



# International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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## Human Rights Committee

### List of issues prior to submission of the second periodic report of Ghana\*

#### A. General information on the national human rights situation, including new measures and developments relating to the implementation of the Covenant

1. Please provide information on measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the Committee's concluding observations on the initial report of the State Party,<sup>1</sup> including statistical data, and report on any other significant developments in the legal and institutional framework within which human rights are promoted and protected that have taken place during the reporting period. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 8),<sup>2</sup> please provide information on the mechanisms in place for the implementation of the Committee's Views under the first Optional Protocol to the Covenant, in accordance with the right to an effective remedy, including compensation, and provide information about any measures taken to raise awareness of the complaint procedure under the Optional Protocol.

#### B. Specific information on the implementation of articles 1 to 27 of the Covenant, including with regard to the previous recommendations of the Committee

##### Constitutional and legal framework within which the Covenant is implemented (art. 2)

2. Please provide information regarding the measures taken to give full effect to the provisions of the Covenant in domestic law and on the implementation of the Covenant across the State Party. Please describe the steps taken to raise awareness of the Covenant among judges, prosecutors, lawyers and the general public. Please provide examples of cases in which the provisions of the Covenant have been invoked or applied by national courts.

3. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 10), please indicate what measures have been taken to enable the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice to discharge its functions fully and effectively and in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). In particular, please provide information on the efforts made: (a) to ensure that the process for the selection and appointment of its commissioners is sufficiently merit-based and broad and guarantees pluralism, transparency and political independence; and (b) to provide sufficient resources to enable the Commission to adequately

\* Adopted by the Committee at its 144th session (23 June–17 July 2025).

<sup>1</sup> [CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, paragraph numbers in parentheses refer to the Committee's concluding observations on the initial report of the State Party ([CCPR/C/GHA/CO/1](#)).



fulfil its mandate. Please also provide information on the status of the review of the Commission's enabling law, including on the designation of the Commission as the national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

#### **Anti-corruption measures (arts. 2 and 25)**

4. Please describe the mandates and main activities of the State Party's existing anti-corruption bodies, and the measures taken to effectively prevent and combat corruption, with particular emphasis on ensuring the independence, effectiveness and transparency of their work and the accountability of public officials, including those responsible for regulating business operations and managing land and natural resources. In addition, please provide disaggregated statistical data covering the past five years on corruption-related complaints, investigations, prosecutions, and convictions and other disciplinary measures, particularly those involving high-level public officials, judicial officers, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, along with details of any sanctions imposed. Please report on measures to protect whistle-blowers, including the progress made on the whistle-blower reward fund under the Whistleblower Act, and the steps taken to ensure the right of access to information, including the current status of the conduct of public officers bill.

#### **Non-discrimination (arts. 2, 19, 20 and 26)**

5. In the light of the previous concluding observations of the Committee (paras. 12 and 14), please provide information about the measures taken: (a) to prevent and combat discrimination, in law and in practice, on the basis of race, sex, religion or belief, age, disability, HIV/AIDS status, albinism, ethnicity, nationality, political or other opinion and/or sexual orientation and gender identity; (b) to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that prohibits direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, including on all the grounds enumerated above; and (c) to ensure affordable and effective access to justice and remedies for victims of discrimination.

6. In view of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 44), please provide information on the measures taken to provide effective protection from and to address discrimination, stigmatization, violence, including homophobic and transphobic hate speech and hate crimes, and harassment against and arbitrary arrests of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. Please indicate any efforts taken to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations or amend section 104 of the Criminal Offences Act, including statistical information for the past five years on the number of individuals arrested or prosecuted under section 104 and information on the proposed human sexual rights and family values bill of 2021. Please provide information on training courses for police officers, judges and prosecutors and awareness-raising campaigns for the general public on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

7. Please provide information on the legal and institutional framework for the protection of minorities, including measures to prevent discrimination in access to land, public services and civil documentation, and to address exclusion from traditional governance structures, such as challenges faced by the Konkomba community. Please report on steps taken: (a) to prevent and resolve conflicts between pastoralist groups, such as the Fulani, and farming communities, particularly in the context of climate change and increasing land pressures, and to protect the traditional livelihoods and mobility of pastoralist populations; and (b) to combat negative stereotyping, stigmatization and violence against minorities, and to ensure their effective participation in public affairs and in environmental decision-making processes concerning natural resources and climate adaptation.

#### **Violence against women and harmful practices (arts. 2, 3, 6, 7 and 26)**

8. In connection with the Committee's previous concluding observations (paras. 16 and 18) and the evaluation of the information on follow-up to the concluding observations on the initial report of the State Party,<sup>3</sup> please describe the legislative, policy and other measures

<sup>3</sup> See [CCPR/C/127/2/Add.1](#).

taken to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic and sexual violence and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, *trokosi* (ritual servitude), forced early marriage, and witchcraft accusations. In particular, please: (a) report on steps taken to ensure the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators of such violence and harmful practices, and provide statistical data on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions for the past five years; (b) report on steps taken to encourage reporting by victims, including measures to combat social stigma and raise awareness among law enforcement and the public, particularly local communities; and (c) report on steps taken to improve victims' access to justice, effective remedies, adequate protection, legal and medical support, and rehabilitation and reintegration mechanisms, and provide information on available shelters across the country and the work of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit.

#### **Voluntary termination of pregnancy and sexual and reproductive rights (arts. 6–8)**

9. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 24), please report on any measures taken during the reporting period to facilitate access to adequate and affordable sexual and reproductive health services for all, in particular women and adolescents. Please describe the efforts made by the State Party: (a) to guarantee effective access to safe and legal abortion for women and girls throughout its territory regardless of their means; and (b) to provide education and awareness-raising programmes, especially youth-friendly programmes for male and female adolescents, on sexual and reproductive health, with the aim of, inter alia, combating stigmatization of women and girls who experience unwanted pregnancies and seek abortion.

#### **Death penalty (arts. 6 and 7)**

10. Please report on the measures taken or envisaged, along with the timeline, to fully abolish the death penalty, including for offences such as treason under the Constitution, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Please indicate the number of individuals currently on death row and report on any steps taken to commute their death penalties to terms of imprisonment. Please clarify whether these individuals have access to an effective review system, with requests for retrial or pardon.

#### **Climate change and the right to life (art. 6)**

11. In view of the Committee's general comment No. 36 (2018) on the right to life (para. 62), please provide information on efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, including on the right to life, and on efforts to promote the sustainable use of natural resources. Please indicate the efforts to ensure the meaningful participation of affected communities, particularly the most marginalized and vulnerable groups, in decision-making processes, and their access to information.

#### **Prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (art. 7)**

12. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 26), please clarify whether the State Party has adopted criminal legislation that defines and criminalizes torture in accordance with international standards and provides for penalties commensurate with the gravity of the act. Please report on: (a) the measures taken to ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty have access to an independent and effective complaints mechanism for the investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and the progress made towards establishing a national preventive mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture; (b) the measures taken to ensure that confessions obtained through torture or ill-treatment are not used or accepted by courts under any circumstances, and relevant training for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, such as on the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information-Gathering (the Méndez Principles); and (c) the measures taken to ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished in accordance with human rights standards, and that the victims receive reparations.

13. Please provide information on the prevalence of mob justice and vigilante violence and the measures taken to prevent and prosecute such acts and to address their reported causes, including the lack of public trust in law enforcement and impunity for perpetrators. Please include statistical data on reported incidents, prosecutions and convictions in the past five years.

**Treatment of persons deprived of their liberty (arts. 9 and 10)**

14. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 42), please describe the measures taken to ensure respect for the prescribed periods of police custody and pretrial detention with a view to preventing abusive and excessive periods of detention, particularly in relation to weekend arrests. Please describe the measures taken to improve the living conditions in detention, including in relation to prison overcrowding, adequate access to basic services and facilities, such as food, water, hygiene and healthcare, and the separation of pretrial detainees from convicted prisoners, juveniles from adults, and men from women. Please indicate the efforts made to increase the use of alternatives to pretrial detention and non-custodial prison sentences, as provided for in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules).

**Excessive use of force (arts. 6, 7, 10 and 21)**

15. In view of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 22), please provide information on the efforts made to prevent and address unlawful killings by law enforcement and security forces, including during protests and police operations. Please provide information on the number of complaints received, investigations carried out and prosecutions and convictions handed down for the past five years concerning excessive use of force by law enforcement officials and security forces, including during protests, and the number of cases of unlawful killings involving law enforcement and security forces. Please indicate the steps taken to establish an independent mechanism to receive and investigate allegations of excessive use of force by law enforcement and security forces, and to strengthen the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of existing bodies such as the Police Professional Standards Bureau in ensuring accountability for misconduct.

**Trafficking in persons and slavery (arts. 2, 7, 8, 24 and 26)**

16. Please report on measures taken during the reporting period to combat all forms of trafficking in persons and in particular the measures taken: (a) to strengthen protection of victims of labour exploitation and groups in vulnerable situations, in particular women, children, migrant workers and asylum-seekers; (b) to establish a comprehensive and effective nationwide referral system, and to implement the referral mechanism; and (c) to ensure adequate access by victims to protection, rehabilitation, reparation and reintegration services. Please report on the impact of the activities of the referral mechanism. Please also report on instances of modern slavery practices that may differ from trafficking in persons.

**Treatment of aliens, including migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons (arts. 7, 9, 12, 13 and 24)**

17. In the light of the Committee's previous concluding observations (para. 34), please report on the measures taken to ensure that all persons applying for international protection in the State Party have access to fair and efficient asylum procedures, protection against refoulement and an appeal mechanism with suspensive effect against negative decisions on asylum, including detailed information relating to asylum-seekers from Burkina Faso. Please indicate the measures taken to develop a national framework establishing procedures for the determination of statelessness or providing for the protection of stateless persons in the country. Please report on the steps taken towards ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

**Access to justice and independence of the judiciary (arts. 2 and 14)**

18. Please provide information on the measures taken to provide adequate legal aid free of charge to persons without sufficient means across the country, including information on the financial and human resources provided to the Legal Aid Commission and disaggregated

statistical data for the past five years on cases in which access to legal aid has been requested, granted and denied. Please indicate the efforts made to reduce the significant backlog of cases and delays in the courts and to improve the case management system. Please report on measures to ensure the right to be presumed innocent in accordance with article 14 of the Covenant, to prevent wrongful convictions and to identify, release and compensate persons wrongfully deprived of liberty.

19. Please report on: (a) the measures taken to guarantee, in law and in practice, the full independence, impartiality and competence of judges, including information on the current procedures and criteria for the selection, appointment, promotion, suspension, disciplining and removal of judges; and (b) the safeguards against undue interference with the judiciary. Please provide detailed information on the suspension of the Chief Justice in April 2025 and its compliance with domestic legal requirements and the Covenant.

#### **Right to privacy (art. 17)**

20. Please provide information on the State Party's legislative and regulatory framework governing data protection and surveillance, and explain how this framework complies with the Covenant and is applied in practice. Please report on the measures in place to ensure that the surveillance powers of State authorities are subject to adequate judicial authorization and oversight, and that victims of privacy violations have access to effective remedies. Please describe the efforts made to raise awareness and understanding of data privacy laws and rights, and available remedies for privacy violations among government officials, the judiciary and law enforcement, and the general public.

#### **Freedom of conscience and religious belief (arts. 2, 18 and 26)**

21. Please provide information on the legal framework governing compulsory national service, including the Ghana National Service Scheme Act, 1980 (No. 426), with a focus on its military training component, and on recent initiatives to make military training mandatory for national service personnel. Please indicate whether the right to conscientious objection is recognized in the State Party, and describe procedures for alternative service, safeguards against punitive measures for objectors, and the treatment of those who do not complete national service.

#### **Freedom of expression (arts. 19 and 20)**

22. Please report on the legislative and other measures taken by the State Party to promote and protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression, to protect human rights defenders and journalists against any form of surveillance, intimidation, harassment or attacks, to investigate effectively all allegations of such violence and to provide victims with effective remedies. In particular, please provide information on the investigations relating to the murder of journalist Ahmed Hussein-Suale Divela in 2019 and their results. Please respond to reports of attacks on press freedom, including through regulatory harassment, and arrests of journalists and human rights defenders under the broad provisions of the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act No. 29).

#### **Right of peaceful assembly (art. 21)**

23. Please describe the State Party's existing legislation on the right of peaceful assembly, and its compatibility with the Covenant and the Committee's general comment No. 37 (2020) on the right of peaceful assembly, and all measures taken by the State Party to ensure the right of peaceful assembly. Please provide information covering the reporting period on: (a) any protests that have not been allowed or that have been dispersed, and the details of the legal basis; (b) arrests and detention of protesters, including those who protested against corruption linked to illegal mining in September 2024, and the judicial proceedings brought against them; and (c) any complaints received regarding the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials during protests, and the denial of fundamental rights to those arrested and detained.

**Freedom of association (art. 22)**

24. Please describe all steps necessary to guarantee, in law and in practice, the effective exercise of the right to freedom of association in line with the Covenant and a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations, including those defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender persons. Please also report on the measures to ensure the effective participation of civil society in legislative and policymaking processes, including in relation to anti-corruption measures.

**Participation in public life (art. 25)**

25. Please describe the measures, in law and in practice, adopted by the State Party to guarantee the right to participate in public life for all without discrimination, including specific measures to promote the participation of marginalized groups, such as women, including information on the implementation of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Act of 2024. Please report on the measures taken to ensure that all persons, including human rights defenders, activists and candidates with opposing views, can exercise their right to participate in public life without fear of harassment, intimidation, arrest or prosecution. Please describe the efforts made to prevent and respond to election-related violence, including that reported during and after the 2024 general elections, and details of the implementation of the Vigilantism and Related Offences Act of 2019.

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