



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

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## Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

### List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh to tenth periodic reports of Guinea-Bissau\*

#### Women's rights and gender equality in relation to the pandemic, recovery efforts and global crises

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 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 on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 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 and legal status of the Convention, Optional Protocol and general recommendations

2. With reference to paragraphs 10 and 18 of the Committee's previous concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/GNB/CO/6](#)), please provide further details on:

- (a) Measures taken to ensure the full incorporation of the Convention into the national legal framework and whether the provisions are directly applicable in national courts;
- (b) Steps taken to ensure that the Convention takes precedence over conflicting national legislation and examples where courts have applied this principle;
- (c) Capacity-building, knowledge application and accountability monitoring activities undertaken for judges, prosecutors, police officers and law enforcement officials on the Convention and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

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\* Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-first session on 18 June 2025.



(d) Court decisions that have included references to or integrated the provisions of the Convention;

(e) Efforts to disseminate the Convention in *Crioulo* and other local languages and measures taken to raise awareness among women of their rights under the Convention.

### **Definition of discrimination**

3. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Committee's previous concluding observations and paragraph 5 of the State Party's report (CEDAW/C/GNB/7-10), please provide information on the measures taken under the ongoing constitutional reform process to incorporate into the Constitution, currently under review, a definition of discrimination against women that encompasses both direct and indirect discrimination, as well as intersectional discrimination, in line with article 1 of the Convention, as well as the principle of equality between women and men in accordance with article 2 (a) of the Convention.

### **Access to justice**

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

(a) Steps taken to remove all barriers to women's access to justice, including legal, procedural, accessibility, social and cultural impediments;

(b) Measures taken to enhance women's legal literacy and awareness of their rights under the Convention, including their right to seek legal redress in court, particularly among women in rural and remote areas and women from disadvantaged groups;

(c) Steps taken to integrate the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the general recommendations of the Committee into legal education and the training of judges, lawyers, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, government officials and traditional and community leaders;

(d) Steps taken to design a comprehensive judicial policy for the elimination of legal, procedural, social, cultural, economic, accessibility, technological and other barriers faced by women in obtaining access to justice and for the provision of adequate human, financial and technical resources, including reasonable and procedural accommodations;

(e) The oversight mechanisms in place to ensure that alternative dispute resolution procedures comply with the Convention in that they do not replace effective access to justice and the need for free and informed consent, and are not used in cases of gender-based violence;

(f) Data on the number of women receiving legal aid from civil society organizations and from the State Party, and on the availability of accessible courts, including courts that use local languages, Braille and sign language in urban and rural communities;

(g) Data on the number of women obtaining access to justice, disaggregated by age, disability, region and type of complaint.

### **Women and peace and security**

5. Please indicate the steps taken to develop an updated 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. Please also:

- (a) Describe measures in place to ensure the meaningful participation of women's organizations and civil society in the development and implementation of the national action plan;
- (b) Provide information on the current and evolving role of women in promoting good governance and electoral stability, including any initiatives or policies that support women's meaningful participation in decision-making and peacebuilding processes.

#### **National machinery for the advancement of women**

6. Please provide information on:

- (a) Steps taken to adopt a gender-responsive budgeting system across all sectors;
- (b) Human and financial resources allocated to the Institute for Women and Children and other national gender equality mechanisms, including measures taken to address gaps in rural areas;
- (c) The status of implementation of the National Policy for Gender Equality and Equity, including operational benchmarks, time frames and monitoring mechanisms for gender mainstreaming across all sectors;
- (d) Steps taken to ensure the participation of women, especially from rural and marginalized groups, in the development, implementation and monitoring of gender equality policies and programmes.

#### **National human rights institution**

7. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure the independence, effectiveness and visibility of the National Commission on Human Rights, in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and provide it with sufficient human, technical and financial resources. Please also indicate the steps taken to secure its accreditation as an "A status" national human rights institution with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

#### **Temporary special measures**

8. With reference to paragraph 22 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

- (a) Implementation, enforcement and monitoring of the Parity Law (Law No. 4/2018), including measures taken to address compliance gaps and the impact on women's representation in parliament and other decision-making bodies;
- (b) Temporary special measures, such as quotas or targeted initiatives, adopted or planned to accelerate substantive equality for women in areas beyond political participation, including the judiciary, executive, education and employment, and for marginalized groups such as women with disabilities and rural women;
- (c) Data on the outcomes of temporary special measures, disaggregated by sector, including benchmarks, timeframes and mechanisms in place to monitor and report on their impact.

### **Gender stereotypes**

9. Recalling paragraph 24 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on:

- (a) Awareness-raising and educational programmes under Pillar 6 of the National Gender Equality and Equity Policy Action Plan, including the participation of men and boys and any assessment of their effectiveness in eliminating harmful stereotypes and practices;
- (b) Mechanisms in place to monitor and assess progress in eliminating harmful cultural practices and gender stereotypes, including data collection, particularly in rural and high-prevalence regions, such as Gabú;
- (c) Enforcement of laws, policies or regulations on gender stereotyping, including prosecution rates, victim support measures and challenges in law enforcement, particularly in rural areas, and efforts made to engage with religious leaders and faith-based actors to address gender stereotypes that negatively affect the human rights of women and girls.

### **Harmful practices**

10. Please describe measures in place to ensure effective enforcement of Law No. 14/2011 on female genital mutilation, and other laws and policies addressing harmful traditional practices, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and polygamy, and to engage traditional and religious leaders in changing discriminatory customs and attitudes. Please also provide information on measures taken to protect women with albinism and to combat social stigma.

### **Gender-based violence against women**

11. Please provide:

- (a) Data on the prevalence, reporting, investigation, prosecution and conviction rates for all forms of gender-based violence against women, disaggregated by form of violence, age, ethnicity, disability, relationship between perpetrator and victim, and geographical area;
- (b) Information on the availability and accessibility of support services for victims of gender-based violence, such as shelters, legal aid and medical and psychological support, rehabilitation and reparation, particularly in rural areas;
- (c) Information on training programmes for judges, prosecutors, police officers, social workers and health professionals on gender-based violence, including their content, frequency and impact assessment mechanisms.

### **Trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution**

12. With reference to paragraph 63 of the State Party's report, please provide an update on the implementation of the third National Strategic Plan for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Guinea-Bissau, 2024–2028. Please also provide information on:

- (a) Steps taken to establish a mechanism for systematic data collection on victims of trafficking;
- (b) The implementation and effectiveness of victim identification, referral and support procedures, including access to protection, legal aid and long-term reintegration for women and girl victims, and efforts made to build the capacity of law enforcement personnel in the early identification of victims of trafficking;

- (c) Measures taken to address the root causes of trafficking and improve the economic situation of women and feminized poverty;
- (d) The number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of trafficking and the sentences imposed on perpetrators, disaggregated by sex, age and country of origin of victims.

13. Please provide detailed information on:

- (a) The extent of prostitution in the State Party, including data disaggregated by sex, age and nationality;
- (b) The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women in prostitution and the preventive measures in place to address it;
- (c) The resources allocated to exit strategies, including alternative income opportunities, education and adequate social benefits, to allow women to leave prostitution and to prevent women with limited means from entering it.

### **Participation in political and public life**

14. In the light of the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 32 of its previous concluding observations and its general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, and with reference to paragraph 76 of the State Party's report, please:

- (a) Provide information on measures taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Parity Law, including mechanisms for enforcement, sanctions for non-compliance and provisions for gender alternation on party lists, and describe efforts made to increase the participation of women with disabilities and women affected by conflict;
- (b) Describe measures taken to address political violence, intimidation and harassment against women in politics, including within political parties, on social media, in the family and in conflict-affected contexts, and indicate available protection and redress mechanisms;
- (c) Indicate steps taken to increase women's participation in decision-making positions beyond the legislature, particularly in executive, judicial and local government roles, public and private sector companies and to promote the inclusion of women with disabilities and women from rural areas.

### **Education**

15. Please provide information on:

- (a) Implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Inclusive Education for 2022–2027, which was approved by the Council of Ministers on 23 March 2023, and on statistics on the number of girls with disabilities enrolled in mainstream education and special education;
- (b) Concrete steps taken to increase the number of qualified female teachers in the educational system;
- (c) Efforts made to overcome traditional attitudes and cultural barriers that impede girls' and women's access to education;
- (d) Steps taken to address gender stereotypes and violence in educational settings, including the development and monitoring of non-stereotyped curricula, gender-sensitive teacher training and mechanisms to prevent and respond to harassment and abuse in schools.

### **Employment**

16. With reference to paragraph 36 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, and in the light of paragraph 126 of the State Party's report, please indicate whether mechanisms have been established to monitor, evaluate and assess the gender impact of employment policies and programmes. Please also:

- (a) Provide information on the implementation and impact of measures taken to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in the labour market and core economic sectors, including any temporary special measures, and indicate how these measures address both horizontal and vertical occupational segregation, particularly in rural areas and in the private sector;
- (b) Indicate steps taken to incorporate the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value into national labour laws and effectively enforce this principle, the status of implementation of International Labour Organization Convention No. 100 on equal remuneration, and provide data on the gender wage gap;
- (c) Describe steps taken to improve the conditions of women workers in the informal sector, including measures to facilitate access to loans, credit guarantees, training, technology, markets, social security and protection from workplace violence and harassment;
- (d) Provide data on women's employment in both the formal and informal sectors, disaggregated by region and sector, and information on the effectiveness of current policies and programmes aimed at increasing women's access to decent work, addressing underemployment, future/digital jobs and supporting women's entrepreneurship.

### **Health**

17. Please provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to improve health infrastructure, staffing and access to essential health services for women and girls in rural and remote areas, including antenatal, obstetric and postnatal care;
- (b) The availability, accessibility and impact of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, sex education and HIV prevention and treatment, particularly for adolescents and marginalized groups;
- (c) In the light of paragraphs 169 and 170 of the State Party's report, which indicate that young women are almost twice as likely to be HIV positive as young men, measures taken for the prevention of HIV that are specifically targeted at women, including pregnant women and women with disabilities;
- (d) Measures in place to monitor and evaluate progress in reducing maternal mortality and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and forced sterilization;
- (e) Steps to decriminalize abortion and ensure access to and develop safe services for reproductive health and legal abortion.

### **Economic empowerment**

18. Please provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to recognize, measure and value unpaid care and domestic work performed by women, including steps taken to include such work in national statistics, macroeconomic planning frameworks, including fiscal and monetary policies and social protection systems;

- (b) Targeted initiatives in place to support the economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups of women, such as women in the informal economy, rural and migrant women and women with disabilities and to integrate their priority concerns into tax reform initiatives, the implementation of the United Nations Global Compact on business and human rights and digitization of business operations;
- (c) Steps taken to ensure women's equal access to financial resources, credit, property, technology, sovereign wealth, vital investment portfolios, high ticket procurement opportunities, vocational training and markets, and provide data on women's participation in these areas;
- (d) Measures taken to provide affordable and accessible childcare and other care services to enable women's full participation in economic life;
- (e) Targeted interventions and investments to promote sports and recreational activities for women and girls, including in schools, and to promote their equal participation the leadership of sports federations at national and grass-roots levels.

### **Rural women and girls**

19. With reference to general recommendations No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women and No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, please provide information on:

- (a) Measures taken to improve access of rural women, including those in remote and island communities, to basic services and infrastructure, and economic opportunities, including income-generating projects and credit facilities;
- (b) The implementation and impact of policies to promote rural women's economic empowerment, including access to credit, land ownership, technology and markets;
- (c) Steps taken to ensure the effective participation of rural women in governance, community decision-making and development planning, and available mechanisms to monitor and evaluate their participation.

### **Climate change**

20. Recalling general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, please:

- (a) Indicate the steps taken to ensure that women, including rural women, are fully and effectively 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;
- (b) Provide information on the status and implementation of national climate change strategies and whether they include women's rights priorities, women's livelihoods protection and gender equality frameworks.

### **Women and girls with disabilities**

21. Please provide information on:

- (a) Legislative, policy and programmatic measures adopted to ensure the inclusion and protection of women and girls with disabilities in all areas covered by the Convention and how these measures address intersecting forms of discrimination;
- (b) Steps taken to ensure the physical accessibility of public buildings, facilities and essential services for women with disabilities, including measures taken to address the digital divide;

(c) Measures taken to ensure the effective participation of women with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and programmes that affect them;

(d) Mechanisms in place to systematically collect and publish disaggregated data on women and girls with disabilities and how these data inform policy development and service delivery.

#### **Marriage and family relations**

22. With reference to paragraph 42 of the Committee's previous concluding observations and paragraph 209 of the State Party's report, please provide information on:

(a) Concrete steps taken to repeal remaining discriminatory provisions in all national legislation, particularly those related to women's legal capacity, property, inheritance and family relations, and for harmonizing statutory and customary law to ensure full equality in marriage and family life;

(b) The timeline for approval by the National People's Assembly of the revised Civil and Civil Procedure Code and Criminal and Criminal Procedure Code;

(c) Care, protection and follow-up in cases of vicarious or proxy violence against children, adolescents or other dependent persons in situations of gender-based violence in family relations;

(d) The status and adoption timeline of the draft Child Protection Code before the National People's Assembly, including provisions to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years and strengthen protections against child marriage.

#### **Data collection**

23. In the light of general recommendation No. 9 (1989) on statistical data concerning the situation of women, and with reference to paragraph 50 of the Committee's previous concluding observations, please indicate any steps taken to develop the State Party's capacity-building measures and to establish a programme for funding gender-related activities to improve the collection of data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, 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.

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