



# Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## Committee on the Rights of the Child

### **List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Togo under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict\***

1. The State party is requested to submit in writing additional, updated information (10,700 words maximum), if possible before 2 June 2023. The Committee may take up all aspects of children's rights set out in the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party.
2. With reference to paragraphs 16 to 18 of the State party's report, please inform the Committee about the role of each stakeholder in implementing the Optional Protocol and the mechanism that ensures overall coordination between all relevant government departments and agencies.<sup>1</sup>
3. Please provide information on steps taken to establish a comprehensive system for the collection and analysis of disaggregated data on matters dealt with in the Optional Protocol, including the recruitment of children into armed forces and the enrolment of children in military schools.
4. Please indicate the extent to which the dissemination of the Optional Protocol and training and education on human rights, children's rights and the culture of peace, as mentioned in paragraphs 19–23 and 70–84 of the State party's report, have improved awareness of the Optional Protocol among children and relevant professionals. Please provide specific examples of cases where the Optional Protocol has been applied by courts and other national authorities. In light of the information provided in paragraph 58 of the State party's report, please also indicate whether there are plans to introduce mandatory training on international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol, for all students at military schools.
5. With reference to paragraph 62 of the State party's report, please indicate whether the requirement to reimburse school fees unduly restricts, and even obstructs, children's exercise of their right to leave military college at any time. Please also indicate whether the National Human Rights Commission has a mandate to promote the Optional Protocol, monitor developments and investigate violations of the provisions of the Optional Protocol; please specify the measures taken to raise awareness of its complaints mechanism among children who may have been victims or are at risk of being recruited or used for purposes prohibited under the Optional Protocol.
6. Since birth registration is not yet widespread, please provide information on how often proof of age is obtained despite the official documents referred to in paragraph 42 of the State party's report not being available, as well as on the safeguards in place to prevent the recruitment of persons under 18 years and the effectiveness of these measures.

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\* Adopted by the pre-sessional working group on 10 February 2023.

<sup>1</sup> [CRC/C/OPAC/TGO/1](https://www.un.org/crc/CRC/C/OPAC/TGO/1).



7. With reference to paragraphs 85 to 89 of the State party's report, please provide information on any plans to amend the Criminal Code and the Code of Military Justice in order to establish clear definitions of "compulsory recruitment", "use of children in hostilities" and "direct participation in hostilities".

8. With reference to paragraph 123 of the State party's report, please indicate:

(a) The progress made with bringing the military courts into operation and any prosecutions of offences covered by the Optional Protocol, including the judgments handed down;

(b) Whether the exercise of extraterritorial jurisdiction over offences prohibited under the Protocol necessitates double criminality;

(c) Any steps taken to strengthen the capacity of Togolese courts to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction;

(d) The number and nature of cases of extradition proceedings brought concerning offences covered by the Optional Protocol.

9. Please provide information on any training on the subject of children's involvement in armed conflict that is offered to all relevant child protection professionals and civil society organizations working with children in vulnerable situations, such as children in street situations and out-of-school children, particularly in the Savanes region.

10. Please indicate the measures taken to establish an early identification and data collection mechanism for children arriving in the State party, including refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children and separated and unaccompanied children who may have been involved in armed conflict abroad, including in Burkina Faso and other crisis-torn countries of the Sahel. Please also indicate whether the personnel responsible for identifying these children are trained in children's rights, child protection and child-friendly interviewing skills. Please inform the Committee whether early identification, data collection and child protection are addressed in cross-border cooperation agreements with neighbouring countries.

11. In light of reports that Togo is receiving children from countries in situations of armed conflict and the recent armed attacks in the north of the country, please provide detailed information on rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for children affected by armed conflict and on measures taken to promote their physical and psychological well-being, rehabilitation and social reintegration. Please provide information on measures taken to prevent the recruitment and use of children in hostilities, including separated and unaccompanied children arriving from Burkina Faso and other crisis-torn countries of the Sahel, and to ensure that victims of recruitment and use can avail themselves of remedies to obtain reparation, specifying the number of times in which these remedies have been sought and the form of reparation granted. In addition, please provide further information on the way in which children are informed about the judicial process under article 285 of the Children's Code, referred to in paragraph 12 of the State party's report, and on the support they receive during such proceedings.

12. Please describe progress towards the adoption of the law regulating weapons referred to in paragraph 142 of the State party's report and indicate whether it is intended to prohibit the trade and use of small arms and light weapons and the provision of any aid to countries in which children are involved in armed conflict.

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