 149), please clarify whether the revised Code explicitly ensures women's equal rights with men regarding the transmission of Togolese nationality to their children and foreign spouses. Please also provide detailed information on the legal remedies made available to women adversely affected by the previous legal regime and their children, in particular those whose Togolese citizenship was removed after divorce or whose children were denied citizenship. In addition, please provide information on measures taken to improve access to civic registration, including birth certificates and identity documents, in particular for women and girls from disadvantaged groups such as women and girls with disabilities, rural women and girls, and migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls.

Education

14. Please provide information on:

(a) The human, technical and financial resources allocated for the implementation of the revised education sector plan (2014–2025), including information on: (i) the involvement of civil society in ensuring gender-responsiveness; (ii) specific efforts to increase female enrolment and retention at all levels of education, in particular in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, with the aim of achieving parity; and (iii) the provision of financial support, such as subsidies and scholarships, to ensure access to education for all children, including those from disadvantaged communities;

(b) Measures taken to reduce school dropout rates among girls due to early pregnancy, forced marriage or economic hardship, whether remedial or re-entry programmes exist for girls and young mothers who have dropped out, and data on their effectiveness;

(c) Measures to ensure access to inclusive education for women and girls with disabilities, including infrastructure accessibility, trained personnel and adapted learning materials;

(d) The integration of comprehensive age-appropriate sexuality education into school curricula, addressing modern contraceptives and the prevention of unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and women's and girls' right to consent and bodily autonomy.

Employment

15. In line with paragraph 33 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide:

(a) Information on the percentage of women working in the formal and informal economies, their equal representation in sectors such as finance, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and information and communications technology, and an update on the regulatory framework for the informal sector;

(b) Information on steps taken to: (i) eliminate labour exploitation of women and girls, including in domestic work and extractive industries; (ii) strengthen protection mechanisms, including labour inspections of private households; and (iii) ratify the Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156), the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), of the International Labour Organization;

(c) Updated disaggregated data on the gender pay gap in the formal and informal sectors, and any measures taken to close it.

Sexual harassment in the workplace

16. With reference to article 40 of the Labour Code, articles 399 and 400 of the Criminal Code and Decree No. 0316/MFPTDS prohibiting discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and intimidation at work and in workplaces (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), paras. 165–167), please provide:

(a) Information on steps taken to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions on sexual harassment, in particular in the private sector and the informal economy;

(b) Disaggregated data on the number and outcomes of complaints of sexual harassment filed by women over the past four years;

(c) Details of capacity-building programmes for employers, employees and law enforcement officials on preventing and responding to sexual harassment in the workplace, and whether these programmes are mandatory.

Health

17. With reference to paragraph 35 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide:

(a) Updated data on child pregnancy and child marriage disaggregated by age and region. Please indicate any targeted measures taken to address these issues, in particular for disadvantaged girls, including rural girls, girls from low-income households and girls with little or no schooling (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 204);

(b) Updated data on maternal, infant and neonatal mortality by region and type of care, the effectiveness of current interventions, and targeted measures to reduce these rates;

(c) Information on the availability of modern contraceptives, awareness campaigns on their use and safety, and steps taken to address barriers and social stigma limiting their access;

(d) Information on measures taken to address the higher prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, among women and girls compared with men and boys, as well as efforts to reduce HIV transmission and combat

noncommunicable diseases among women and girls (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 210).

Economic empowerment

18. With reference to paragraph 33 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

(a) The percentage of women among all those benefiting from the compulsory health insurance scheme for public servants, and progress made in extending coverage to other formal and informal sector workers, in particular women and girl domestic workers (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 185);

(b) Measures taken to improve social protection for women in the informal sector, and disaggregated data on the impact of recent increases in cross-sectoral minimum guaranteed wages and agricultural wages, focusing on their impact on women (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 180);

(c) Initiatives supporting women's entrepreneurship, in particular in rural areas, and an assessment of the impact of programmes such as the national fund for inclusive finance and agricultural financing incentives and how they support women entrepreneurs, in particular rural women whose livelihoods are negatively affected by climate change (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 191);

(d) Measures taken to ensure that women have equal access to credit, low-interest loans, markets, technology, entrepreneurship and technical support on an equal basis with men, as well as information on gender-responsive procurement and the impact of illicit financial flows on gender equality;

(e) Measures taken to promote the equal participation of women and girls in sports and recreational activities, including within sports federations, in the State Party.

Climate change

19. Recalling the Committee's general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, please indicate the steps taken to ensure that women and girls, including rural and ethnic minority women and girls, are equally and meaningfully included in the decision-making and implementation processes regarding policies on disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management, climate financing and climate change mitigation and adaptation, including measures specifically addressing the impact of climate change on rural women's livelihoods, access to resources and overall well-being. Please also provide information on measures taken to implement gender- and climate-responsive rural development initiatives and to advance the rights of rural women and girls.

Women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination

20. Please provide information on measures taken to address intersecting forms of discrimination faced by rural women, women and girls with disabilities, women and girls with HIV/AIDS, migrant, internally displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls, women in detention and ethnic minority women and girls. In addition, please describe steps taken to decriminalize same-sex relations, including the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination laws to protect lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, and public education and awareness-raising efforts to address the stigma and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by them.

Marriage and family life

21. Please provide information on:

(a) Measures taken to repeal discriminatory provisions in the revised Persons and Family Code, in particular those recognizing polygamy (art. 42) and allowing the application of customary inheritance practices (art. 404), and progress made in ensuring gender equality in marriage relations, including areas such as divorce, child custody and maintenance, and inheritance;

(b) How the State Party ensures that customary succession aligns with the rights protected by the Convention (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 252), and how the minimum age of marriage of 18 years is applied to all marriages and unions without exception;

(c) Rates of child and forced marriages, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and region;

(d) Steps taken towards the legal recognition of de facto unions and the economic protection of women in such unions, including the remedies available to women in the case of dissolution of a union (see [CEDAW/C/TGO/8-10](#), para. 249);

(e) Awareness-raising initiatives and capacity-building for judges and other judicial personnel on the gender-sensitive implementation of laws related to marriage and family relations.

Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention

22. Please provide information on progress made with respect to accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention and on progress made towards acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Data collection and analysis

23. In the light of the Committee's general recommendation No. 9 (1989) on statistical data concerning the situation of women, and with reference to paragraphs 49 to 51 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please indicate any steps taken to develop the State party's capacity to improve the collection of data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, geographic location and socioeconomic status, which are necessary to assess the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at mainstreaming gender equality and enhancing the enjoyment by women of their human rights.
