



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Chad*

1. The Committee considered the fifth periodic report of Chad ([CEDAW/C/TCD/5](#)) at its 2,164th and 2,165th meetings (see [CEDAW/C/SR.2164](#) and [CEDAW/C/SR.2165](#)), held on 26 June 2025. The list of issues and questions raised by the pre-sessional working group is contained in [CEDAW/C/TCD/Q/5](#), and the responses of Chad are contained in [CEDAW/C/TCD/RQ/5](#).

A. Introduction

2. The Committee appreciates the submission by the State Party of its fifth periodic report. It also appreciates the State Party's written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by the pre-sessional working group. It welcomes the oral presentation by the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed orally by the Committee during the dialogue.

3. The Committee commends the State Party on its high-level delegation, which was headed by the Minister of Justice and Human Rights and Keeper of the Seals, Youssouf Tom, and included representatives of the Office of the President, the Office of the Prime Minister, the National Assembly, the Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, as well as the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Jean-Pierre Baptiste, and other representatives of the Permanent Mission.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2011 of the State Party's combined initial to fourth periodic reports ([CEDAW/C/TCD/CO/1-4](#)) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following:

(a) Constitution, which provides for equality of both sexes before the law in all spheres of private and public life and for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, in 2023;

* Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-first session (16 June–4 July 2025).



- (b) Law No. 003/PR/2025, on the prevention of violence against women and girls, in 2025;
- (c) Law No. 28/PR/2018, on the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission of Chad, in 2018;
- (d) Law No. 006/PR/2018, on combating human trafficking, in 2018;
- (e) Law No. 29/PR/2015, prohibiting child marriage and female genital mutilation and raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for both women and men, in 2015.

5. The Committee welcomes the State Party's efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, such as the adoption of the following:

- (a) First national action plan on women and peace and security (2023–2027), in 2023;
- (b) National action plan on the elimination of female genital mutilation (2019–2023), in 2019;
- (c) National action plan on gender (2019–2023), in 2018;
- (d) National gender policy, in 2017.

6. The Committee welcomes the fact that, in the period since the consideration of the previous report, the State Party has ratified the following instruments:

- (a) International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in 2022;
- (b) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2019.

C. Sustainable Development Goals

7. The Committee calls for the realization of **de jure (legal) and de facto (substantive) gender equality** in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalls the importance of Goal 5 and of the mainstreaming of the principles of equality and non-discrimination throughout all 17 Goals and urges the State Party to recognize women as a driving force of sustainable development in the State Party and to adopt relevant policies and strategies to that effect.

D. Parliament

8. The Committee stresses the crucial role of the legislative power in ensuring the full implementation of the Convention (see [A/65/3](#), part two, annex VI) and invites the National Assembly to implement, in line with its mandate, the present concluding observations between now and the submission of the next periodic report under the Convention.

E. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

Constitutional framework and harmonization of laws

9. The Committee notes with appreciation the adoption of the new Constitution in 2023, which expressly provides for equality of both sexes before the law in all spheres of private and public life and for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against

women. However, the Committee is concerned at the lack of implementation of existing legislation and policies on women's rights, gender equality and non-discrimination that hinder the attainment of gender equality and the effective protection of women's rights. It also remains concerned that, despite the precedence of formal justice over traditional justice, in practice, customary law and religious law are often applied even when they are incompatible with rights guaranteed under the Convention, thereby perpetuating customary and religious norms that discriminate against women and girls and the absence of a legal framework regulating the relationship between formal and traditional justice systems.

10. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/TCD/CO/1-4, para. 13) that the State Party should take concrete action to reinforce and implement the existing legal and policy framework on gender equality and non-discrimination and adopt a clear time frame for the review of discriminatory legislation and customary and religious laws and practices that are in conflict with the Convention, in collaboration with women's civil society organizations, with a view to harmonizing them with the Convention. The Committee calls upon the State Party to revise its legal and policy framework to reflect 50:50 parity between women and men as a starting point and universal norm in all decision-making systems in line with general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems.

Access to justice

11. The Committee notes the information provided by the State Party's delegation on the ongoing process of ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). However, the Committee remains concerned at:

- (a) The application of customary law and traditional justice systems, in particular in rural communities, which often discriminate against women, and the use in some communities of the *diyya* practice in cases of gender-based violence against women and girls and communal violence;
- (b) The persistent obstacles to equal access to justice for women and girls, in particular women and girls with disabilities, rural women and girls and refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women and girls, including limited awareness of their rights, significant geographical distances to reach formal justice structures and a lack of accessible infrastructure;
- (c) The limited capacity on the part of the judiciary and law enforcement officials to apply the Convention directly in legal proceedings or to interpret national legislation in conformity with the Convention;
- (d) The poor conditions for women in detention and the lack of non-custodial measures as an alternative to pretrial detention.

12. Recalling its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recalls the State Party's obligation to ensure that women are protected against violations of their rights by all components of plural justice systems. It recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Raise awareness among women and the general public of the importance of accessing the formal justice system rather than traditional justice mechanisms and the discriminatory nature of the *diyya* practice, and ensure that customary court decisions that are incompatible with women's human rights under the Convention can be appealed to the ordinary courts;

- (b) Allocate adequate financial, technical and human resources to increase women's access to formal justice and their knowledge of how to claim their rights, in particular for women and girls living in poverty, women and girls with disabilities, older women, rural women and girls, women human rights defenders and internally displaced, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women;
- (c) Provide regular training for members of the judiciary, including traditional and religious court judges, and other law enforcement officials to enable them to apply the Convention directly in legal proceedings or to interpret national legislation in conformity with the Convention;
- (d) Ensure adequate conditions for women in detention and set up independent and confidential complaint procedures that are easily accessible for women in detention, in line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/175 and contained in the annex thereto);
- (e) Ratify the Maputo Protocol.

Women and peace and security

13. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of equal and meaningful participation of women, including women's associations and women human rights defenders, in processes related to the women and peace and security agenda, in particular at the decision-making level, despite the adoption of the first national action plan on women and peace and security (2023–2027);
- (b) The limited implementation of transitional justice mechanisms to address gender-based violence in conflict and humanitarian settings;
- (c) The increasing peace and security challenges faced by women due to the spillover of the security situation in the Sahel, which is creating a humanitarian crisis;
- (d) The continuous proliferation of firearms and small arms, which facilitates conflict-related sexual violence and often claims the lives of women and girls foraging for food, water and firewood, despite the adoption of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme (2023–2025).

14. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations and recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Effectively implement the first national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, in cooperation with women's civil society organizations and women human rights defenders, ensure that it takes into consideration the full spectrum of the Council's agenda on women and peace and security and incorporate a model of substantive equality that addresses gender-based violence and discrimination against women in all spheres of their lives, including intersecting forms of discrimination against women;
- (b) Adopt and effectively implement a national transitional justice process to address gender-based violence against women in conflict and humanitarian settings, ensuring women's access to truth, justice and

reparations, including reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence, in order to support sustainable peace and inclusive reconciliation;

(c) **Take the measures necessary to ensure a systemic and increasing role for and representation of women in peace negotiations, conflict resolution, defence, security and diplomacy, including in international security talks;**

(d) **Ensure the protection and safety of women and girls in communities affected by conflict in the Sahel;**

(e) **Allocate resources adequate to implement the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for the control of small arms and light weapons and enforce relevant legislation, in line with Security Council resolutions 2117 (2013), 2467 (2019) and 2616 (2021), in order to stop the proliferation of firearms and small arms in the State party.**

National machinery for the advancement of women

15. The Committee is concerned that, despite the establishment of various components of its national machinery for the advancement of women, as well as the adoption of policies and action plans on gender equality, the capacity of the national machinery to fulfil its mandate is significantly constrained by inadequate resources. It is also concerned about the lack of gender-disaggregated data on the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights, which limits the adoption and effective implementation of targeted and informed strategies and programmes.

16. The Committee recommends that the State Party continue to strengthen its national machinery by providing it with adequate visibility, power and human, technical and financial resources at all levels in order to further increase its effectiveness and enhance its capacity to collect gender-disaggregated data on the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights and to coordinate and monitor actions for the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality.

National human rights institution

17. The Committee notes that the application for accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission of Chad in April 2024 has been deferred for 18 months (to October 2025) and that the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions has identified specific areas requiring strengthening to preserve the Commission's permanence and independence, in order to ensure pluralism and gender representation in its composition, raise awareness about its mandate and strengthen its engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

18. The Committee recommends that the State Party implement the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions to strengthen the independence of the National Human Rights Commission of Chad and provide it with adequate human, technical and financial resources to be able to carry out its mandate effectively and independently, in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles, annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134), and seek the advice and technical support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in this regard.

Temporary special measures

19. The Committee takes note of the State Party's efforts to introduce temporary special measures to increase the representation of women in political and public life.

However, it notes with concern the limited use of temporary special measures in other areas in which women, including rural women and women with disabilities, are underrepresented and disadvantaged, such as decision-making at all levels, including conflict resolution and peacebuilding, education, employment, healthcare and economic and social life.

20. In line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) **Avail itself of technical assistance to promote understanding of the non-discriminatory nature and importance of temporary special measures to achieve substantive equality of women and men among parliamentarians, policymakers, judges, law enforcement and other public officials, traditional leaders, employers and members of the private sector and the general public;**
- (b) **Adopt temporary special measures, such as preferential recruitment and gender-responsive public procurement, and establish time-bound targets as a strategy necessary to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, such as education, employment, healthcare, conflict resolution, peace processes and economic and social life, with particular attention to women with disabilities, rural women and internally displaced, refugee, stateless and migrant women.**

Gender stereotypes

21. The Committee is concerned about deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society, which exacerbate gender-based violence against women in the State Party, including sexual violence in conflict and humanitarian situations. It notes with concern the absence of a comprehensive strategy to address gender stereotypes of women in political discourse, the media and the education system.

22. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy, including for the digital space, targeting community and religious leaders, teachers, girls and boys and women and men to eliminate stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society, and develop targets and indicators to systematically measure the impact of the strategic interventions undertaken;**
- (b) **Provide relevant public officials and the media, teachers and those in the private sector with capacity-building measures on the use of gender-responsive language, promote positive portrayals of women as active drivers of development and address violent and toxic masculinities;**
- (c) **Take targeted measures, including awareness-raising activities, paid paternity leave or shared parental leave, to promote equal sharing of domestic and childcare responsibilities between women and men, as well as responsible fatherhood.**

Female genital mutilation

23. The Committee notes that article 20 of the Constitution of 2023 expressly prohibits female genital mutilation. However, it notes with concern the insufficiency of law enforcement and the persistence of this harmful practice throughout the State Party.

24. Recalling its general recommendation No. 14 (1990) on female circumcision, joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019) on harmful practices and the Committee's general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, as well as its previous recommendations (see [CEDAW/C/TCD/CO/1-4](#), para. 23), the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Ensure the strict application of the prohibition of female genital mutilation in the Constitution and the Criminal Code and strengthen awareness-raising campaigns, in particular among religious and community leaders, health professionals, teachers, parents and girls, in cooperation with civil society, on the criminal nature of female genital mutilation, its adverse effects on the human rights, physical integrity, health and dignity of women and girls, its long-term physical and psychological consequences and the need to eradicate it and its underlying cultural justifications;
- (b) To ensure that perpetrators of female genital mutilation and their accomplices are prosecuted and adequately punished, and provide alternative income opportunities to traditional circumcisers.

Gender-based violence and conflict-related violence against women and girls

25. The Committee commends the State Party for recognizing sexual violence as a crime against humanity in article 292 of its Criminal Code. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) The high incidence of gender-based violence against women and girls, including sexual and domestic violence, its underreporting, low prosecution and conviction rates, lenient sentences for perpetrators, the stigmatization of survivors and the use of customary mediation in cases of violence;
- (b) The prevalence of gender-based violence against women in camps for internally displaced persons and refugees, with widespread impunity, and reports of sexual violence by security forces and armed groups;
- (c) The fact that, despite the establishment of a national counselling centre and toll-free hotline, services remain urban-centric and poorly funded, with little access in rural or conflict-affected areas, and that shelters and victim support services are extremely limited and essentially provided by non-governmental organizations.

26. Recalling its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, as well as target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals on the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Intensify awareness-raising efforts among the general public on the criminal nature of all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, and on the need to report such cases and protect survivors from reprisals, stigmatization and revictimization;
- (b) Effectively enforce article 20 of the Constitution, relevant provisions of the Criminal Code of 2017 and Law No. 003/PR/2025 on the prevention of violence against women and girls;
- (c) Ensure that women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence have access to affordable and inclusive and, if necessary, free legal aid and forensic evidence, victim support services and

protection, including adequate and accessible shelters, medical treatment, psychosocial counselling and economic support, and continue to build the capacity of judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officers in gender-sensitive investigation and interviewing methods in cases of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence against women.

Trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution

27. The Committee takes note of the State Party's efforts to strengthen its legal and institutional framework to combat trafficking in women and girls, including the establishment of the National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons in 2021 and the adoption of the national action plan to combat trafficking in persons in 2025. However, it is concerned that persistent internal and external challenges, such as farmer-herder conflicts, threats posed by rebel groups and the massive numbers of internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing armed conflict in neighbouring countries, many of them women and children, exacerbate the risk of the trafficking and exploitation of women in prostitution. It also notes with concern:

- (a) The prevalence of different forms of trafficking affecting women and girls, including sex trafficking, cybertrafficking, forced marriages, domestic servitude and forced labour in agriculture and mining, and insufficient support services for victims of trafficking, including shelters and hotlines, especially in rural areas;
- (b) The lack of law enforcement and of accountability mechanisms, as reflected by the limited number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators;
- (c) The lack of information on the exploitation of women and girls in prostitution in the State Party.

28. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

- (a) **Criminalize all forms of human trafficking, including cybertrafficking, and ensure that all cases of trafficking in women and girls are investigated and prosecuted and that women and girls who are victims of trafficking have adequate access to support services, shelters, counselling services and rehabilitation programmes, and establish a hotline for victims of trafficking and forced prostitution;**
- (b) **Strictly enforce articles 19 and 20 of the Constitution, Law No. 006/PR/2018 on combating human trafficking and relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, ensure that traffickers are prosecuted and adequately punished and take effective measures to implement the national action plan to combat trafficking in persons 2025;**
- (c) **Decriminalize women in prostitution, provide them with witness protection in criminal proceedings and offer exit programmes for women wishing to leave prostitution, including alternative income-generating opportunities.**

Participation in political and public life

29. The Committee welcomes the State Party's significant efforts aimed at the advancement of women's participation in political and public life and notes its objective, expressed by the delegation, to reach parity. However, it notes with concern that women remain underrepresented in decision-making positions in the National Assembly, the Cabinet, the judiciary, the public service, the foreign service, the private sector and international organizations, due mainly to persistent sociocultural

norms, patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes that confine girls and women to traditional roles as mothers and wives.

30. Recalling its general recommendations No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems and No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, as well as target 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals on ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Introduce targeted measures, including temporary special measures, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004), such as parity quotas, to increase the representation of women in the parliament, the Cabinet, the judiciary, the public service, the foreign service, delegations for peace negotiations and international organizations, in particular at decision-making levels;**
- (b) Provide campaign financing and capacity-building for women politicians and candidates on political campaigning, leadership and negotiation skills and raise awareness, in collaboration with the media, among politicians, religious and community leaders and the general public of the importance of the full, independent and democratic participation of women on an equal basis with men in political and public life as a requirement for achieving political stability and sustainable development in the State Party;**
- (c) Provide capacity-building for women managers in the private sector, raise awareness among private sector entities of the importance of the equal participation of women in leadership positions and incentivize public and private listed companies to increase the number of women on boards and in leadership positions.**

Nationality

31. The Committee notes that the Constitution of 2023 recognizes the equal right of women and men to confer their nationality on their children. However, it notes with concern that, despite the State Party's efforts to deploy mobile civil registration units, birth registration and civil registration rates remain low, in particular among rural, internally displaced, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women and those from nomadic communities, due to administrative and infrastructural barriers, limited awareness and poverty, especially in rural, remote and conflict-affected areas, restricting women's legal capacity and their access to education, health services, shelters and other basic services.

32. With reference to its general recommendation No. 32 (2014) on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women, the Committee recommends that the State Party strengthen its efforts to facilitate access to civil registration services for women, in particular rural, migrant, refugee, asylum-seeking and internally displaced women and those from nomadic communities, through the use of modern information and communications technology, as well as simplify and ensure affordable birth registration procedures and deploy more mobile teams to issue birth certificates in rural, remote and conflict-affected areas.

Education

33. The Committee notes with appreciation that article 35 of the Constitution provides for free and compulsory primary education and that article 369 of the

Criminal Code criminalizes the refusal to enrol or reintegrate a schoolgirl on account of a pregnancy. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) The continued fragmentation and insufficient enforcement of national legal and institutional frameworks on education, resulting in a persistent gap between the law and its effective implementation;
- (b) The limited access to safe and high-quality education for girls and women in the State Party, in particular for those living in areas affected by armed conflict, climate change and natural disasters, as well as for women and girls with disabilities and internally displaced, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women and girls;
- (c) The high dropout rates among girls, attributable to early pregnancy, child marriage, excessive household responsibilities, discrimination based on sex and/or disability, the lack of menstrual hygiene products and of separate sanitary facilities in schools, and long and unsafe travel distances to schools, especially in rural and nomadic communities, as well as incidents of sexual harassment, violence and abuse and corporal punishment in schools, and the lack of reporting mechanisms;
- (d) The fact that women make up only a small proportion of qualified teachers, especially in rural areas, which results in a lack of female role models and mentors and discourages girls from continuing education.

34. Recalling its general recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) **Strengthen the efficiency, accountability and implementation by the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders of the existing legal and institutional frameworks on education;**
- (b) **Ensure access to safe and quality education for girls and women, in particular those living in areas affected by armed conflict, climate change and natural disasters, as well as for women and girls with disabilities and internally displaced, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women and girls, and implement the Safe Schools Declaration, the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict and Security Council resolution 2601 (2021);**
- (c) **Address the causes of school dropout among girls, provide free menstrual hygiene products, ensure that school environments, including separate sanitary facilities and water, hygiene and sanitation services, are free from gender-based violence against women and girls, provide safe transportation to and from schools, investigate, prosecute and adequately punish all cases of harassment and gender-based violence, including corporal punishment, in educational institutions and provide immediate protection to victims;**
- (d) **Raise awareness among parents, teachers, traditional and religious leaders, women, men, girls and boys of the importance of education for girls and women for their economic empowerment, personal development and autonomy, create conditions and incentives for women to become teachers, in particular in rural areas, and provide mandatory professional training on women's human rights and gender equality to teachers and school administrators.**

Employment

35. The Committee welcomes the State Party's constitutional protection of women's equal right to employment and the prohibition of workplace discrimination. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of enforcement of the existing national legal framework to counter discrimination and ensure equal opportunities in the workplace, as well as the need for stronger enforcement of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value;
- (b) The overrepresentation of women in the informal economy, particularly as domestic and agricultural workers, which excludes them from labour law protections and access to social security and places them at risk of forced labour;
- (c) The absence of a rigorous and effective job placement mechanism to ensure women's equal access to employment opportunities, as 88.6 per cent of unemployed people rely on personal networks to find a job;
- (d) The unequal sharing of family and domestic responsibilities between women and men, and women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care work;
- (e) The continued prevalence and underreporting of sexual harassment in the workplace despite its criminalization in the Criminal Code (art. 341).

36. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 13 (1989) on equal remuneration for work of equal value and target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals on achieving by 2030 full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men and equal pay for work of equal value, and recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Enforce article 35 of the Constitution of 2023, the Labour Code and the General Collective Agreement, regularly review wages in sectors where women are concentrated and strictly enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, in line with the International Labour Organization Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100);
- (b) Strengthen women's access to formal employment, support them in expanding agricultural activities in the informal economy, including by strengthening women's access to land as a basis for economic independence, and create income-generating activities in commercial agriculture;
- (c) Establish an effective job placement mechanism and provide professional training to ensure women's equal access to employment opportunities;
- (d) Recognize, reduce and redistribute the burden of unpaid care work on women by providing affordable childcare facilities and care services for older persons and promoting equal sharing of domestic and family responsibilities between women and men, and ensure that women employed in family businesses are adequately remunerated and have access to social protection schemes;
- (e) Strengthen the implementation of the provisions of the Labour Code and the Criminal Code on sexual harassment in the workplace, ensure that women who are victims of sexual harassment have access to effective remedies and that their complaints are effectively investigated by an independent body, prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators and protect victims from retaliation, conduct regular labour inspections and ratify the International Labour Organization Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).

Health

37. The Committee takes note of the measures taken by the State Party to improve access for women to health services by modernizing health institutions, such as the National General Reference Hospital, and opening the National Fistula Treatment Centre. However, the Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The lack of implementation mechanisms for existing legislative and institutional health frameworks and the lack of financial resources allocated for health, as well as the lack of a timeframe to decriminalize abortion;
- (b) The fact that, despite a decrease, the maternal mortality rate remains the highest in the region (748 deaths per 100,000 live births) and neonatal mortality is also high (31.87 deaths per 1,000 live births), owing to factors including lack of access to quality maternal health services, malnutrition and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, including safe abortion and post-abortion services, especially in rural areas;
- (c) The persistently high rates of early pregnancy, unsafe abortion and child marriage, as well as the lack of age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights and family planning and the high level of unmet contraceptive needs;
- (d) The disproportionately high rates of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, stigmatization of and discrimination against women and girls with HIV/AIDS and their limited access to adequate treatment.

38. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and targets 3.1 and 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals to reduce the global maternal mortality rate to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births and increase access to contraception, and recommends that the State Party:

- (a) **Strengthen the application of legislation related to health, as well as the national health policy for 2016–2030, intensify the mobilization of national budget resources for health in general and for compensating the reduction of official development assistance allocations and establish a clear timeframe to decriminalize abortion in all cases, with a view to legalizing voluntary, safe and accessible abortion;**
- (b) **Intensify efforts to reduce maternal mortality and malnutrition, including by improving access to antenatal, perinatal and postnatal health services and emergency obstetric services provided by skilled birth attendants throughout the territory of the State Party;**
- (c) **Ensure that all women and girls, in particular rural women and girls, women and girls with disabilities and internally displaced, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women, have access to affordable and modern contraceptives, intensify efforts to raise awareness of the use of contraceptives and of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including through age-appropriate education, accelerate awareness-raising campaigns on the health implications of harmful practices, such as early pregnancy, child marriage and female genital mutilation, and ensure access to trained health professionals for victims of such practices and of sexual violence;**
- (d) **Address the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women, enforce Law No.1 9/PR/2020 on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and ensure access to free antiretroviral treatment, with a particular focus on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and targeting women in humanitarian settings and in prostitution.**

Economic and social benefits

39. The Committee commends the State Party for its five-year tax moratorium on newly registered women-owned businesses, as well the provision of training and skills development programmes on income-generating activities, partnerships to

support displaced women in the eastern region and a microfinance strategy aimed at reducing poverty. It notes, however, with concern:

- (a) The fact that national accounting and data collection systems and macroeconomic and fiscal policies do not take into account women's unpaid labour, including domestic, caregiving and informal work;
- (b) The increasing feminization of poverty and the marginalization of disadvantaged groups of women, in particular rural women heads of households, women with disabilities, internally displaced women, women survivors of gender-based violence, women living in poverty and women in unpaid work, who have limited access to economic and social benefits and decent work and lack opportunities for meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels on social and economic policies;
- (c) Limited access for women to land ownership, loans and other forms of financial credit, bank accounts and financial services;
- (d) The lack of social protection for single mothers, widows, women and girls with disabilities, self-employed women, women agricultural workers affected by climate change and other women facing intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion;
- (e) The low participation of women in sports due to sociocultural stereotypes and the lack of infrastructure in rural areas.

40. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) **Address the feminization of poverty by mainstreaming gender into national strategies and action plans and ensure that women, especially those belonging to disadvantaged groups, in particular rural women heads of households, women with disabilities, internally displaced women, women survivors of gender-based violence, women living in poverty and women in unpaid work, can meaningfully participate in the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and renewal of these strategies and action plans and have access to adequate social and economic benefits;**
- (b) **Address deep-rooted discriminatory social and cultural norms that disempower women and girls, and raise awareness and increase public education on the importance of women's economic empowerment among public officials, religious leaders, teachers and the general public, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and national development priorities;**
- (c) **Adopt specific policies on access to social protection for single mothers, widows, women and girls with disabilities, self-employed women, women agricultural workers affected by climate change and other groups of women facing intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion, as well as mechanisms for their effective implementation;**
- (d) **Increase women's access to low-interest loans without collateral and other forms of financial credit, expand their access to business networks and resources and provide gender-specific start-up and scale-up funds, venture capital, financial technology and information and communications technology and entrepreneurship opportunities to promote the economic empowerment of women;**
- (e) **Encourage women and girls to engage in sports, including by eliminating discriminatory stereotypes and prejudices, developing sports infrastructure in rural areas and raising public awareness of the benefits of the participation of women and girls in sports.**

Rural women, disaster risk reduction and climate change

41. The Committee notes with concern that discriminatory patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes restrict access for rural women to decision-making and ownership, control and use of land and limit their access to basic services, water, electricity, renewable energy, the Internet, financial credit, seeds, including e-vouchers for seeds, and modern farming technologies such as drone-based crop monitoring and technology-powered solutions to modernize agriculture for women. It also notes with concern the lack of equal participation of women in decision-making on water resource management and rural development plans. The Committee is also concerned about the impact of the farmer-herder conflict in border areas, the shrinking of Lake Chad, desertification, deforestation and climate change on women's safety and livelihoods.

42. **In line with its general recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women and its general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, the Committee recommends that the State Party integrate and mainstream a gender perspective into all agricultural and rural development strategies and plans, enabling rural women to act and be visible as stakeholders, decision makers and beneficiaries, and in particular:**

- (a) Dismantle patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes that impede equal access by rural women to land and productive resources;**
- (b) Intensify efforts to ensure service delivery in rural areas to promote access for rural women to education, formal employment, climate-smart agriculture and technology to increase agricultural productivity, health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, social protection, housing, adequate water and sanitation and modern farming technology, including knowledge of food harvesting techniques, preservation, storage, processing, packaging, marketing and entrepreneurship;**
- (c) Ensure that rural women are able to participate effectively in planning and decision-making related to rural infrastructure and services and in the planning, adoption, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural and rural development policies;**
- (d) Incorporate a gender perspective into climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies, legislation, policies, financing and programmes to address the specific and unique needs of women and girls, and build their resilience and effective adaptation to climate change;**
- (e) Ensure that women equally and actively participate in the creation and operation of new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, as decided at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 2022.**

Women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination

43. The Committee welcomes the State party's Vision 2030 and its objective of "redistribution of wealth" among the most disadvantaged communities and groups. However, it is concerned about the situation of women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination, in particular women heads of household in rural areas, women and girls with disabilities, internally displaced women, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, women survivors of gender-based violence, women living in poverty and women in unpaid work, who have limited access to equal participation in political and public life, education, employment, health, justice and economic and social benefits.

44. The Committee recommends that the State Party take the legal, administrative and financial measures necessary to ensure the rights of disadvantaged groups of women and collect disaggregated data on the status of disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women.

Women with disabilities

45. The Committee takes note of the establishment of the national agency for the protection and promotion of persons living with disabilities in 2023 and the adoption of Law No. 007/PR 2017 on the protection of persons with disabilities. It notes with concern, however, that “disability” is not included as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Constitution and other relevant legislation and that the existing legislative and policy framework on disability is weakly applied. It is further concerned about the limited access of women and girls with disabilities to decision-making in political and public life, inclusive education, employment, justice, sports and cultural life.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its legislative, institutional and policy framework on disability and amend its Constitution and other relevant legislation to include disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination. It also recommends that the State Party involve women and girls with disabilities in public decision-making and ensure that they have adequate access to education, employment, justice and health services, in particular sexual and reproductive health services, sports, recreational opportunities and cultural life.

Asylum-seeking, refugee, stateless and internally displaced women and girls

47. The Committee notes the large population of internally displaced, asylum-seeking, refugee and stateless women and girls in the State Party, with 1.8 million displaced or stateless persons and 1.2 million persons registered as refugees in 2024. It commends the State Party for the adoption of the law on asylum in 2020, which grants the same rights to education, healthcare and social protection to refugees as to Chadian citizens and provides for the recognition of the refugee identity card as a residence permit. However, it is concerned that in practice internally displaced, asylum-seeking, refugee and stateless women and girls have limited access to basic services and face intersecting forms of discrimination and gender-based violence in the State Party.

48. Recalling its general recommendation No. 32 (2014) on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women, the Committee recommends that the State Party address intersecting forms of discrimination against internally displaced, asylum-seeking, refugee and stateless women and girls and:

(a) Strengthen its legal framework for the protection of internally displaced women and girls and develop programmes to improve conditions and ensure food security and safety in camps for internally displaced persons, in line with the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

(b) Enhance efforts, in collaboration with United Nations entities, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and civil society organizations, to address gender-based violence against refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls in refugee reception areas, including by strengthening the implementation of national legislation and policies and reinforcing accountability mechanisms.

Marriage and family relations

49. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The fact that the review of the draft code on the person and the family, initiated in 2023, has not been finalized;
- (b) The high prevalence of child marriage in the State Party, especially in rural areas and among poor communities, despite its constitutional prohibition;
- (c) The criminalization of same-sex relationships, the persistence of polygamy and the limited legal and economic protection for women in de facto unions, women married under customary law and women in polygamous unions;
- (d) The continued application of discriminatory customary laws related to marriage and family relations, divorce, child custody and inheritance and the use of mediation in matters related to marriage and family relations.

50. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 21 (1994) on equality in marriage and family relations and its general recommendation No. 29 (2013) on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

- (a) **Expedite the adoption of the draft code on the person and the family with a view to ensuring that women and men have equal rights in marriage and family relations;**
- (b) **Strictly enforce the application of article 20 of the Constitution, as well as the provisions of Law No. 29/PR/2015, and address the root causes of child marriage, especially in rural areas, encouraging reporting and ensuring the prosecution and adequate punishment of those responsible, including complicit family members, religious and community leaders and civil registrars, in accordance with joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019);**
- (c) **Decriminalize same-sex relationships and raise awareness of the incompatibility of polygamy with the equal rights of women and men in marriage and family relations and include provisions in the draft code on the person and the family to prohibit polygamous unions, ensure the economic protection of women and girls in de facto unions and raise awareness of the risks of such unions for girls' education and sexual and reproductive health rights;**
- (d) **Provide systematic capacity-building on equal rights for women and men in marriage and family relations and upon their dissolution, as well as on equal inheritance rights, for members of the judiciary, including traditional justice actors, custodians of customary law and women and girls, especially in rural areas.**

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

51. The Committee encourages the State Party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and to accept, as soon as possible, the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

52. In view of the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Committee calls upon the State Party to reaffirm its

implementation and to re-evaluate the realization of the rights enshrined in the Convention in order to achieve substantive equality between women and men.

Dissemination

53. The Committee requests the State Party to ensure the timely dissemination of the present concluding observations, in the official languages of the State Party, to the relevant State institutions at all levels (national, regional and local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, the parliament and the judiciary, to enable their full implementation, as well as to civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, to raise full awareness within the State Party.

Ratification of other treaties

54. The Committee notes that the adherence of the State party to the nine major international human rights instruments¹ would enhance the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life. The Committee therefore encourages the State Party to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which it is not yet a Party.

Follow-up to the concluding observations

55. The Committee requests the State Party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 12 (c), 22 (a) and 34 (b) above.

Preparation of the next report

56. The Committee will establish and communicate the due date of the sixth periodic report of the State Party in line with a future clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States Parties (see General Assembly resolution 79/165, para. 6) and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting, if applicable, for the State Party. The report should cover the entire period up to the time of its submission.

57. The Committee requests the State Party to follow the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents ([HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#), chap. I).

¹ The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.