



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

Sixty-third session

15 February-4 March 2014

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under
article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination against Women**

**List of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth and
ninth periodic reports of Haiti**

Addendum

Responses of Haiti*

Note: This document is being distributed in English, Spanish and French only.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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General context

1. **Please specify whether the State party has included women's rights within the framework of its efforts to consolidate the rule of law. Please indicate whether the State party has taken into account the post-2015 development agenda to create the conditions necessary for global participation of women in sustainable development, climate change policies and natural resources management.**

2. The government has reaffirmed the principle of non-discrimination towards women through a number of official acts.

3. A national policy on gender equality was adopted in December 2014. A 2014-2020 action plan has also been prepared to give effect to women's rights in all areas of economic, political, social and cultural life. This action plan takes as its source the Strategic Development Plan for Haiti (PSDH) of May 2012, theme 9 of which deals specifically with gender equality. The guidelines of the action plan are aimed specifically at achieving:

- Equality of rights and equitable justice.
- Non-sexist education.
- Access with dignity to sexual and reproductive health.
- Elimination of violence against women and girls.
- Economic equality and equitable access to employment.
- Various measures planned under other PSDH programmes are also intended to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- Gender-sensitive budgeting.
- Adaptation of training programmes in light of gender issues.
- Access to health services.
- Establishment of shelters for abused women.
- Review of the legal framework governing the right to citizenship.
- Enhancing women's participation in the justice and security systems.

4. A review of the Penal Code was undertaken and completed in October 2015 to take into account respect for women's rights.

5. Climate change is a problem that has yet to be specifically studied in Haiti and integrated into government interventions. In collaboration with the Ministry for the Status of Women, the gender perspective is being integrated into the programmes of the ministries of agriculture and the environment dealing with questions linked to this problem.

6. **Please describe, in particular, the measures taken to ensure the equal participation of women, including internally displaced women, at the decision-making level of post-earthquake management and reconstruction strategies, and indicate whether [the State party] has incorporated a gender perspective into post-earthquake management and into its relief and recovery strategies.**

7. Through its focal points in the various ministries, the Ministry for the Status of Women seeks to ensure that women are taken into account and that they benefit from the recovery measures undertaken.

8. The Ministry for the Status of Women is cooperating with all governmental institutions, including the Ministry of the Interior and Local Governments (MICT), which is responsible for civil protection. The protection networks that have been established rely on the communities and on women, and they are active. The measures taken by the MICT as well as by civil society organizations involved in handling risks and disasters reflect the recommendations of the Ministry for the Status of Women in terms of recognizing women's participation and their specific needs. For example, in many cases the tendency is to demand gender parity in risk-management and first-aid training. In addition, certain women's organizations offer training that is targeted primarily at women.

9. Displaced persons have for the most part been resettled in different places, with assistance provided either by the central or local governments or by international agencies in coordination with the government. In the metropolitan region there are still 45 camps in operation, and they are home to 14,970 families comprising 31,897 females and 28,904 males.

10. Please also indicate the measures planned to fully address the humanitarian situation of the victims of the earthquake, including internally displaced women, and to address their needs in terms of security and access to housing and health-care services.

11. Material assistance to displaced persons has been offered in the context of programmes coordinated by the Prime Minister's office. The Ministry for the Status of Women has promulgated measures for the protection of women and girls and their access to social services, including housing. In addition, the ministry has been working in the camps, together with international agencies, to prevent and protect against gender violence.

12. Please further indicate the measures taken and envisaged to support Haitian nationals seeking to regularize their situation in the Dominican Republic and to ensure that Haitian women deported to or voluntarily returning from the Dominican Republic are not victims of sexual violence, have access to basic services, and benefit from reintegration measures in the State party.

13. The measures taken relate to: reception, identification, humanitarian assistance, prevention of gender abuse and violence, and assistance with reintegration into the region of origin.

14. Please describe the measures envisaged to develop a holistic approach aimed at eliminating discrimination against women in legislation and indicate a timeframe for the adoption and enactment of any draft legislation relating to women's rights.

15. The elimination of discriminatory laws requires a revision of the codes, in particular the Penal Code and the Civil Code.

16. The presidential commission constituted for purposes of revising the Penal Code completed its work in October 2015. That commission worked in consultation

with the Ministry for the Status of Women, organizations for the defence of women's rights, and human rights organizations.

17. The work of revising the Civil Code has not yet begun.

18. The electoral process for renewal of the executive and the legislature is to be completed in December 2015. The current government's mandate comes to an end on 7 February 2016. The new parliament (Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic) will resume its functions in January 2016, after which the draft revisions to the Penal Code can be submitted. A text of such social importance and scope is bound to give rise to debate in Parliament: it alone can decide when to hold a vote, which must be conducted separately by the two chambers on an identical text.

19. Please provide information on the impediments faced by women in gaining access to justice and the measures taken to overcome them and indicate, in particular, the measures taken and envisaged to encourage women to report all acts of discrimination, including violence, and to provide free legal aid for women without sufficient means.

20. Access to justice is a problem for marginalized population groups, whatever the sex of the persons concerned.

21. Because of their economic situation (poverty, low incomes), their lack of knowledge about their rights and about the justice system (which makes them favourite targets for racketeers), and the malfunctionings of the judicial apparatus, women have particular difficulties in making themselves heard, especially when their complaints have to do with gender abuse and violence.

22. There is as yet no real system of public legal aid. The Ministry of Justice is working on this matter with the bar associations. At the present time, legal advisory services and professional legal aid are offered free of charge by civil society (women's organizations, human rights organizations). These services are however limited because of the financial constraints on the organizations concerned. They are offered on a priority basis to women and girls who are victims of rape.

23. Please provide information on the measures taken to provide capacity-building for professionals in the justice system, including judges, prosecutors and lawyers, on the provisions of the Convention and on the negative impact of stereotyping and preconceived notions of female behaviour, in line with general recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice.

24. Interventions concerning instruments for protecting women's rights are carried out by government agencies and by civil society organizations: training seminars of the *École de la magistrature* [the "Judiciary School"], the bar associations, and *amicales de juristes* [legal societies]; awareness raising and information campaigns of the Citizen Protection Office (OPC, National Human Rights Institutions-INDH) and organizations for the defence of women's rights; training offered by women's organizations and human rights organizations; interventions by the Ministry for the Status of Women with players in the criminal justice system (police, courts). Those interventions now need to be formalized to make these questions part of the training curricula.

National machinery for the advancement of women

25. **Please provide a time frame for the adoption of the gender equality bill, and information on the content of the national plan, 2014-2020, for gender equality, launched on 28 May 2015, and on the measures taken and envisaged to ensure its effective implementation.**

Time frame for adoption of the gender equality bill

26. No time frame can be provided, for the voting of laws depends not on the government but on the Parliament.

27. Consistent with the political structure of the Haitian State, which is based on the principle of the separation of powers, laws are the purview of the bicameral legislature and not of the executive. The executive submits draft bills to the legislature, which inscribes them on the legislative agenda. The time needed to debate and adopt a bill will depend on the internal dynamics of Parliament (the strength of opposition, whether there is a parliamentary majority, political issues of the moment, etc.). Beyond that, and depending on the weight it can wield, the executive may exert influence to have a bill voted at a specified time.

28. As is its custom, the Ministry for the Status of Women will intervene with parliamentarians to make them aware of the importance and usefulness of having legal frameworks for the effective protection of women's rights.

National Plan for Gender Equality 2014-2034

- The plan is based on the following guiding principles: equality, equity, non-discrimination, social inclusion, coherence, transparency and partnership. It is intended to promote the mainstreaming of gender in government bodies.
- The plan's thrust and objectives are aimed at: equality in law and equitable justice for women and men; non-sexist education and egalitarian models; access to sexual and reproductive health, with full respect for women's dignity; elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls; economic equality and equitable access to employment for women and men; egalitarian participation by women and men in decision-making bodies.
- The plan will be steered by an interministerial committee working under the leadership of the Ministry for the Status of Women.

National Action Plan for Gender Equality, 2014-2020

29. This action plan contains six guidelines that translate into objectives and measures:

Guideline 1: For equality in law and equitable justice for women and men:

- Objective 1: Put in place an egalitarian legal and regulatory framework.

Principal measures: integrate the MCFDF [Ministry for the Status of Women and Women's Rights] into the Law Reform Commission; revise the articles that could

compromise the rights of women and girls, in all existing laws and codes as well as in any proposals or draft laws in preparation; adopt new laws (on gender violence, domestic work, sexual and reproductive rights).

- Objective 2: See to the enforcement of the laws

Principal measures: disseminate the laws and monitor their enforcement; awareness raising and information and training for personnel in the penal system; incorporate a gender module into the curriculum of law faculties and the Judiciary School; build a penitentiary centre for women and girls.

Guideline 2: Non-sexist education and egalitarian models

- Objective 3: Promote egalitarian values and non-discrimination between girls and boys in the education system.

Principal measures: combat stereotypes in the school setting; provide training on sexual stereotypes for persons involved in producing school textbooks; keep girls in the school system.

- Objective 4: Improve access for girls and boys to non-traditional courses of study.

Principal measures: survey of courses of study; establishment of institutional mechanisms for non-sexist professional guidance.

- Objective 5: Combat sexist stereotypes in places of early childhood socialization.

Principal measures: incorporate a gender module into the school curriculum; national information and awareness raising campaign on sexual stereotypes and social relationships between the sexes.

Guideline 3: Access for women to sexual and reproductive health

- Objective 6: Encourage health institutions to develop high-quality local health services following a gender-based approach.

Principal measures: interventions designed to reduce gender inequalities in the area of nutrition and food; introduce the gender dimension into the national health plan; annual nation-wide campaigns to screen for breast cancer and cervical cancer; extend primary care to all women, in accordance with the recommendations of the Cairo Conference on Population and Development; first-aid training courses for women's organizations.

- Objective 7: Promote and support access for women and men to information about sexual and reproductive rights.

Principal measures: family planning and sexual and reproductive health programmes; yearly campaigns to prevent early-age and unwanted pregnancies.

- Objective 8. Develop and strengthen institutional mechanisms for maternal health and for reducing infant mortality rates.

Principal measures: prevention of the feminization of HIV/AIDS; promotion of maternal breast-feeding; consultation forums for health personnel and citizens.

Guideline 4: Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls

- Objective 9: Prevent and combat violence against women.

Principal measures: develop a regulatory framework for women's shelters; training for the police and justice officials in the handling of rape victims; campaigns to encourage women to join the police force.

- Objective 10: Strengthen and support national mechanisms for coordination and harmonization of measures to combat violence against women and girls.

Principal measures: revive the executive secretariat of the *Concertation Nationale* [National Dialogue] to combat violence against women; implement the 2012-2016 national plan to combat gender-based violence; reinforce the capacities of the care-giving structures.

Guideline 5: Economic equality and equitable access to employment for women and men

- Objective 11: Promote the economic empowerment of women

Principal measures: institute an egalitarian social security system for women and men; apply the principle of equal opportunities in the recruitment of public officials; studies on the specific impacts on women of environmental degradation.

- Objective 12: Strengthen women's capacities to enter expanding sectors of economic activity.

Principal measures: guidance programme on trades where women and girls are underrepresented; economic integration programme for young unemployed women.

- Objective 13: Support the development of female entrepreneurship.

Principal measures: programme to support female entrepreneurship.

Guideline 6: Egalitarian participation for women and men in decision-making bodies.

- Objective 14: Promote women's access to positions of responsibility and decision-making in the public and political spheres.

Principal measures: integrate gender equality into the reform of the public administration; respect the 30% quota in the ministerial cabinet; technical and financial support for female candidates.

- Objective 15: Strengthen female leadership

Principal measures: support women community leaders; establish an integrated steering and management structure for implementing the Action Plan.

30. Please also indicate the measures envisaged to ensure that the national machinery for the advancement of women has adequate human, financial and technical resources at the national, regional, provincial and municipal levels.

31. The Ministry for the Status of Women has a representative office in each of the country's geographic departments.

32. The Ministry is funded from the central government budget, which is financed to the extent of around 60% by international aid. The budget allocated to the Ministry is inadequate: for fiscal year 2013-2014 it amounted to 118,549,355 gourdes (equivalent to US\$3,119,860 at an exchange rate of 38 gourdes to the

dollar); for fiscal year 2014-2015 it is 131,170,745.29 gourdes (equivalent to US\$2,914,905.45 at 45 gourdes to the dollar); and for fiscal year 2015-2016 it is 135,192,832.92 gourdes (provisionally equivalent to US\$2,538,832.54). Given the inadequacy of public funding, the Ministry is developing projects that are financed by international agencies (the UN system, bilateral aid).

33. Please describe the measures taken to ensure the coordination and the optimal use of international funding for the promotion of women's rights.

34. The Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE) is the body responsible for coordinating international aid, in cooperation with the Prime Minister's office. Since 2012-2013, there has been an External Development Assistance Coordination Framework (CAED) in place to ensure better harmonization of efforts and to maximize resources and outcomes.

35. The Ministry for the Status of Women established a Thematic Roundtable on Gender (TTG) in September 2014, with a view to mainstreaming the gender dimension in all public policies and guaranteeing respect for women's rights in all sectors. This mechanism allows for the inclusion of partners from various sectors that can assist in orienting actions in the area of gender and women's rights. It is a forum for exchanging views and thinking about how to orient, harmonize and coordinate interventions on behalf of gender equality. The thematic roundtable brings together government institutions, Haitian and foreign NGOs, women's organizations and groups, international agencies and donors. It has established working sub-groups tasked with promoting the principles of equality, equity and non-discrimination in their respective sectors, by proposing strategies and formulating recommendations to move the file forward and to obtain concrete results in the area concerned.

36. Please further indicate whether the extended mandate of the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Rights of the Person (paragraph 17) includes monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

37. The Ministry for the Status of Women is responsible for monitoring the implementation of conventions relating to women's rights. The Ministry keeps the Committee advised of progress, obstacles and directives.

38. Please also indicate whether the State party has developed a comprehensive data collection system concerning the situation of women.

39. Such a system is not yet in existence. However, in the studies produced by the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Technology (IHSI) the data are disaggregated by sex and the analyses take gender into account.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

40. Please describe the measures envisaged to strengthen understanding of the equality of women and men and to work with the media in order to enhance a positive and non-stereotypical portrayal of women.

41. During periodic campaigns on symbolic dates, the Ministry for the Status of Women works with the media to convey non-stereotyped messages about women and girls, to publicize their rights, and to prevent gender-based discrimination and violence.

42. **Please indicate whether the State party envisages developing a comprehensive strategy to change social and cultural patterns and eliminate gender-based stereotypes.**

43. The overall strategy is being put together gradually. Certain guidelines are issued for all State institutions. The presence of gender focal points in the different ministries is intended to help integrate the gender perspective into their initiatives: a notable example is the Ministry of Education with respect to eliminating stereotypes in school textbooks.

Violence against women

44. **Please indicate the measures taken to address the following issues of which the Committee has been informed:**

(a) The widespread violence against women, including domestic violence

45. All the available data for several years now show that in Haiti, as elsewhere, marital violence generally ranks first among the incidences of gender-based violence.

46. A second National Plan, 2012-2016, for combating gender-based violence was prepared in July 2011.

47. Work is under way to prepare a framework law on violence against women and girls. The initial draft of that law could not be tabled in 2014, and will be submitted to the new parliament that will take up its functions in January 2016.

(b) The violence perpetrated by armed gangs

48. Gang-perpetrated atrocities, including rape, were primarily a phenomenon of the years 2002-2004. At the present time, sporadic conflicts between opposing gangs produce victims of both sexes. In this context, women and girls can be particularly victimized, even if this is not a systematic operating mode.

(c) The increase in the number of rapes of women and girls

49. Since efforts were launched to systematize the struggle against gender violence, a number of awareness-raising and information campaigns have urged women and girls to report violence. The responses have been quite positive, although it appears that, now as before, incidences of gender violence are not systematically reported.

50. In the absence of systematic national data, it is difficult to maintain that gender violence has in general increased. On the other hand, requests for care services continue to rise, and reported cases are accordingly increasing.

(d) The violence against women perpetrated at the border with the Dominican Republic

51. There are as yet no specific data on violence suffered by Haitian women in the border zone, linked to Haitian-Dominican relations. The abuse and violence suffered by women in this context may not necessarily fall within the category of violence targeted at women as such.

(e) The issue of impunity for cases of violence against women

52. Impunity is a recurrent problem that concerns Haitian society as a whole and that corrupts the justice system. In the case of women, this impunity relates in particular to cases of gender violence that either go unpunished or are not properly punished, for the following reasons: corruption and/or politicization of the judicial system, incompetence or lack of knowledge of legislation on the part of judges, and shortcomings in the legal framework.

(f) The underreporting of rape, including in camps for internally displaced persons

53. This is a problem for Haiti, as it is for a great many countries. Education about human rights and the specific rights of women and girls, the availability of reliable and safe recourse for victims, the enforcement of penalties etc. are factors that, over the long term, should serve to encourage the reporting of rapes.

54. **In the report (CEDAW/C/HTI/8-9),¹ reference is made to a national plan to combat violence against women (2012-2016) (para. 83). Given that the previous plan was focused on prevention, please indicate the content of this new plan, and in particular whether it includes measures to encourage women to report all acts of violence, including domestic violence; ensure the prosecution of perpetrators; provide victims with protection, remedies and rehabilitation; and provide capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes for the police, lawyers, health and social workers, the judiciary and the public at large.**

55. The 2012-2016 National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence relies both on prevention and on providing care. Activities are aimed in particular at encouraging women and girls to report all forms of violence and to use the existing remedies.

- Theme 1. Reinforcing and coordinating care services for victims of gender-based violence, and support and counselling services for victims.
- Theme 2. Constructing a system for managing information on cases of gender-based violence.
- Theme 3. A national communication campaign on preventing gender-based violence and on understanding the existing remedies.
- Theme 4. Coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

56. **Please indicate the budget allocated to the implementation of the plan and the measures taken to coordinate such implementation.**

57. There is no government budget specifically allocated to implementing the plan. Drawing upon its own budget and the contributions of donors, the Ministry for the Status of Women undertakes certain interventions. The National Dialogue on Violence against Women, through its network of victim care organizations, is working to make the plan operational. The organizations offering services are not subsidized by the government.

58. **Please also indicate the measures taken and envisaged to increase the number of shelters for women who are victims of violence.**

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, paragraph numbers refer to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of the State party.

59. In its 2014-2020 action plan, the Ministry for the Status of Women intends to build four shelter centres.

60. Please describe the steps taken to expedite the adoption of the bill on violence against women (para. 186).

61. Once the new parliamentarians have taken up the duties, in January 2016 the Ministry for the Status of Women will hold meetings with the parliamentary committees to raise awareness of the importance and necessity of the bill and to discuss its text.

62. Please indicate the measures taken or envisaged to adopt a legal definition of rape and incest and to specifically criminalize rape, incest and violence against women, including sexual harassment and marital rape.

63. Rape is already a crime in Haitian legislation. The legislation was reinforced in 2005.

64. The proposed framework law on gender-based violence defines all such forms of sexual aggression as crimes.

65. Please state whether a medical certificate is required, in law and in practice, to initiate criminal proceedings for rape.

66. A medical certificate constitutes an element of proof, but it is not legally required in order to file a complaint.

67. Please also indicate the measures envisaged to ensure that cases of violence against women, including rape and incest, are not referred to mediation or conciliation.

68. The proposed framework law on gender-based violence does not provide for this possibility, and it is excluded in the victim support protocols.

69. Please describe the measures taken to encourage the reporting of cases of incest, ensure the punishment of perpetrators and increase the awareness of men and women of the unacceptability of incest.

70. Incest is regarded in Haitian society as a grave transgression. Information campaigns encourage victims to overcome their shame and file a report. Changes are planned in the laws governing the protection of children against delinquent parents.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

71. Mention is made in the report of the adoption in 2014 of an act criminalizing human trafficking (para. 21). Please provide information on the measures taken and envisaged for the effective implementation of the legislation. Please indicate whether the State party envisages adopting a national action plan to combat the trafficking of persons, especially women and children.

72. The law has been voted but not promulgated, and is therefore not yet in force.

73. Please describe the measures taken, in particular, to address trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude and forced prostitution.

74. To date no measure has been taken, as the law is not yet in force.

75. Please provide information on the measures taken and envisaged to systematically collect sex-disaggregated data on trafficking in persons and provide data on the number of victims, cases investigated, cases prosecuted, and convictions on the grounds of trafficking and sex tourism, in addition to the punishment of perpetrators.

76. To date no measures have been taken, as the law is not yet in force.

77. Please provide information on the conclusion of bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries, including the Dominican Republic, to prevent trafficking in persons and punish the perpetrators.

78. To date, no bilateral agreements have been signed. Following the earthquake of 2010, measures were taken to prevent the trafficking of children under the guise of adoption. The legislation in this field has been reinforced.

79. Please indicate the measures taken to provide educational and economic alternatives to prostitution, and to introduce exit programmes and rehabilitation and reintegration measures for women wishing to leave prostitution.

80. To date, no measure has been taken.

81. Please also provide information on the direction and content of the draft decree reinforcing the legislative framework on prostitution (para. 92), in view of articles 5 and 6 of the Convention.

82. This is a municipal-level decree that concerns not prostitution as such, but rather its exercise in public. The decree seeks to prohibit prostitution and the sale of pornographic materials in the street, sexist public advertising, and admission of minors of either gender to bars and nightclubs.

83. The discussions with the mayors took place in 2011. The mandate of these elected officials expired before the municipal councils could pronounce themselves. As of October 2015 no mayoral elections had been held, and the current officeholders had only interim status.

Participation in political and public life

84. According to the report (para. 34), an amendment to the Constitution published on 19 June 2012 provides for the principle of a 30 per cent quota for the representation of women at all levels of national life. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure the effective implementation of this amendment in decision-making positions in the government, the judiciary, the legislature, the civil service at the national, regional, provincial and municipal levels and the diplomatic service.

85. The adoption of the quota principle is not by itself enough to ensure the presence of women in the circles of power and decision-making. It will be necessary to overcome resistance and also to encourage women to seek appointed and elected positions more actively. The quota is far from being achieved.

86. The current government, in office since May 2011, has been concerned to have women represented in the ministerial cabinet as well as in other appointed positions in the executive branch, but it has not yet achieved 30%.

87. There are few women in the judiciary. The Superior Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ), which is responsible for certain appointments, comprises members from human rights organizations that are very sensitive to this question. The fact remains that the understaffing of the judiciary is in itself a problem.

88. The Ministry for the Status of Women intends to update the data on women in the public service. Its 2014-2020 action plan calls for measures to increase the number of women working in key institutions.

89. Parliamentarians and mayors are elected to office. The government, in particular the Ministry for the Status of Women, in cooperation with international agencies, has taken various steps to encourage female candidates. The government has asked women's organizations to name a member to the Provisional Electoral Board (CEP).

90. In follow-up to the measures adopted since 2005 to encourage women's political participation, measures have been adopted by the CEP to ensure a female presence in the electoral machinery.

91. Women's organizations are active in supporting women's civic and political participation, and they are taking steps in this direction (awareness raising, training, promotion).

92. It is stated that Parliament voted against the integration in the electoral law of a 30 per cent quota for the representation of women (para. 60). Please indicate the measures envisaged to raise awareness on the part of parliamentarians about the importance of the participation of women in decision-making.

93. Since 2014, the parliamentarians in question are no longer in office.

Education

94. The absence of data on the enrolment and success rates of women at the tertiary level of education is mentioned in the report. Please indicate the measures taken or envisaged to collect such data. Please indicate the measures taken to reduce the dropout rates of girls, including the use of incentives for families through financial or food support.

95. The attention of the State University's governing board has been drawn to the lack of gender-disaggregated data, both for students and for the teaching body. Feminist researchers are also pressing the universities to make available such data in order to conduct gender-based analyses of the academic world.

96. To date, no specific measure has been taken to reduce the dropout rate among girls.

97. Please provide data on the disparity in access to education between urban and rural areas, including in camps for internally displaced persons. Please also indicate the measures envisaged to further increase the female literacy rate, in particular in rural areas.

98. There are no specific data on the remaining camps for internally displaced persons.

99. According to data from the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Technology (IHSI), there is a significant gap between urban areas (58.45%) and rural areas (36.52%): the urban attendance rate is 1.6 times the rural rate.

100. The 2014-2020 action plan of the Ministry for the Status of Women calls for interventions on behalf of female literacy.

101. Please provide information on the effective implementation of free and universal primary education.

102. Number of beneficiaries: Education for All (EPT) total 75,077 girls, including 7,651 in the capital and 67,426 distributed among the departments. The free and compulsory universal education programme (PSUGO) covers a total of 1,465,974 girls and boys (586,499 in the capital and 879,475 in the departments): the total is not disaggregated by sex, but it is estimated that about 49% are girls, with 287,384 in the capital and 430,942 in the departments. In both cases, education is free for all. See the attached table.

Number of students in free education in 2014-15

<i>DDE</i>	<i>EPT</i>			<i>PSUGO</i>
	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
Artibonite	20 558	20 900	41 458	315 095
Centre	6 258	6 002	12 260	83 180
Grand-Anse	7 004	7 681	14 685	29 158
Nippes	12 128	14 016	26 144	52 030
Nord	5 890	5 960	11 850	161 045
Nord-Est	7 801	7 884	15 685	50 968
Nord-Ouest	7 787	8 315	16 102	63 369
Ouest	7 651	5 705	11 356	586 499
Sud				61 400
Sud Est				63 230
Total	75 077	76 463	149 540	1 465 974

DDE: Departmental Directorate of Education.

EPT: Education for All.

PSUGO: Free and compulsory universal education programme.

103. Please provide information on:

(a) The current situation in the State party regarding violence against, and sexual harassment of, girls in schools;

No data available. The cases are reported and compiled by women's organizations.

(b) The integration in the school curricula, at all levels of education, of age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights;

Called for in the 2014-2020 action plan of the Ministry for the Status of Women, but not yet implemented.

(c) Stereotypical attitudes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in textbooks, curricula and teacher training.

104. Called for in the 2014-2020 action plan, but not yet implemented.

Employment

105. Please indicate the stage of enactment reached by the bill on domestic workers' labour conditions (para. 61).

106. The law was adopted by Parliament in May 2009, and is awaiting promulgation by the executive.

107. Please describe the measures taken to protect women working in the informal sector, in particular to provide them with social benefits and to promote their integration into the formal labour force.

108. Security has been enhanced in the zones surrounding public markets, as a means of protecting female street merchants from various forms of aggression.

109. Social protection is a matter under examination and has been the subject of a number of studies and meetings with stakeholders, especially in 2014-2015.

110. The question is not so much to integrate women into the existing formal sector, but rather to formalize the way they conduct their activities.

111. Please indicate, in particular, the time frame for the adoption of the project offering a free health insurance card to workers in the informal sector (para. 143).

112. This matter is under study.

113. Please further specify whether the State party envisages adopting legal provisions prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace and provide data on the number of reported cases of sexual harassment in the workplace and on the measures taken to prevent and punish such acts.

114. The framework law on gender-based violence deals with sexual harassment.

115. In subcontracting plants in the metropolitan area, interventions by a women's organization make it possible to combat sexual harassment.

116. Please indicate the measures envisaged to address the disproportionately high unemployment rate of women and reduce the wage gap between women and men, including by addressing the occupational segregation of women in the public and private sectors.

117. The measures planned by the government to combat unemployment address the target population without distinction as to sex.

118. There is no measure currently in place that targets occupational segregation.

Health

119. **Please indicate the measures envisaged to address the lack of an adequate budget allocated to the health sector; the lack of a sufficient number of skilled health personnel; the persisting lack of access to basic health-care services and essential obstetric care, in particular among rural women, caused in part by the cost of medical care, the long distances to medical centres and the need for some women to have the consent of their spouse; and the high rates of teenage pregnancy.**

120. Ministry of Public Health: supplementary budget provided by international donors; training for health personnel including midwives working in rural areas; referral hospitals established in two regions; contraception campaign.

121. Ministry for the Status of Women: sexual education under the 2014-2020 plan.

122. **Please also describe the measures envisaged to involve women in ensuring basic health and hygiene practices and the prevention and management of epidemics.**

123. Given the role that women play in family health, they are the prime targets of the Health Ministry in its health education interventions.

124. **The preparation of a bill to decriminalize abortion is mentioned (para. 88). Please indicate whether the bill legalizes abortion in cases of threat to the life and health of the mother, rape, incest and severe malformation of the foetus, and describe the measures taken and envisaged to expedite its adoption.**

125. The draft bill is still in the process of preparation. It is encountering a great deal of opposition. There is as yet no consensus as to its scope.

126. **Please indicate the measures taken to ensure that abortion is not used as a family-planning measure.**

127. Abortion is seen as a measure of last resort, and not at all as a contraceptive method.

128. To date, abortion still remains illegal, regardless of the circumstances of the pregnancy.

129. **Please provide information on the measures envisaged to increase the availability and accessibility of comprehensive age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning services and the rate of modern contraceptive use.**

130. The 2014-2020 action plan of the Ministry for the Status of Women calls for providing education about sexual and reproductive health rights in the schools, generally for young people of both sexes.

131. **Please also indicate the measures taken to address the disproportionately high number of women living with HIV, in particular women in prostitution.**

132. Campaigns for the prevention of HIV/AIDS are ongoing. They are carried out by the Ministry of Health and by civil society, which intervenes in consultation with the Ministry. The primary emphasis is placed on protection (education, contraceptive devices, screening), transmission from mother to child, and the 72 hours post-rape protocol.

Rural women

133. Please indicate the measures taken to enhance the economic empowerment of rural women and female heads of household, improve their access to health care and the labour market and ensure their participation in the development of policies and decision-making processes.

134. Through its local presence in all the geographic departments, on one hand, and its gender focal points in the ministries, on the other, the Ministry for the Status of Women takes steps to have projects include aspects related to strengthening women's economic capacities, their access to health, and their participation in development projects. Women's wishes and expectations are gathered in consultation sessions and forwarded to the appropriate bodies. The ministry also intervenes with international cooperation agencies to ensure follow-up to the directives concerning the inclusion of women. The 2014-2020 action plan calls for supporting female entrepreneurship.

Disadvantaged groups of women

135. According to the report, women living in camps for internally displaced persons experience high rates of violence, and the Committee has been informed that the rates are increasing. Please provide data on acts of violence against women in such camps and indicate the measures taken to prevent such acts, to investigate them, to prosecute and punish perpetrators and to provide remedies to [their] victims.

136. The number of camps is now very small. Living conditions leave women vulnerable to violence. There are no specific and reliable data on gender-based violence in these settings. The awareness raising and information efforts of the Ministry for the Status of Women and of women's organizations make it possible for these vulnerable women, and for women in general, to make use of existing remedies.

137. Mention is also made of the lack of access to appropriate obstetric medical care in camps. Please indicate the measures taken and envisaged to ensure that internally displaced women have access to basic health-care services.

138. Lack of access to obstetric care is a problem common to all disadvantaged women, urban and rural, and is not confined to those still living in the camps. Health facilities (public or, more likely, run by NGOs) do exist, but there are too few of them and they may be far removed from the place of residence.

139. Please provide information on the measures taken to prevent retaliation against women's rights defenders. In particular, please indicate the measures taken to address the situation of the co-directors of the Commission of Women Victims [of Violence], Malya Villard Apollo and Eramithe Delva, who have reportedly been subjected to acts of intimidation and threats, as indicated in the 2014 report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (A/HRC/25/71).

140. The women in question have moved to the United States and are no longer subjected to the alleged threats.

141. In its cooperation with the police, the Ministry for the Status of Women discusses these questions. However, it is the judicial police service that is responsible for conducting inquiries and referring them for prosecution.

142. Please provide information on the measures taken and envisaged to ensure that disadvantaged groups of women, including women living in poverty, rural women, women heads of household and women with disabilities (especially given the increase in the number of women with disabilities caused by the earthquake), have effective access to health-care services, education, water, sanitation, food, housing and income-generating activities.

143. Social assistance programmes are aimed at vulnerable women in particular, without discrimination as to disability. Haiti does not have the means to provide the necessary basic services to the entire population.

144. Please indicate the number of women in detention and specify whether there are separate facilities for men and women detainees and whether girls are separated from adult women, and convicted women from women in pretrial detention, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

145. According to data from the National Penitentiary Administration (APENA), there are 284 women in detention (16 serving life sentences), and two convicted female minors.

146. In the metropolitan area there is a prison reserved for women and girls, but there is no separation by age. In the provinces there are no separate prisons for men and women, but they have separate living quarters. As is the case with other detention centres, the women's prison is cramped, overcrowded, and does not meet prison standards, including separation by judicial status (convicted persons versus those in pretrial detention). In response to the recurrent problem of prolonged pretrial detention, special court hearings are periodically held. The last took place in the summer of 2015.

Marriage and family relations

147. Please provide information on the steps taken towards the adoption of the bill on the recognition of consensual unions and indicate whether the bill ensures that both parties in consensual unions have the same rights and responsibilities during the union and upon its dissolution.

148. The draft bill is still under discussion. It is based on equality of rights for the spouses. The bill is however limited in its juridical scope. Establishing equality of rights, whatever the type of union, will require a revision to the Civil Code.

149. The adoption of legislation is the purview of Parliament. The executive can only try to influence the pace of proceedings.

Optional Protocol to the Convention and amendment to article 20 (1)

150. Please indicate any progress made with regard to the ratification of the **Optional Protocol to the Convention and the acceptance of the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention.**

151. No new developments to report.
