

REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Union- Discipline- Work



**AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS OF THE
AFRICAN UNION**

PERIODIC REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE

UNDER THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACCPUF	Association of Constitutional Courts Using the French Language
AGEFOP	National Agency for Vocational Training
AGEROUTE	Road Management Agency
AN	National Assembly
Art.	Article
ARTCI	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Côte d'Ivoire
ARV	Antiretroviral
CA	Court of Appeal
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
CARMMA	Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality
CC	Constitutional Council
CCDO	Operational Decisions Coordination Center
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CES	Economic and Social Council
CGRAE	Civil Service Pension Fund
CHU	University Teaching Hospital
CMU	Universal Health Insurance
CNCA	National Audiovisual Communication Council
CNDH-CI	National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire
CNO	Centre-North-West
CNP	National Media Council
CNPS	National Social Insurance Fund
PC	Penal Code
SC	Supreme Court
CSP	Higher Advertising Council
DGAMP	Directorate General for Ports and Harbours
EDS-CI	Demographic Health Survey of Côte d'Ivoire
CFAF	African Financial Community Franc
FDE	Water Development Fund

FDFP	Vocational Training Development Fund
FPM	Military Provident Fund
FPPN	National Police Provident Fund
FRAP	Criminal Investigation and Assault Police Force
GATL	Air Transport and Liaison Group
GCON	Great Chancellery of the National Order
HACA	High Audiovisual Communications Authority
IGE	State Inspectorate-General
INFJ	National Judicial Training Institute
INHP	National Public Hygiene Institute
INIE	Ivorian Enterprise Institute
INSP	National Public Health Institute
MD	Ministry of Defence
MENET	Ministry of National and Technical Education
MIN COM	Ministry of Communication
MJDHLP	Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms
MR	Mediator of the Republic
MSLS	Ministry of Health and AIDS Control
MUGEFCI	Civil Servants and State Officials' General Mutual Fund of Côte d'Ivoire
OCPV	Food Products Marketing Assistance Board
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
ONMCI	Association of Medical Practitioners of Côte d'Ivoire
WFP	World Food Programme
EPI	Extended Programme on Immunization
PFS	Service Platform
PNE	National Employment Policy
EPP	Emergency Presidential Programme
PR	President of the Republic
PRODIGE	Employment Generation Initiatives Development Programme
PM	Prime Minister

SAMU	Emergency Medical Assistance Service
SGG	General Government Secretariat
SMIG	Guaranteed Minimum Industrial Wage
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
TM	Military Court
TPI	Court of First Instance

INTRODUCTION

1. As part of the process of enhancing the constructive dialogue embarked upon with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), **the Government of Côte d'Ivoire hereby presents its periodic report from 2012 to 2015**. It must be recalled that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire **started this dialogue at the 52nd Ordinary Session of the ACHPR held from 9 to 22 October 2012** by presenting its initial and combined reports. After the report was reviewed on 12 October 2012, **twenty-nine (29) recommendations** were made to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire.
2. The presentation of its first periodic report is taking place against the background of reconstruction and reconciliation, the two major concerns confronting the Government of Côte d'Ivoire following the post-electoral crisis. The Government is receiving the support of the international community to arrive at lasting solutions that are consistent with the respect for human rights and with commitments made **under national legislation and ratified international legal instruments**.
3. **Today, it must be underscored that, during the period under review, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has been engaged in a process of national reconstruction and reconciliation, with the aim of becoming an emerging, democratic and united country in its diversity by 2020**. To achieve this ambition, the country has developed a Strategic Document dubbed the National Development Programme (PND). The PND, as a new strategic framework for government action, brings together all national development policies. It is structured around six priority pillars: defence, security, justice and the rule of law (1); education, health, **employment, social affairs** (2); economy, agriculture, **private sector** (3); Infrastructure, **water**, energy, mines (4); environment, living conditions, housing, public services (5) ; culture, youth and sports (6).
4. Since the review of its report, Côte d'Ivoire **has made efforts to improve the human rights situation**. To this end, the Government has not only harmonised some of its national laws to ensure that they are consistent with international instruments, but also enacted and implemented its international obligations by formulating national and sectoral policies.
5. In spite of these efforts, Côte d'Ivoire is still confronted with difficulties in meeting certain human rights commitments. The 2002 militaro-political crisis and the 2010 post-election crisis have had a serious adverse effect on the maintenance and consolidation of the gains concerning respect for and the enjoyment of human rights.
6. With regard to the methodological requirements, and with a view to complying with the ACHPR recommendations, this report was prepared and validated through a participatory mechanism. In pursuance of this goal, a Monitoring and Drafting Committee was established at the Department for the Promotion of Human Rights and Public Freedoms of the Ministry of Justice. This Committee worked in collaboration with the "human rights" focal points established in the ministries and public institutions. Consultations were also organised with civil society and the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI). These meetings made it possible to gather information and other relevant data to enrich the content of this report.
7. This report comprises five (5) parts designed respectively to highlight the status of implementation of the ACHPR recommendations made after the State presented its initial and combined reports (Part I); the achievements in the normative and institutional framework for promoting and protecting human rights (Part II); measures for promoting and protecting civil and political rights (Part III); measures taken to promote economic, social and cultural rights (Part IV). The duties of citizens have also been incorporated (Part V). A conclusion provides an opportunity to highlight the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the provisions of the Charter.

PART ONE

FOLLOW-UP ON ACHPR RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCERNS

The purpose of this part is to report on the implementation of the recommendations made to Côte d'Ivoire after presenting its initial and combined report. It will be structured around the summary of these recommendations (Chapter I) and decisions taken towards their implementation (Chapter II).

CHAPTER I

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACHPR RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter outlines the measures taken and the progress made in giving effect to the ACHPR recommendations following the submission of the initial and combined report by Côte d'Ivoire in line with the provisions of the Charter.

Recommendation I. Take the necessary measures to ratify and incorporate the following regional and international human rights instruments into the domestic legislation:

The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance.

It was signed on 11 June 2009 and ratified by Côte d'Ivoire on 28 November 2013. The law was passed on 19 July 2013 and promulgated on 10 October 2013 under No. 2013-696. The successful organisation of the presidential election which was unanimously commended by all national and international observers bears testimony to the implementation of the afore-mentioned Charter.

The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

The law was passed on 21 June 2013 and promulgated on 30 July 2013 under No. 2013-538.

The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption

The Law on Prevention and Combatting Corruption and Related Offences was passed on Wednesday 22 May 2013 and published in the Official Gazette on 25 September 2013. To ensure its implementation, the High Authority of Good Governance was established by Ordinance No. 2013-661 of 20 September 2014. Its members took the oath of office on Friday 5 September 2015.

The Optional Protocol to the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

This Protocol has neither been signed nor ratified. However, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, within the framework of the wide-ranging review of the criminal code and the criminal procedure code, hopes to reinforce the provisions on combatting torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in line with the Robben Island Guidelines.

The International Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

It was ratified on 15 February 2013. The revised Criminal and Criminal Procedure Code henceforth consists of crimes within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court's (ICC).

The Second Optional Protocol relating to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty.

It has not yet been ratified by Côte d'Ivoire. However, it must be underscored that the Ivorian **Constitution** of 1 August 2000 prohibits the death penalty. The body of laws on the death penalty has since then been expunged from the Revised Criminal Code.

The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The law was passed on 20 December 1991 and enacted on 27 December 1991 under No. 91-883. The ratification **took place on** 26 March 1992.

Recommendation II. Make the declaration pursuant to **Article 34 (6)** on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in order to allow individuals and NGOs to have direct access to it.

Côte d'Ivoire made this declaration on 19 June 2013. The Action for Human Rights Promotion (APDH), a Non-Governmental Organisation, referred the matter to the Court following the said declaration.

Recommendation III. Assess ongoing programmes, policies and measures concerning peace, security and national reconciliation in order to strengthen them for greater visibility.

Several studies have been conducted and/or are ongoing to assess the programmes, policies and measures regarding peace, security and national reconciliation. In that regard, the following measures have been taken:

- On the issue of security, the Government has taken measures to protect the population by increasing police units such as the Operational Decision Centre (CCDO) and the Investigation and Assault Police Force (FRAP).

Furthermore, the Government has started the process of disarming ex-combattants. As at 30 **April** 2015, 70 % of the ex-combattants had been demobilized, disarmed and integrated, i.e. a total of 52,020 out of a total of 74,068.

Additionally, the latest figures regarding the fight against the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) show that 20,426 weapons, among which are rockets, guns, grenades and shells have been recovered. Furthermore, **1, 204,719 small calibre cartridges have been collected**. This brings the total number of arms and ammunitions deposited by the ex-combattants at the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Authority (ADDR) **in 2014** to 1,225,145.

According to the security authorities, the security index improved from 3.8 in 2011/2012 to 1.2 in 2015. Thus, informed observers declared that Côte d'Ivoire has the same level of security comparable to cities such as New York or Geneva.

- On the question of peace, **the** Government has taken measures with the support of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONU-CI) to secure the Western border with Liberia where there seemed to be threats of destabilization. Moreover, with the support of the authorities in Ghana, the Ivoirian-Ghanaian border has been secured. Within the framework of the establishment of the conflict prevention and management mechanisms, the Government, with the support of ONUCI and some Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), has organised several training workshops and seminars in the various localities of the country for civil society and community leaders made up of women, the youth, religious and customary authorities. Today, with regard to this issue, it can be said that **Côte d'Ivoire is** experiencing a relative peace.

- On the issue of national reconciliation, the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) **was established by Order No. 2011-167 of 13 July 2011, with the mandate to work independently towards reconciling and strengthening social cohesion among all the communities living in Côte d'Ivoire; including the National Social Cohesion Programme (PNCS) established on 15 February 2012** with the main aims of developing the capacity of stakeholders and institutions concerning social cohesion and national reconciliation and contributing to minimizing conflicts and supporting the implementation of activities of common interest with a view to creating a conducive environment for peace and national reconciliation.

Established on 28 **September 2011**, **the CDVR** cuts across all sections of the Ivorian population, including Ivorians in the Diaspora as well as foreigners living in Côte d'Ivoire. It presented its final report to the Head of State on 15 December 2014.

To strengthen the national reconciliation process started by the CDVR, the Head of State signed Ordinance No. 2015-174 for the establishment of the National Reconciliation and Victims' Compensation Commission (CONARIV) on Tuesday 24 March 2015. Its mandate is to continue the work of the CDVR through a headcount of the successors of victims who had not received any compensation.

An awareness raising campaign for social cohesion has also been carried out among the target population in Abidjan and in the countryside by the National Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation Programme (PNRRC). The purpose of this outfit is to work to promote the restoration of a safe and peaceful environment for capacity development of the ex-combatants, the youth at risk, and generally, people rendered vulnerable as a result of the militaro-political crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

As a means of promoting political dialogue, several political personalities of the previous regime incarcerated or placed under house arrest after the post-electoral violence have been freed and some have had their assets defrozen. Thus, the Ivorian judiciary announced the release on bail on Monday 5 August, 2013 of 14 detainees kept behind bars as a result of the post-electoral crisis and they include the following personalities : Pascal Affi N'guessan, Chairman of the Ivorian Popular Front Party (FPI), Michel Gbagbo, **son of the former Head of State**, Laurent Gbagbo, Géneviève Bro Grégbé, Narcisse Téa Kuyo, Aboudramane Sangaré, Alcide Djédjé, Moïse Lida Kouassi, Soukouri Bohui, Alphonse Douaty, Séka Obodji, Henri-Philippe Dakoury-Tabley, Colonel Konandi Kouakou and Nomel Djro.

In this regard, the Government promoted the return of several dignitaries of the previous regime from exile. **They include, among many others**, Messieurs Gossio Marcel, former Director General of the Abidjan Ports and Harbours Authority, Konaté Navigué, Secretary **General** of the Youy Wing of the Ivorian Popular Front Party (JFPI). **At the end of 2014, the country also recorded the return from exile of the former Director of the Ivorian Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation (RTI), Mr Brou Amessan Pierre.**

Finally, a joint mission led by the Ministry of African Integration and the Ministry in charge of Defence culminated in the return of several exiled officers and NCOs, among whom was Colonel Konan Boniface of FUMACO (The Marine Commando).

Recommendation IV. Ensure that the process of transitional justice is carried out in an inclusive and transparent manner and in line with international standards relating to procedural balance.

This role had been devolved on the CDVR as stated in the previous point. Following in the heels of the CDVR, the issue of transitional justice was vested in the CONARIV, particularly with regard to the compensation aspect by identifying and compensating victims. On this subject matter, CONARIV has received an initial budgetary outlay of 10 billion CFA francs.

Concerning fairness in the area of penalty, it is appropriate to indicate that the National Survey Commission (CNE) on human and humanitarian rights violations, established by Law No. 2011-176 of 20 July 2011 after the presidential election of 28 November 2010, **reported the conclusions of its work on Wednesday 8 August 2012.** In its aftermath, and in order to continue the mission of the Special Investigations Unit (CSE), established by Joint Ministerial Decree No. 020/MEMJ/DSJRH/MEF of 24 June 2011, the Government issued Decree No. 2013-93 of 30 December 2013 on the establishment of the Special Commission of Enquiry and Judicial Investigation (CSEI) with the mandate to conduct judicial investigations into crimes committed by all stakeholders during the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis.

Recommendation V. Take appropriate measures to guarantee the property **rights of the population by ensuring that all post-electoral conflict victims secure access to the law courts and obtain adequate compensation.**

To facilitate equal access to judicial services, a decision was taken to reduce the cost of judicial proceedings by Decree No. 2014-259 of 14 May 2014 on the determination of remuneration and legal fees concerning civil, commercial and administrative cases by amending Article 74 of Decree No. 2013-279 of 24 April 2013. **In this regard, the Ivorian Government is receiving support from the French Development Agency (AFD) and USAID respectively as part of its Debt Reduction and Development Contracts (C2D) and Pro Justice.**

With regard to the compensation of victims, it must be noted that when the CDVR was handing over its report, the Head of State made a commitment to compensate all the identified victims. In this regard, the government has set aside a Fund worth 10 billion CFA frs. Thus, as at September 2015, there were about 200 victims and relatives of victims made up of 42 wounded persons and 158 relatives of persons killed (including military men, police officers, gendarmes and civilians) who had received cheques of 150,000 CFA francs or 1,000, 000 CFA francs depending on their situation and their needs in terms of medical expenses.

Recommendation VI. Take all the appropriate measures to increase the budget allocated for health, education, social housing and the supply of drinking water, especially in the rural communities

In the area of health, the share of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Health and AIDS Control (MSLS) **increased from** 190 billion in 2013 to 245 billion in 2014, accounting for a 29% increase. In 2015, the budget allocated for health expenditure provided for an investment of 10.5 billion CFA francs for the establishment of an “effective” universal health coverage (CMU) with effect from the first quarter of 2015 with “ additional resources allocated for the fight against the Ebola virus disease. It must be noted that health expenditure from 2010 to 2015, increased by two and half times with 6.4% of the outlay earmarked for rehabilitation and establishment of health centres.

On education, it was noted that from 2009 to 2013, the government, on the average, allocated 19% of its overall budget to the education and training sector. Over the period, total expenses in the national education sub-sector increased from 555.5 billion CFA francs to 655.9 billion CFA francs, or an average annual growth of 4.3%. Furthermore, several programmes and projects were embarked upon to rehabilitate and/or build new facilities to improve working and learning conditions in the education sector. At the national level, there is an Emergency Presidential Programme (PPU) while at the multilateral and bilateral levels, the programmes include in particular, the Institutional and Multi-sectoral Crisis Recovery Support Project (PAIMSC), the Global Education Partnership (PME) and the Japanese Cooperation. These contributions made it possible to rehabilitate and build lots of classrooms paving the way for millions of school children to go back to school.

In 2015, the expenditure in the education sector increased by 1.7% to a total amount of 1006.4 billion, or about 20% of the national budget, **with the aim of achieving a 100% enrollment rate by 2020.** (Cf. below XVIII).

With regard to social housing, Côte d’Ivoire has a structural housing deficit of 400, 000 houses. For this reason, the government has initiated a large-scale policy of building social, economical and luxurious housing units in order to bridge the gap. In 2015, the projected number of housing units was 60, 000 **with** 10,000 of the units located in the countryside and 50 000 around the city of Abidjan. To achieve this objective, the government has established a Formalities Facilitation Centre for Access to Social Housing (CEFFAL). But by the end of 2015, only 8,000 housing units had been completed. **As a result,** the housing needs remain unsolved.

In the area of access to drinking water, with the efforts currently underway, the proportion of the population with sustainable access to drinking water increased from 61 % in 2008 to 73.08 % **by the end of** 2012. It should reach 76% in 2013. The table below presents the investments made in the supply of drinking water in both the rural areas and urban centres.

Year 2013	Human-operated pumps	Number of improved village water systems	Number of localities connected to urban pipeborne water systems
Existing facilities	17 626	262	833
Eligible localities	7000	1902	1194
Impacted population	10 575 600	1 048 000	16 660 000

Source: Ministry of Economic Infrastructure

Furthermore, the Water Distribution Company of Côte d’Ivoire (SODECI) has undertaken regular repair and maintenance works on 5000 water points in rural communities at a total cost of 9.2 billion CFA francs.

Recommendation VII. Adopt a multi-sectoral economic development plan to meet the essential needs of the population including food security;

In order to meet the food security needs, the government allocated 10 % of the national budget to the agricultural sector and established the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP). Thus, concerning the rice industry, the 2012-2020 Revised Development Strategy is aimed at covering the national consumption needs with effect from 2016, on the one hand, and at increasing production to about 2.1 tons of milled rice by 2018, on the other hand. Today, the food-producing sector generates eight million tons estimated at more than 700 billion CFA francs according to statistics provided by the Food Products Marketing Assistance Office (OCPV). This Office, established by Decree No. 84-934 of 27 July 1984 as amended by Decree No. 92-14 of 8 January 1992, has the key mission of ensuring supervision, revitalization, collection and marketing of foodstuffs. This sector employs about 85 % of the active agricultural population.

Recommendation VIII. Strengthen programmes and policies in the area of reproductive health in order to enhance access by women and teenagers to family planning services and reduce maternal and child deaths;

The Ivorian government established an ambitious reproductive health programme. Thus, a technical working group on the Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), was established by Ministerial Order and has been operational since July 2013.

Consultation fees have been reduced by half. A hospital specifically dedicated to the mother and child is under construction at Bingerville. Moreover, free health care for mothers and children under 5 years is still in force. It concerns free care for consultation, Caesarean section, vaginal deliveries, ultrasound scans, etc.

Operationally, two prevention and health care structures for HIV and AIDS have been rehabilitated and equipped in Bouaké and Man in order to reduce mother-to-child transmission of the virus. This effort made it possible to significantly reduce the infection rates among mothers at the national level.

Table : Developments in the provision of PMTCT¹ in 2012 in T1 2015

	Number of pregnancies subjected to HIV screening test	Number of pregnancies screened and tested HIV positive	Number of pregnancies that received ARV treatment
2012	550 870	20 987	13294*
2013	620 255	20 893	16032*
2014	751 419	14 436	17763*
2015 (T1)	207 028	3552	4667*

* This figure comprises women who already knew their HIV positive status and who became pregnant

¹ *Prevention of mother-to-child treatment*

At the institutional level, various reforms have been carried out, among which are the introduction of Decree No. 2013-416 on regulations concerning the marketing of breast milk substitutes.

The Departmental Directors and officials responsible for epidemiological surveillance received capacity building training at a workshop held in Bouaké from 21-25 January 2014, on **techniques pertaining to health-related data analysis and collection targeted at mothers and children in order to improve planning of interventions aimed at reducing maternal deaths.**

Recommendation IX- Establish adequate health services at affordable prices and within reasonable distances in the rural areas

The government embarked on the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness of the health system. It undertook measures to build the health system's institutional framework. For example, concerning improvement of quality and access to health care by persons infected and/or affected by HIV and AIDS; the actions carried out touched on institutional capacity development with the preparation of national healthcare plans for HIV and AIDS patients. Indeed, the adoption of the draft law on the protection of the rights of persons infected or affected by HIV/AIDS and the integration of HIV/AIDS into contingency human situational plans have been operational since 23 June 2014. On this issue, there has been a 30% reduction in death rates and a 30% rate of new infections. **Moreover**, 7 infected mothers out of 10 are cared for. Thanks to government's efforts, the prevalence rate has declined by about 4%.

Moreover, many other urban or rural health centres have been rehabilitated or built through the PPU. They include, among others:

- Rehabilitation of regional hospitals: Bondoukou, Korhogo, Bouna, Grand-Lahou, Grand-Bassam and Jacqueville.
- Opening of several units of blood transfusion centres in the hinterlands;
- Opening of St Joseph de Moscati Hospital in Yamoussoukro;
- Opening of a regional hospital in Gagnoa;
- Resumption of work at the Angré hospital in (Abidjan);
- Provision of ambulances in several localities in the hinterland.

The technical facilities have improved with the establishment of several haemodialysis centres at the University Teaching Hospital (CHU) Cocody, at the National Blood Transfusion Centre (CNTS) in Yamoussoukro **and a diabetology centre at the** CHU (Treichville). Furthermore, the rehabilitation of road infrastructure provides easier access to health centres.

The government, through the Emergency Presidential Programme (PPU), **has made efforts to improve health infrastructure**. Thus, the PPU helped to rehabilitate six General and Regional Hospitals: Bondoukou, Korhogo, Bonoua, Grand-Bassam, Grand-Lahou and Jacqueville.

Health facilities in the Abidjan District were turned into general hospitals and brought up to the required standard. These are the hospitals in Koumassi, Marcory, Treichville, Yopougon-Attié and Abobo-Sud.

According to the Minister of Health, these investments cost ten billion CFA francs.

In the area of achievements, it must be stated that in 2013, the regional hospital was inaugurated in Gagnoa, haemodialysis centres were opened in Bouaké, Yamoussoukro **and one at the Emergency Medical Assistance Service (SAMU)**, in Abidjan. In order to facilitate health evacuations, ten ambulances were supplied to health facilities.

The government announced the immediate prospects of its action, i.e. : opening of hospitals, the foundation stone laying at the Bouaké Cardiology Institute (The Council of Ministers meeting held on 22 January 2014, adopted a communication on the construction of the Bouaké Cardiology Institute)

Recommendation X. Adopt measures on affirmative action aimed at increasing the representation of Ivorian women in decision-making bodies and their effective participation in the development of the country.

The government is making efforts to promote gender equality and empower women at the national and international level. **This was demonstrated through the appointment of women, on the one hand, and through the opening up of institutions that were previously the preserve of men for women, and these institutions are the Preparatory Technical Military School (EMPT) and the National Gendarmerie Academy(GN), etc.**

Indeed, besides the National Police College, which has been open to women for more than twenty years now, the entrance examination to the Gendarmerie Academy and the EMPT at Bingerville can now be accessed by girls. It must also be underscored that several women are occupying decision-making positions. Some of these positions include the Grand Chancellor, the President of the Félix Houphouët Boigny University, the Director of the School of Administration, the President of the CNDHCI, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the President of the PNCS. Several women are heads of institutions such as the Coffee and Cocoa Council (to be developed). The Military High Command has women among its senior officers including an Army General. Many women have also been appointed to the position of Prefects and Sub-prefects. Furthermore, the Government established a body in November 2012, and among its membership are 5 women out of a total of 32, i.e 15% of the membership. It must also be noted that the parliamentary elections of 11 November 2011 recorded an increase in the number of women elected to the National Assembly from 19 to 27 seats.

Finally, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted a proactive policy for the promotion of its female citizens to the international arena. It is against this background that the government supported the candidature of Professor N'dri Yoman (former Minister of Health) in vying for the position of the Head of the Africa Office of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

On the whole, the Ivorian government has made efforts in recent years to improve the living conditions of women by enabling them to gradually take a significant part in the political affairs of the country.

Recommendation XI. Abrogate all discriminatory provisions in the legislation against women and accelerate the on-going civil law review since 2008 on the rights of persons and the family.

The Ivorian Constitution of August 2000 establishes equality between men and women. Parliament passed a new legislation on 21 November 2012 to amend Law No. 64-375 of 7 October 1964 on marriage to align it with Ivorian Law and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was ratified by our country on 18 December 1995.

Thus, Law No. 2013-33 of 25 January 2013 on the abrogation of Article 53, amending Articles 58, 59, 60 and 67 of Law No. 64-375 of 7 October 1964 on marriage as amended by Law No. 83-800 of 2 August 1983 was adopted to safeguard the principle of joint management by spouses and the elimination of the notion of family head. The spouses contribute to family responsibilities according to their respective abilities and agree on a family home by common consent.

The new matrimonial law (which abolishes paternal authority in favour of parental authority) has had, among others, the effect of improving the income of female salaried employees. Henceforth, men and women couples are subject to the same income tax deductions.

Recommendation XII. Adopt legislative measures and introduce relevant programmes to resolve the issue of sexual and domestic violence with specific emphasis on the protection of young girls.

In the light of the following, it can be observed that Côte d'Ivoire is fully engaged in the global fight initiated under United Nations General Assembly Resolution III of 20 December 2012 on the "intensification of global action for the elimination of female genital mutilation" and other forms of discrimination perpetrated against women.

The evidence is that the Government has ratified several international conventions on gender equality, decision-making and punishment for violence meted out to women. Among these are the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of women in Africa. Moreover, at the national level, the principle of equality between men and women has been strengthened in the Constitution of 1st August 2000 which established in Article 2 (paragraph 2) that "All human beings are born free and equal under the law. They shall enjoy inalienable rights which include the right to life, liberty, development of their personality and to the respect of their dignity".

In order to ensure this equality and also protect the vulnerable segments of the women population, Côte d'Ivoire, among others, passed Law No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 against female genital mutilation.

In this regard, the government has developed a national strategy to combat gender-based violence, which takes into account the protection, rehabilitation of victims and socio-professional reintegration of some perpetrators including female excision practitioners in order to reduce the canker or even eradicate it.

Moreover, as part of the awareness raising among the population on human rights, the government undertakes mobile human rights campaigns every year with the aim of sensitising the population about their rights. Between 2012 to 2015, 13 regional capitals benefitted from the outreach of these mobile campaigns.

Recommendation XIII-Ensure effective implementation of the Law of 23 December 1998 punishing female genital mutilation and sexual harrasment.

This law is in force and the offenders are severely punished. Pursuant to this law, several female excision practitioners have been punished by the courts. For instance, in Katiola, 9 excision practitioners were sentenced by the court. In Odienné, in March 2015, the National Gendarmerie Brigade arrested a village chief who ordered the excision of several pupils in his village.

One can also talk about Law No. 98-756 of 23 December 1998 amending and supplementing the Law instituting the Criminal Code also penalizing sexual harrasment, forced labour and early or forced marriages.

Within the context of this law, a national strategy has been developed to combat early marriages through awareness raising campaigns. The effect, among others, is the cancellation of a forced and early marriage contracted by Kouma Affoussiata, born in 2001 (14 years), a pupil in JSS 1 4 at the Modern Secondary School in Tengréla (900 kilometres north of Abidjan), who was forced into a marriage on Thursday 23 January 2014, the immediate effect of which led to her stopping classes altogether.

The cancellation was as a result of the explanations given by the school headmaster of the little girl who defended the government's campaigns for the enrolment of girls. He maintained that position by raising the issue that in the previous week, in Madinani, in the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, a father who had forced his underage daughter, a school pupil, under similar conditions had been imprisoned.

In the same vein, the Bouaké court (in the central part of Côte d'Ivoire) sentenced Amidou Touré to 12 months' imprisonment together with a fine for compelling his 11-year old daughter, Ramatou Touré, a class 4 pupil, to contract an early marriage with his cousin by far older than the daughter.

Recommendation XIV. Prosecute and arraign the perpetrators of sexual violence before the courts and ensure the creation of a Support and Compensation Fund for victims ;

Sexual violence is punishable by law in Côte d'Ivoire and the perpetrators are usually sentenced when such cases are brought to the notice of the competent authorities.

The number of sexual violence cases reported decreased from 776 in 2011 to 731 in 2012, then to 444 during the first nine months of 2013. This translates into a significant decline in the number of cases of sexual violence in Côte d'Ivoire.

Analyses indicate that armed men were responsible for 135 incidents of rape in 2012 as against 343 cases in 2011, representing a reduction of two-thirds (2/3). Within the period from January to September 2013, ninety-six (96) new cases of sexual violence were perpetrated by the police or by unidentified persons wielding light weapons, especially during robbery in homes.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Defence, in the light of its zero tolerance for sexual violence, took disciplinary measures by dismissing about twenty military men deemed culpable for sexual violence-related cases.

Finally, it must be noted that among the 132 survivors of rape identified during the evaluation, 56 % were given basic medical attention and care (consultation together with first aid).

The referral of cases of sexual violence against women to the courts can be appreciated in the tables below :

YOPOUGON PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

0 case of forced marriage,
0 case of female genital mutilation,
21 cases of public indecency and convicts caught in the act,
5 rape cases prosecuted.

ABENGOUROU PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

2 cases of child abandonment,
2 cases of abduction of minors,
1 case of human trafficking,
5 cases of public indecency violently perpetrated against an adult,
6 cases of public indecency violently perpetrated against a minor of 15 years,
0 case of female genital mutilation,
0 case of forced marriage.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AT MAN

1 case of forced marriage through private prosecution,
17 rape cases referred for criminal investigations,
1 case of public indecency in which the culprit was caught in the act,
13 cases of sexual violence against minors aged 15 years including 7 cases of criminal investigations , 2 for private prosecution and 4 caught in the act and the culprits sentenced.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS OFFICE AT MAN

Gender-based violence (assault and battery perpetrated against women)
60 cases including 20 caught red-handed,
18 cases were discontinued,
18 cases of private prosecution,
2 criminal investigations are before the examining magistrate and 2 cases before a juvenile judge.

Sexual violence perpetrated against minors
17 cases including 14 criminal investigations,
3 cases are before a juvenile magistrate.

Sexual violence perpetrated against adult women
4 cases are under criminal investigation.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, ABIDJAN- PLATEAU

Gender-based violence (2015)
72 cases including 59 cases of public indecency perpetrated with violence on a minor under 15 years caught in the act,
6 cases of public indecency perpetrated with violence against minors under 15 years are under criminal investigations,
5 cases of rape are under criminal investigations,
2 cases of public indecency perpetrated without violence on minors of 15 years are under private prosecution

SECTION OF THE TRIBUNAL AT ISSIA OCTOBER 2014 TO OCTOBER 2015

Female genital mutilation : 0
Gender-based violence : 0
Sexual violence perpetrated against minors : 11
Forced marriages : 0
Sexual violence perpetrated against women : 1

DEPARTMENTAL COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE AT BOUAFLE FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2014 TO
30 SEPTEMBER 2015

No ..	OFFENCES	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES PROSECUTED DURING THE PERIOD	TOTAL NUMBER OF PENDING CASES	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES UNDER INVESTIGATION
1.	Female Genital Mutilation	0	0	0
2.	Gender-based violence	0	0	0
3.	Forced Marriage	0	0	0
04	Sexual violence against women and children	15	4	5

STATUS OF PROCEEDINGS SETTLED IN THE AREA OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE,
PUBLIC INDECENCY , FORCED MARRIAGE SEGMENT (FROM JANUARY 2014 TO 8
OCTOBER 2015)

No	Nature of offence	Number of Reports (PV) recoded in the RP	FOLLOW-UP ON CONDUCT OF CASES					Number of cases /tried	Number of cases not yet tried
			CSS	FD	INFO JI	INFO JE	CD		
1.	Rape	13	0	0	10	3	0	1	12
2.	Public Indecency	21	0	18	2	0	0	19	2
3.	Abduction of minors	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
4.	Forced marriages	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0

Recommendation XV. Adopt a framework law on the enforcement of the solemn declaration of the Republic Côte d'Ivoire on equality of opportunities, equity and gender signed in 2007

To address this concern, the National Observatory on Equity and Gender (ONEG) was established by Decree No. 842 of 17 December 2014 in order to monitor, evaluate and make proposals for the promotion of gender equality between men and women in public policies.

The observatory shall ensure that equality between men and women is adequately expressed in decisions taken in the political, social and economic environments.

The intended purpose is for Côte d'Ivoire to comply with its international commitments and also to contribute to the reduction of disparities between men and women and to promote women's empowerment.

This commendable decision has a catalytic effect to promote gender at the same time as other preceding decisions such as the institutionalisation of the National Women's Council, the establishment of a list of female competencies, the opening of entrance competition for young girls into the Preparatory Technical Military Preparatory Academy (EMPT), the establishment by the first lady, Mrs Dominique Ouattara, of a Support Fund for Women of Côte d'Ivoire in order to assist the most deprived women and the opening of the competitive entrance examinations for women to the Gendarmerie College.

Recommendation XVI. Provide adequate budgetary resources for the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council

On this score, the budget of the national plan of action indicates a financing need of 3.694.400.000 CFA francs.

Recommendation XVII. Continue to take all the necessary measures to strengthen the protection of older persons as well as persons with disabilities, especially, through the development of a National Plan of Action for the protection of the rights of vulnerable people;

Law 98-594 of 10 November 1988 referred to as the framework law for persons with disabilities recognizes equality of opportunities and treatment for persons with disabilities, in particular with regard to training and employment. It also gives an important role to employers' organizations and workers in the area of vocational reintegration of persons with disabilities.

Cote d'Ivoire also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 10 January, 2014 after signing it on 7 June, 2007

Following the ratification, the Head of State decided to increase the number of job openings for people with disabilities from 94 to 300 in the public sector as a special dispensation for people with disabilities.

Meanwhile, the government has encouraged employers to recruit persons with disabilities. With regard to the public sector, the government has since 14 January 2015 revised upwards the number of job openings for the physically-challenged from 94 to 300.

As far as older persons are concerned, Article 6 of the Constitution stipulates that: "The State shall ensure the protection of children, older persons and persons with disabilities". In compliance with this provision, the 24th Edition of the International Day for Older Persons was celebrated in Kong (north of the country) from 21-25 October 2014; this event was attended by high-ranking government officials.

In the line up of activities, the government has always reaffirmed its commitment to protect and promote the rights of older persons by engaging them to play their roles in our African society and to educate the youth on the gains made by our country during its long period of peace and stability.

Concerning prevention activities and promotion of the health of older persons for a healthy aging, the Ministry responsible for Older Persons, through its Social Protection Office, regularly conducts media campaigns (television, radio, newspapers and posters) focused on the provision of nutritional advice and counselling on the benefits of engaging in physical exercises and sporting activities for older persons through awareness raising campaigns and public lectures.

On healthcare activities, in 2003, about a hundred older persons were screened and taken care of in the district of Yopougon (Abidjan). In 2004, two thousand people (2000) people were screened for metabolic diseases and 100 screened for hernia treatment. The support activities consist of donating foodstuffs and non-food items to the elderly.

Furthermore, in line with the recommendations of the Madrid Conference on Older Persons, the Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training on 20th February, 2015 launched the study on the living conditions of older persons.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the aged population is estimated to be 913,668, according to the 2004 population and housing census. This figure is expected to reach 1,200,000 in 2018 and it accounts for 4.4% of the overall population.

Recommendation XVIII. Continue to take appropriate measures to guarantee Free and Compulsory Universal Basic Education and adopt measures aimed at solving problems relating to registration fees with a view to guaranteeing students better access to tertiary institutions;

The Ivoirian Constitution of 1 August 2000 guarantees equal access to education for all children in the country. This development policy became effective through various activities and measures which include:

- Free enrolment into primary schools which came into effect from the 2008 academic year;
- Distribution of text books and school kits to pupils.
- Reduction of school fees at the secondary school level
- Rehabilitation of several educational establishments
- Construction of more schools with the aim of bringing the schools closer to the learners;
- Recruitment of many new teachers;
- Decision by government to make education compulsory from Primary Class 1 to Secondary Form 4.

With regard to free education, from 2011 -2014, close to 47 billion CFA francs was used to procure more than 10,480,000 school kits and more than 8 million text books which were distributed in public primary schools.

In 2014-2015, close to 4 million pupils attended primary schools in Cote d'Ivoire as against more than 144,000 in pre-school. In order to increase this figure, at the beginning of 2015/2016 academic year, a legal and regulatory framework was adopted to regulate the policy of compulsory education. Thus, Law No. 2015-635 of 17 September, 2015 was passed to amend Law No. 95-696 of 7 September 1995 on education.

This project, which is one of the government's ambitious programmes, will cost 700 billion CFA francs (1.06 billion Euros), a greater proportion of this amount is dedicated to the recruitment of 644 teachers at the pre-school level, 4243 primary school teachers, and 256 teachers at the secondary school level as well the provision of kits and text books for students. Furthermore, an Ordinance is scheduled to come into effect to reintegrate children who have dropped out of school.

Most of the tertiary institutions are private. But students who are posted to those schools by the government will get bursaries to support the cost of their education.

Cote d'Ivoire, under the Ministry of Higher Education has five (5) public universities (Abidjan-Cocody, Abobo-Adjame, Bouaké, Daloa, Korhogo), six (6) Public Higher Educational Institutions, twenty-six (26) private universities, forty-seven (47) private higher educational Institutions; and thirty-one (31) post-secondary training institutions affiliated to technical ministries that do not come under the Ministry of Higher Education.

Recommendation XIX. Accelerate the implementation of a national repatriation policy for Ivorian refugees **and ensure that relevant programmes are put in place to protect and provide assistance to displaced persons and refugees living in the country** ;

In August 2011, the High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) concluded a Tripartite Agreement with the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire **and** Liberia by establishing a legal framework and modalities for wilful and free repatriation of Ivorian refugees in Liberia. A similar agreement was also concluded with the Ghanaian authorities in October 2011.

As a result, with the consent of the High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR), the Refugee and Stateless Persons Assistance and Support Department (SAARA) introduced a repatriation programme for Ivorians living in the neighbouring countries.

Table of disaggregated statistics **of Ivorian refugees voluntarily repatriated through organized convoys on 31 December 2013.**

0 - 4 years		5- 11 years		12 - 17		18 - 59		60 +		GRAND TOTAL		
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	Total
1987	1903	2213	2447	858	1060	3866	2482	333	205	9328	8147	19473

Source : SAARA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to recent statistics from the HCR, on 31 December 2014, out of 300,000 Ivorians who left Côte d'Ivoire following the post-electoral crisis, 241,188 had been able to return to the country through this programme. They were taken care of through reintegration. They were assisted to cultivate their farms which would eventually help them to be self-reliant.

However, 58,812 are still refugees abroad and the breakdown is as follows : 38,631 in Liberia; 9,556 in Ghana; 6,493 in Guinea; 2,295 in Togo; 1,110 in Mali and 727 in other countries.

The repatriation operations **which were suspended** because of the Ebola virus hemorrhagic fever disease, resumed on 19 March 2015 with regard to the Ivorian refugees living in Ghana and Togo. The resumption of the repatriation of Ivorian refugees living in Liberia **was recommended at a meeting** on 12 March 2015 **by the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia-HCR Tripartite Commission** between the Ivorian Government, The Liberian Government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Mission and the refugees themselves.

Specifically, 646 refugees have crossed the border since 18 December 2015, one and half years after the suspension due to the Ebola virus disease in Liberia.

Furthermore, following incidents which led to the closure of the Nahibly camp, **the internally-displaced population in the West of the country received donations from the Government in the form of food and non-food items** including financial support estimated at a total amount of 70 million CFA francs.

Additionally, concerning the internally-displaced persons in the lagoon region, the Government has made substantial efforts by providing funds to the tune of 50 million CFA francs to pave the way for a vast operation to return to their homes, through synergies and collaborative actions with the humanitarian agencies.

In **order to provide** assistance to refugees who have decided to go back to their countries, three major categories of action were undertaken. **They include** :

- Support for the issuance of civil status documents **by the** national institutions : through the measures taken by SAARA, 2,247 civil status documents were issued for the target population out of a projected figure of 1 000.
- establishment of a conducive social environment when the returnees arrive back home : the SAARA raised awareness among the refugees in particular through the distribution of 8663 flyers, **production and display of 40 road banners in the localities**, production and broadcast of a film on refugees, and dissemination of 63 messages in six (6) local radio stations, etc.
- Ensuring an effective conduct of repatriation operations, particularly through the creation of a coordination committee comprising of State and humanitarian stakeholders, the establishment of a sub coordination committee to decide on the technical feasibility of measures to be taken and the organisation of missions of " *Go and See*" with the authorities of the host country .

To date, the results of activities concerning Ivorian refugees are as follows:

- more than 350 integration cards for vocational training and project financing have been sent to the Ministries concerned for sustainable solutions.

- 338 students repatriated have received their letters of authorisation from the Ministry of National and Technical Education to register in the Ivorian educational system.
- Applications for integration into the Universities and the Advanced Schools and project financing have been collected and forwarded to the Ministries concerned.

Moreover, the Ivorian government made a commitment on Thursday 13 December 2013 not to arrest exiled persons and refugees who supported former President Laurent Gbagbo. Their return was based on the premise that they would not get involved in bloody crimes.

As a result of this decision, about 1300 **Ivorian** military men returned from exile on Friday 24 January 2014, thus responding to the call by the Head of State, who made an appeal to the remaining people in exile and refugees to come back to the country by guaranteeing their security and reintegration into the army (for the military) and the public service (for the civil servants).

With regard to the war victims, the major activities centred on the preparation of a draft ordinance on identification of the victims ; compensation for any harm caused and the inventory of the victims. To this day, after the identification has been completed by CONARIV, the PNCS starts compensating the victims as indicated *supra*. (Cf. Recommendation V).

Recommendation XX. Establish appropriate legislative measures to ensure the protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Law No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on promoting and protecting human rights defenders was enacted on 20 June 2014 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The implementing decree is being prepared in collaboration with civil society.

Recommendation XXI. Decriminalise press offences and guarantee access to information

Law No. 2004-643 of 14 December, 2004 on the law system governing the media stipulates in Article 68 (paragraph 1) that " the term of imprisonment is excluded from press offences" . Paragraph 3 of the same Article enumerates press offences for which a period of imprisonment is excluded. These are offences against the State, in particular the libel offence against the Head of State punishable under Article 74 of the the aforementioned law.

However, a journalist who offends the libel law and the professional code of ethics is liable to disciplinary and administrative penalties by the regulatory agencies, **that is**, the National Media Council (CNP) and the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HAAC). These punishments include: warning, **reprimand**, suspension and expulsion in line with Article 47 of the law on the legal system governing the media.

The suspension of the President of the National Union of Journalists of Côte d'Ivoire (UNJCI) on 24 January 2014 for attempted corruption is a case in point.

Côte d'Ivoire has changed dramatically in the last few years in terms of access to information and to guarantee this, Law No. 2013-867 of 23 December 2013 on access to **public interest** information **guarantees free access to information by every citizen**. This law allows the implementation of fundamental rights to information universally recognised by the Constitution"

The establishment and especially the effective functioning of this institution, the principal mission of which is to ensure respect for and implement the right of access to information and public documents by the population, was one of the main performance indicators taken into account by the Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCC) **in determining** Côte d'Ivoire's eligibility.

Recommendation XXII. Adopt a specific legislation relating to definition and punishment for torture, in line with the international convention against torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Robben Island Guidelines ;

The Constitution prohibits **the** practice of torture. Thus, Article 3, stipulates that : "Slavery, forced labour, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment, physical or psychological torture, physical violence and mutilations and all forms of degrading treatment are prohibited" .

This provision is a reflection of the willingness of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to punish torture.

Moreover, it must be pointed out that Côte d'Ivoire has decided to harmonise its Criminal Code and its Code of Criminal Procedure to conform to the Rome Statute instituting the International Criminal Court by adopting two draft laws on Wednesday 14 January 2015. This new provision lays special emphasis on the definition of terms not indicated in the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code.

Recommendation XXIII. Take measures aimed at popularising the Robben Island Guidelines, specifically targeted at officials responsible for implementing the laws ;

On this question, the Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT-CI) Côte d'Ivoire Chapter, with the support of the International Federation of Christian Associations against Torture (FIACAT) and with Government assistance, initiated several campaigns for the popularisation of the Robben Island Guidelines on the one hand, and organised several training workshops for magistrates and police officers, on the other hand.

Furthermore, in the magistrates and judicial police officers' training schools, modules on torture are taught.

Better still, through the joint efforts of the police authorities in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Police (UNPOL), places of detention are increasingly complying with the security measures and protection of the rights of detainees.

Recommendation XXIV. Provide human rights training for all officers of the security agencies, judicial and prison services ;

A large-scale training programme intended for these target groups has been prepared. Already, the military and paramilitary forces received training in Yamoussoukro in October 2011 and in July 2012. Furthermore, in addition to the security officers in the judicial and prison services, this programme is intended for all social and professional groups in Côte d'Ivoire. The Government, through the Ministry of Human Rights, has adopted a human rights promotion and protection policy by raising awareness, educating and fighting against impunity. These efforts can be attested to by the capacity building seminars for the military and para-military forces (October 2011, September 2012), human rights focal points in the Ministries and Public Institutions (March 2012, September 2012), Introduction to **Human Rights** Education and Citizenship (EDHC) in the educational system since the 2012-2013 academic year and the training of trainers in human rights education and citizenship at the National Pedagogical Institute for Technical and Vocational Education (IPNETP) and at the Advanced National Institute for Arts and Cultural Action (INSAAC).

Training sessions are currently being organised by various organisations **in the Police and** Gendarmerie Academies. The courses, which are focused mainly on the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on international legislation in force, emphasise on sexual and sexist violence committed against young girls.

The security forces have already benefitted from training on forced labour and child trafficking including procedures and the system of referencing with the support of the German Cooperation and the International Catholic Child Bureau.

The commitment of the Ivorian Government **in the reform project** regarding training curricula in the Police and Gendarmerie Academies for the incorporation of a permanent and compulsory course on child rights and protection is part of the 2012-2015 national development plan which aims at developing the capacity of security forces for improved protection of the civilian population.

Furthermore, the mobile human rights campaign (organised by the Ministry of Human Rights) which has been reaching out to all parts of the country since 2012, provides a training session for the military and paramilitary forces on the theme "respect for human rights and the maintenance of law and order".

Recommendation XXV. Take all the necessary measures to reduce overcrowding in the prisons, in particular the adoption of a policy on substitute non-custodial sentences such as community service ;

The holding capacity of the 34 prisons is estimated at 3369 detainees based on a space of 5 m² per person. Based on this assessment, it is estimated that overcrowding in prisons is 185 % all over the country.

In the face of this phenomenon, the Government has taken a number of measures. They include, among others, the rehabilitation of prisons and correctional centres and the construction of ten (10) new prisons with a holding capacity for between three hundred (300) and five hundred (500) **persons**.

This measure will enable the buildings holding the detainees to be provided with the required security standards, thus reducing as much as possible the risks of escape and guaranteeing the rights and dignity of the inmates.

Moreover, the Government, in partnership with the NGO, International Prisoners without Borders, has established an agro-pastoral prison at Saliakro in the Dimbokro region (Centre). This prison trains detainees in trades such as tailoring/sewing, mechanics and agro-pastoral techniques. The goals targeted under this original project are to produce with the aim of improving the food ration of all detainees, reduce delinquency through reintegration on the one hand, and reduce the expenses borne by the State in this sector, on the other hand .

However, the Head of State has granted presidential pardon to 3000 prisoners who have since been released.

Recommendation XXVI. Accelerate the establishment of a National Independent Human Rights Commission **in line with the Paris** Principles and provide financial, material and human resources to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights;

This recommendation was partly achieved with the adoption of Law No. 2012-1132 of 13 December 2012 **on the establishment, assignment**, organisation and functioning of the new National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire. The Commission assumed its duties on 10 June 2013.

Recommendation XXVII. Incorporate in its next periodic report, updated statistics and gender disaggregated data in respect of the different areas of human rights ;

This report, as much as possible, has made efforts to comply with this recommendation by producing updated statistical data.

Recommendation XXVIII. Ensure that during the preparation of the next periodic report, the Robben Island Guidelines on State Reporting will be complied with in line with the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Reporting Guidelines of States Parties on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights guaranteed by the African Charter and the Robben Island Guidelines.

This report has made efforts, as much as possible, to comply with this recommendation.

Recommendation XXIX. Inform the Commission, in its next periodic report, of measures taken to ensure the implementation of the recommendations contained in these Concluding Observations.

These constitute the object and the purpose of preparing this present report.

PART TWO

NORMATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Since the submission of its initial and combined report to the ACHPR, the normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights has made significant progress in Côte d'Ivoire

A. Constitution

The political system in Côte d'Ivoire is governed by Law No. 2000-513 of 1st August 2000 establishing the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. This organic law stipulates that Côte d'Ivoire is **a secular and democratic State**. The political and institutional reform processes initiated at the beginning of 2012 have led Parliament to pass Law No. 2012-1134 of 13 December 2012 establishing Article 85(a) in Title VI of the Constitution. This constitutional review made it possible to ratify the Rome Statute on the establishment of the International Criminal Court, thus making our country the 122nd State Party to ratify the Statute.

B. National Legislation

Côte d'Ivoire has strengthened its national normative framework by drafting and adopting several legislative texts. **They include, among others :**

Law No. 2012-1132 of 13 December 2012 on the establishment, responsibilities, organisation and operations of the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire ;

Law No.2012-1134 of 13 December 2012 incorporating Article 85(a) on the International Criminal Court in Title VI of the Constitution;

Law No. 2013-33 of 25 **January 2013** on the abrogation of Article 53 amending Articles 58, 59,60 and 67 of Law No. 64-375 of 7 October 1964 on marriage, as amended by Law No. 83-800 of 2 August 1983 ;

Law No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders enacted on 20 June 2014 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire No. 9 of 2 July 2014.

Law No. 98-594 of 10 November 1998 referred to as the Framework Law on Persons with Disabilities recognises equality of opportunities and treatment of persons with disabilities, in particular concerning training and employment.

Law 2013 on specific provision relating to acquisition of nationality by declaration as well as the provision on amendment of Articles 12,13,14 and 16 of Law No. 61-415 of 14 December 1961 concerning the Nationality Code as amended by Laws No. 72-852 of 21 December 1972 and No. 2004-662 of 17 December 2004 **and** Decisions No. 2005-03/PR of 15 July 2005 and No. 2005-09/PR of 29 August 2005.

Law 2013 on the timeline provided for the determination of customary rights regarding lands in customary bounded territory, amending Article 6 of Law No. 6 of Law No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 on rural land tenure as amended by Law No. 2004-412 of 14 August 2004.

Law 2013 authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the 1961 Convention on Reduction of Stateless Cases, signed on 30 August 1961 in New York.

Law 2013 authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the 1954 **Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons**, signed on 28 September 1954 in New York.

C. General policy measures

Côte d'Ivoire adopted the National Development Plan (PND) on 26 March 2012. The PND is an umbrella framework for all national development policies. It is structured around six (6) pillars. (Cf. Introduction p.3, paragraph 3)

Furthermore, it must be noted that a national policy for promoting and protecting human rights is in the process of being drafted by the Ministry of Human Rights and Public Freedoms (MDHLP).

D. Ratified International Instruments

Between 2012 and 2014, Côte d'Ivoire signed and/or ratified several international instruments. They include :

- The Rome Statute ratified in January 2013;
- Law No. 2013-647 of 13 September 2013 authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the 1961 **Convention on the Reduction of Cases of Stateless Persons signed on 30 August 1961** in New York;
- Law No. 2013-649 of 13 September 2013 authorising the President of the Republic to ratify the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, signed on 28 September 1954 in New York ;
- Decree No. 2013-539 of 30 July 2013 on the Ratification of the **Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities** ;
- Decree No. 2013-650 of 13 September 2013 on the ratification **of the Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons signed on 28 September 1954** in New York.

E. National Human Rights Promotion and Protection **Institutions**

1) National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI)

Law No. 2012-1132 of 13 December 2012 on the creation, responsibilities, organisation and operations of the National Human Rights Commission of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI) made the latter an independent administrative body with a mandate to contribute to promoting and protecting human rights. As opposed to the old CNDHCI, the new Commission is more compliant with the "**Paris Principles**".

2) The Ombudsman

Provided for in Title XI of the Constitution, the Ombudsman of the Republic is an independent administrative authority. This institution is currently regulated by Organic Law No. 2007-540 of 1st August 2007 setting out the powers, organisation and operation of the mediation body referred to as the "Ombudsman of the Republic".

Article 7 of the above-mentioned text empowers the Ombudsman to carry out "the task of settling conflicts and disputes of all kinds submitted to the President of the Republic, through mediation without prejudice to the powers vested by the laws and regulations in institutions and State organs; these are mainly disputes of all kinds submitted to the President of the Republic for arbitration".

3) The National Media Council (CNP)

Established by Law No. 2004-643 of 14 December 2004, the National Media Council (CNP) is an Independent Administrative Authority responsible for ensuring compliance by press agencies and journalists with the obligations laid down by the Law on the press regime.

It has a disciplinary authority which it exercises within the journalism profession and among media professionals. To this effect, it ensures compliance with the rules governing establishment, decency, resources and ethics of the media profession and pluralism in the media landscape.

4) The High Audiovisual Communication Authority (HACA)

The High Audiovisual Communication Authority, **in accordance with Law No.2004-644** of 14 December 2004 on the legal regime as amended by Ordinance No.2011-474 of 21 December 2004, **is** an Independent Administrative Regulatory Authority for regulating the audiovisual communication sector. Its mission is to guarantee and ensure freedom and protection of audiovisual communication, guarantee the respect for ethics and professional code of conduct in the area of information, guarantee access and provide equal treatment to Republican institutions, political parties, associations and citizens to official information and communication agencies and also to promote pluralism in the audiovisual sector.

5) The Constitutional Council

The Constitutional Council is an Ivorian institution established by Law No. 94-438 of 16 August 1994 during the First Republic which provides for the composition, organisation, powers and operations and ensures the regularity of elections and referendums. To this effect, it ensures compliance with the laws and some regulations before they come into force and also intervenes in certain cases in respect of parliamentary and public affairs.

The Constitutional Council is not the highest court of jurisdiction. It is an independent body provided for in Title VI **of the new Constitution**. It is a member of the Association of Constitutional Courts using the French Language (ACCPUF).

6) Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of Côte d'Ivoire is the highest body of the judicial arm of government of the country. It presides over appeals against verdicts given by Courts of Appeal or sits over final rulings given in the last instance by courts of first instance or their sections. The Supreme Court is composed of an administrative court, a judicial chamber and an audit chamber.

On-going constitutional reviews in Côte d'Ivoire provide for a replacement of the Supreme Court by three specific and autonomous courts : a Council of State, a Court of Cassation and an Audit Court.

7) High Authority on Good Governance

Established by Ordinance in September 2013, the High Authority on Good Governance was inaugurated by the Head of State on 5 September 2014. Its mandate is to "reinforce the fight against the canker of corruption and its metastases in the form of related offences such as illicit enrichment which disorganises the society, changes the operational rules governing the State, causes poor use of public financial resources, distorts free competition, **on the one hand, and to** "ensure the promotion of good governance in order to rid the administration of its deficiencies through education and prevention, and where necessary by deterrent measures" on the other hand.

PART THREE

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS PROMOTION AND PROTECTION MEASURES.

More than three years after the post-election crisis, the civil and political rights situation has improved appreciably. A review will enable us to realize the strides made in this area. It should be noted that these rights are clearly guaranteed by the fundamental law of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire which dedicates 22 articles to them.

Non-discrimination and Equality before the Law (Art. 3 **of the** Charter)

This fundamental principle is recognized for all by Article 20 of the constitution. This constitutional principle is deepened by Law No. 2008-222 of 4 August, 2008 which amends and complements the provisions of Articles 199, 200 and 201 of the Criminal Code on the eradication of racism, xenophobia, tribalism as well as racial and religious discrimination.

Rights to Life, Freedom, Security and the Right to Protection from Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Art. 4, 5 **and** 6 of the Charter)

These rights have been established by Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution. After they had been compromised at the end of the post-election crisis, these rights are being increasingly respected. A significant decline in their violation has been observed. The security index has also improved. According to the National Security Council (CNS), the security index was 1.2 in 2015.

Right to a Fair Trial (Art.7 of the Charter)

In Cote d'Ivoire, the guarantees of a fair trial are two-fold: general guarantees and specific guarantees. General guarantees derive from the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. This independence, which is the basis of the rule of law, guarantees the right of persons liable to trial to fair proceedings. This principle is established by Articles 101 and 103 of the Constitution of 1 August, 2000 which provide respectively that "The judiciary shall be independent of the executive and the legislature." (Art. 101) and "judges shall only be subject to the authority of the law in the discharge of their duties..." (Art. 103). Finally, impartiality is guaranteed by legal mechanisms available to persons liable to trial, particularly the right to challenge (Art. 637 to 643 of the Criminal Procedure Code and 128 et seq. of the Civil, Commercial and Administrative Procedure Code) and legitimate suspicion (Art. 631 of the Criminal Procedure Code).

Specific guarantees of the right to a fair trial are linked to the respect of the rights to defence and the presumption of innocence. The respect of the rights to defence derive from the established right of persons liable to trial to be assisted by counsel and an interpreter, particularly right from the preliminary investigation in criminal cases. The presumption of innocence is established as an inviolable principle by Article 22 of the Constitution of 1 August, 2000.

Equity is also guaranteed by the three-tier jurisdiction principle. Thus, in Cote d'Ivoire, these procedures are strictly adhered to in the conduct of trials.

Freedom of Conscience (Art.8 of the Charter)

Article 9 of the Ivorian Constitution establishes the freedom of thought and expression, particularly the freedom of conscience, religious or philosophical opinion. Cote d'Ivoire is a secular state. Freedom of expression prevails, and violations of this freedom are punishable by Articles 195 to 201 of the criminal code. To ensure the free and diverse expression of religious beliefs, the Ministry of the Interior has a Department of Religions. In all, several religions cohabit and are practised. One often sees members of the same family freely practising different religions.

Freedom of Expression and Communication (Art. 9 of the Charter)

Articles 9 and 10 of the Constitution recognize the freedom of expression. In practice, it is observed that the media landscape has witnessed the existence of several community radio stations and several press organs of various political persuasions. Indeed, one can observe that 78 newspaper outfits and 244 private radio stations are operating freely in the country.

Furthermore, the liberalization of the electronic media has been enhanced by Decree No. 2012-228 of 29 February, 2012 on the rules and procedures governing procurement and invitation for submission of applications for the authorization and use of radio and television frequencies, on the one hand, and Decree No. 2012-229 on the conditions for the use of radio and television frequencies, on the other hand.

Thus, no journalist was killed or imprisoned in 2014 under these laws. Indeed, according to the 2014 report of the National Press Council, only eleven journalists were attacked, threatened or driven away.

Freedom of Association and Assembly (Art.11 of the Charter)

The principle of the freedom of association and assembly is established by Article 11 of the Constitution of 2000. Under this provision, all associations, including political parties, freely carry out their activities throughout the country. They are, just as it obtains in all countries of the world, only required to comply with the prevailing laws and regulations in the exercise of this right. Proof of this is that, for the 2015 presidential election, all candidates freely campaigned in all parts of the country.

Right to Participate in the Management of Public Affairs (Art 13 of the Charter)

Political parties and political groups are formed and operate freely in strict compliance with of the law. Article 33 of the Constitution provides that all Ivorian nationals of both sexes aged at least 18 and who enjoy civic and political rights qualify to vote. Law No. 2000-514 of 1 August, 2000 on the electoral code regulates the eligibility of candidates.

No Ivorian is prevented from enjoying this right on account of his ethnicity, sex, religion, race or social status.

Right to Property (Art. 14 of the Charter)

Article 15 of the Constitution of Cote d'Ivoire provides that "the right to property shall be guaranteed for all; no one shall be deprived of his property unless it is in the interest of a public need and a fair and prior compensation has been paid." To apply this provision, the Government issued Decree No. 2013-224 of 22 March, 2013 on the regulation of the waiver of customary land laws for the general interest.

For example, the customary rights holders of the villages of Songon-Kassemblé, Adjamé-Bingerville and Modeste provided the State of Cote d'Ivoire with 521 hectares of undeveloped land which will be fully appropriated in accordance with the terms of the signed agreement which provides that the cost of appropriation is fixed at FCFA 2,000 per square metre in the Autonomous District of Abidjan.

With regard to compensation for displaced people, the victims of the construction of the Soubré dam received an amount of about 50 million CFA Francs.

In the Abidjan area, nine hundred million (900,000,000) CFA Francs was released and fully allocated to cover the assistance package for the relocation of most at-risk people. Each displaced household received an amount of one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) CFA Francs as relocation assistance. Three hundred and fifty million (350,000,000) CFA Francs will be allocated to the demolition of houses, security of the land and the sensitization of the people.

The distribution of the relocation assistance package was done on the basis of the prior identification of six thousand (6,000) families due to the dangerous situation of their houses built either on hillsides or in storm water basins where there is a high probability of landslides or floods.

In order to implement the Government's policy on building, housing, sanitation and town planning, the Ministry of Housing initiated a social and economic housing construction policy for the people. The current status of this policy shows that 8,000 out of an estimated requirement of 400,000 housing units have been constructed.

Right to Peace and Security both at the National and International Levels (Art. 23 of the Charter)

At the national level, certain provisions of the Constitution such as Articles 4, 5 and 6 stipulate that the State has a duty to ensure the protection of the home, the family, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, in strict compliance with the law. In this regard, the Government has made many efforts whose outcome is manifested in the general calm on the socio-political front. This led to the return to Cote d'Ivoire of embassies, international organizations, some foreign companies and, above all, the African Development Bank (AfDB) which left as a result of the crisis.

During the Ebola virus epidemic which hit her neighbours, Cote d'Ivoire took strong measures to secure her people, including the painful decision to temporarily close her borders.

At the international level, Cote d'Ivoire joined all initiatives aimed at ensuring that the world enjoys sustainable peace. It is in this regard that she is party to several related conventions and treaties. Thus, mention must be made here of all the diplomatic efforts made by Cote d'Ivoire and led by the Head of State towards the resolution of the sub-regional crises in Mali and Guinea-Bissau. Mention should also be made of the participation of Ivorian soldiers in international peacekeeping missions in Mali.

Right to Move Freely, Elect Residence, Leave a Country and to Obtain Asylum (Art.12 of the Charter)

The right to asylum and the right not to be compelled to go into exile are established by Article 12 of the Ivorian Constitution. These rights are a daily experience. Even though during the de facto partition of the country (2002 to 2010), free movement was sometimes difficult, everyone living in Cote d'Ivoire today can travel to the north, south, west as well as the east and centre without restriction.

Furthermore, Cote d'Ivoire is party to the conventions and treaties governing the rights of refugees. These are: the 1951 Geneva Convention and its Protocol of 1967 relating to the status of refugees and the 1969 OAU Convention governing the aspects inherent to the problems of refugees in Africa.

NB: To demonstrate that she is favourably disposed to the implementation of civil and political rights, Cote d'Ivoire's initial and periodic report was examined by the Committee on Human Rights on 18 and 19 May, 2015 at the Palais Wilson in Geneva (Switzerland).

PART FOUR:

I-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER

This part gives an account of the implementation of the right to decent work, right to health, right to education and the right to culture. Furthermore, mention has been made of measures taken to protect the family as well as the specific rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

1- Right to Decent Work (Article 15 of the Charter)

Article 3 of the Constitution of 1 August, 2000 stipulates that: "slavery, forced labour... shall be prohibited and punishable by law." In addition, Cote d'Ivoire has ratified most of the conventions relating to child labour, particularly Convention 138 of 26 June, 1973 on the minimum age of entry into the labour market and Convention 182 of 17 June, 1999 on the worst forms of child labour. These provisions are contributing to the promotion of decent work in Cote d'Ivoire.

It is against this background that the Index-Linked Minimum Guaranteed Wage was increased from FCFA 36,607 to FCFA 60,000. Besides, in addition to the National Vocational Training Agency (AGEFOP), new employment promotion bodies like the Services Platform (PFS), Employment Generation Initiatives Development Programme (PRODIGE) and the Youth Employment Project have been put in place to optimize access to employment.

Thus, 715,241 jobs were created between November, 2012 and February, 2014. The following table gives an idea of the job creation outlook plan.

	Target Population
Job Programmes	59,085
Sectoral Initiatives	2,188,619
Total	2,247,704

Right of Access to a Job

The right to work is established by Article 17 of the Ivorian Constitution which stipulates that: "Everyone shall be entitled to freely choose his profession or job. There shall be equal access to public or private employment for all. There shall be no discrimination in the access to or performance of jobs on the basis of sex, political, religious or philosophical opinion."

Thus, since the end of the crisis in April, 2011, the Ivorian Government has placed the fight against unemployment at the centre of its concerns. Job creation for the youth in particular is at the forefront of the government's activities. In this regard, the country has since June, 2012 adopted a National Employment Policy (PNE).

Based on data on salaried workers who contribute to public and private social security schemes, a positive state of affairs relating to job creation at the level of the modern sector is emerging.

Table: Trend of Gross Flows in the Structured Modern Sector

Sector	2011	2012	2013	Total
Private Sector [CNPS Data : gross flows of registered salaried workers]	29,334	66,352	58,201*	153,887
Public Sector [CGRAE Data : flows of contributors]	7,849	11,799	10,509**	30,157
Total	37,183	78,151	68,710	184,044

Source: CNPS+CGRAE

{*}: Data as at 31 October, 2013

{**}: Data as at 30 September, 2013

It would be observed that there has been an improvement in the level of job creation in the structured modern sector, particularly in the private sector.

Besides, as illustrated in the table below, several job management structures have been put in place to confront the various problems undermining the job market.

Table: Public and Para-Public Stakeholders involved in the Job Market in Cote d'Ivoire

STRUCTURES	ACTIVITIES
General Employment Directorate (DGE)	Orientation, definition, coordination and evaluation of the national employment policy.
National Vocational Training Agency (AGEFOP)	Vocational training engineering.
Vocational Training Development Fund (FDFP)	Financing of continuing vocational training and apprenticeship.
Service Platform (PFS)	Pooling of AGEPE-FDFP-AGEFOP services to provide technical and financial assistance for the placement of the youth in enterprises and self-employment.
Ivorian Enterprise Institute (INIE)	Promotion of entrepreneurship and training of promoters of Micro, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises.
National Roads Agency (AGEROUTE)	Execution of labour intensive work programmes (THIMO).
Technical Ministries	Technical and financial support for the youth and women.

Source: National Employment Policy, 2012

Right to social security

With regard to social security, the role of the General Pension Scheme for State Employees (CGRAE) meant for civil servants and the National Social Provident Scheme (CNPS) for private sector workers is to manage the career of pensioners. In addition to these is the General Mutual Benefit Society of State Civil Servants and Workers of Cote d'Ivoire (MUGEFCI) to cover the health care of State civil servants and workers.

Furthermore, Universal Medical Coverage (CMU) instituted by Law No. 2014-131 of 24 March, 2014 is at the operational stage with the registration of members. This will take the entire Ivorian population into account, particularly the most disadvantaged.

The freedom of association is guaranteed by Article 11 of the Constitution of 2000.

In Cote d'Ivoire, associations are formed freely under the principle of the previously mentioned information. The right to join a trade union and the right to go on strike are recognized for workers in the private and public sectors by Article 18 of the Ivorian Constitution as follows: "The right to join a trade union and the right to go on strike shall be recognized for workers in the public and private sectors who shall exercise them in accordance with the limitations determined by law."

2- Right to Health (Article 16 of the Charter)

The right to health is guaranteed by Article 7 (Paragraph 2) of the Constitution which stipulates that "the State shall ensure that all citizens have equal access to health..." As part of the promotion of health as defined by Article 16 of the Charter, the Ivorian Government has taken several measures and carried out several activities, particularly in the area of maternal and child health. The Extended Programme on **Immunization** (PEV) which received a new vaccine, the pneumococcus, thereby bringing to ten the total number of vaccines for the protection of children, illustrates this. The targeted free health care (consultation...) concerns mothers and children aged between 0 and 5. Other measures taken have to do with the free distribution of treated mosquito nets and Campaigns for the Accelerated Reduction in Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA).

All of these measures have had a positive impact on the health of the people. For example, as the following table illustrates, the incidence of malaria among the general population and children under five in particular, is declining gradually:

Table of the incidence of malaria among the general population and children under five

	2013	2014
General Population	105	139
Children < 5 years	295	280

The technical situation has improved with the construction of a new haemodialysis centre at the Cocody Teaching Hospital, thereby making it possible to transplant certain organs. Similarly, national campaigns in the fight against infections like HIV-AIDS have been upscaled and extended such that, according to the Demographic Health Survey in Cote d'Ivoire (EDS-CI), the prevalence rate dropped from 4.7 (source: Health Indicator Study) in 2005 to 3.7 in 2012. ARV treatment is also free.

TB DATA FROM 2012 TO 2014							
Year	No. of CAT/CDT opened	No. of all forms of TB	Success with treatment	Proportion of TB tested for HIV	TB/HIV under Cotrim	No. of diagnosed TBMR	No. of personnel trained in PEC TB
2012	143	24 222	79%	85%	3843	221	67
2013	163	25 299	80%	90%	4214	327	377
2014	184	23 750	81%	93%	4707	471	245

3- Right to Education (Article 17 of the Charter)

The right to education is guaranteed by Article 7 Paragraph 2 of the Constitution which stipulates that "the State shall ensure that all citizens have equal access to education ..."

This right is enjoyed equally by all children, both boys and girls, through free enrolment for primary education.

According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Ivorian government made a commitment to confront the challenge for the 2015-2016 academic year with regard to the 100% enrolment target of children of school-going age.

Education has now been declared compulsory for children aged between 6 and 16 in Cote d'Ivoire by Law No. 2015-635 of 17 September, 2015 on the amendment of Law No. 95-696 of 7 September, 1995 on education.

Basic Education

Basic education comprises pre-school and primary.

In order to generally promote access to education by children, the State has taken a number of measures:

- free primary school enrolment;
- distribution of school kit;
- rehabilitation of school canteens in disadvantaged areas;
- waiver of the production of a birth certificate for enrolment into infant class year one (CP1);
- increase in intake facilities through the construction of new classrooms and the rehabilitation of establishments affected by the crisis, and
- girl-child education.

In order to boost the statistical indicators for girl-child education, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, numerous activities have been carried out. In specific terms, these are the free enrolment into primary school and the School Canteen Project implemented in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP).

Thus, 5714 canteens are being run throughout the country for more than one million children.

All these activities were made possible through a sensitization and capacity building policy of the stakeholders of the educational system and the partnership with the international bodies.

Table of the 2015 national results of the CEPE/Form One entrance examination.

Number of Registered
Candidates: 419,591

	Girls	Boys	National
Passed	PERCENTAGE		
335,987	43.98%	56.02%	82.12%

This success rate for 2015 is a clear improvement compared to that of 2014 which was 79.13%.

With regard to primary school pupil enrolment, for the 2014-2015 **academic** year, 84.27% are in the public sector, while 13.31% and 2.42% are in private and community schools respectively.

In the area of infrastructure, out of 1,991 nurseries, 1,355 are public. At the primary level, there are 14,857 schools, including 11,870 public ones.

With regard to human resources, there are **69,765** primary school teachers.

Concerning the rate of primary school enrolment, a certain trend was observed for the Gross Enrolment Rate (TBS) which increased from 83.80% to 95.50, i.e. an increase of about 4.3 points over the period.

Table: Trend of the GER at the primary level over the period 2012-2015

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
School –Age Population	3,314,672	3,353,810	3,531,746
Number of Pupils Educated	3,021,417	3,176,874	3,370,558
(GER)	91.20%	94.70%	95.50%

Secondary Education: Improvement in the School Environment and Trend of the List of Schools

In order to improve the school environment, the government has recruited 3,000 teachers and initiated capacity strengthening seminars for them. This measure was handled by the Presidential Emergency Programme (PPU) as part of the government decentralization process in the CNO areas. It has made up for the shortfall in the numbers of teachers in general particularly in this area.

On the development of infrastructure, the action of the government included an increase in the number of colleges and, by extension, that of classrooms. Thus, since 2011, 15,313 classrooms have been constructed. This corresponds to 2,188 primary schools and 170 secondary schools, including 11 community colleges.

With regard to enrolment for general secondary education, the public and private sectors are on an equal footing, while for technical secondary education, the private sector is predominant with 94.94 % of the pupils, leaving only 5.06% for the public sector. Pupils enrolled in these establishments are fully taken care of by the State.

In the area of infrastructure, out of a total of 1,373, 362 general secondary schools are public. Concerning technical education, only three are public, as against 288 private ones. With regard to human resources, there are 22,584 teachers.

Higher Education

Since 2011, higher education has undergone a major shakeup with the establishment of two (2) new universities – the Péléforo Gbon Coulibaly University in Korhogo and the Lorougnon Guédé University in Daloa. This has undoubtedly led to an increase in and diversification of courses offered by the extension of the list of universities through an increase in the number of training institutes.

Thus, in the public sector, there are five (5) universities, plus thirty-one (31) prestigious public higher institutions, including the specialized higher institutions such as the Houphouët Boigny National Polytechnic (INPHB) in Yamoussoukro; and the Teacher Training College (ENS), National School of Administration (ENA), National Legal Training Institute (INFJ), National Technical Teacher Training Institute (IPNET), Advanced National Statistics and Applied Economics School (ENSEA) and the Advanced National Arts and Culture Institute (INSAAC) in Abidjan. The increase in and diversification of courses offered are also being intensified through the various training and research units of the public universities.

Concerning the professional character of lessons, it has been observed that the university courses are characterized by the introduction of a Bachelor's-Master's-Doctorate (LMD) system. This has the advantage of getting students to earn professional degrees. Furthermore, the introduction of the LMD system for university courses has ensured an improvement in the quality of education through the use of information and communication technologies.

Table: Number of university students enjoying financial support from the State per cycle and depending on the type and status of the establishment

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

CYCLES	SCHOLARSHIPS			FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE			TOTAL		
	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL	Male	Female	TOTAL
1ST CYCLE	3,046	1,369	4,415	2,164	1,270	3,434	5,210	2,639	7,849
2ND CYCLE	1,876	755	2,631	499	283	782	2,375	1,038	3,413
3RD CYCLE	1,456	532	1,988	227	70	297	1,683	602	2,285
TOTAL	6,378	2,656	9,034	2,890	1,623	4,513	9,268	4,279	13,547

Source: 2012-2013 Cote d'Ivoire Statistical Yearbook of the Ministry of Higher Education

4- Right to Take Part in Cultural Life (Article 17 Paragraph 2 of the Charter)

This right is established by Article 7 of the constitution which stipulates that: "Any human being shall be entitled to the development and full material, intellectual and spiritual enhancement of his personality..."

Similarly, the Ministry responsible for Culture has the following terms of reference, among others:

- promoting living arts through a national drama and physical expression policy;
- promoting and popularizing all genres of works of art and particularly plastic works and urbane graphological art;
- conceiving and coordinating the organization of carnivals, festivals and fairs, and implementing the policy for the promotion of the cinema and cultural industries.

Thus, as part of its terms of reference, the ministry carried out activities relating to the promotion of the right to culture.

In this regard, several activities have been carried out, as is illustrated by the numerous enactments formulated in that area:

- Development plan: 1975-1980;
- Grand-Bassam seminar on the role and place of culture in the Ivorian nation: 1978;
- Cultural policy (consultancy report) by Gabriel Faivre d'Arcier: 1978;
- Report on cultural development in Cote d'Ivoire: 1980;
- Seminar on the cultural dimension of development in Africa, organized in Abidjan: 1992;
- Introduction to the cultural policy of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire by Bernard Zadi Zaourou: 1998, and
- Symposium on the financing of culture organized by the OAU: 2000.

In addition to these enactments, some festivals and fairs are meant to showcase the Ivorian cultural heritage. Among others, mention can be made of the following:

- Daoukro International Festival of Arts and Culture (FICAD);
- African Performing Arts Market (MASA);

- Anoumambo Festival of Urbane Music (FEMUA);

- Abidjan International Book Fair (SILA);

-Etc.

The right to take part in cultural life is understood as the protection and promotion of intellectual works and human creative works. With regard to the protection of intellectual works, the Ivorian Copyright Office (BURIDA) initiated in 2012, 131 combing operations, 8 targeting operations, one large-scale operation for 889 arrested counterfeiters, 102 persons arraigned before the Public Prosecutor's Department as well as 280,000 seized counterfeit materials. This shows the desire of the Ivorian authorities to protect intellectual works.

- *Promotion of cultural creativity and heritage*

Law No. n°2014-428 of 14 July, 2014 on the status of traditional kings and chiefs has been passed to ensure that people exercising traditional authority in Cote d'Ivoire have a real status. It establishes a National Chamber of Traditional Kings and Chiefs and defines its terms of reference and organizations. This Chamber must serve as the umbrella organ of all representatives of traditional chieftaincies existing in Cote d'Ivoire.

5- Right to an Adequate Standard of Life (Article 15 of the Charter)

Under Article 7 of its Constitution, the State of Cote d'Ivoire recognizes that every human being has the right to development and the full enhancement of the material and intellectual dimensions of his personality.

Under this constitutional provision, the State is carrying out activities in diverse fields in order to ensure that the people enjoy better living conditions.

Thus, with regard to access to potable water and electricity, substantial investments have been or are being made throughout the country since 2011. These investments have ensured that infrastructure like water towers, village pumps as well as the rehabilitation and extension of water and electricity networks have been provided. The following table provides an insight into efforts made by the State in the area of access to potable water.

Table: Completed Potable Water Provision Projects

COMPLETED POTABLE WATER PROVISION PROJECTS				
PROJECT	FINANCING	AMOUNT	DATE OF COMMENCEMENT/DATE OF COMPLETION	OBSERVATIONS
Man town AEP reinforcement works	IDB/RCI	10,700,000,000	2010-2012	Works completed
ABIDJAN city AEP reinforcement works (NIANGON 2)	IDB /RCI	14,000,000,000	2010 - 2014	Works completed
Completion works of the 2000 m ³ ABATTA reservoir	WB/RCI	950,000,000	2010 – 2012	Works completed
Rehabilitation works of the treatment plant and the compliance with standards of the Korhogo town production and distribution facilities	WB /RCI	1,300,000,000	2010 – 2012	Works completed
Assinie Mafia water supply works	WB /RCI	900,000,000	2011 – 2014	Works completed
Safe electricity supply works of the Loka plant and upgrading of the Bouaké city potable water treatment equipment works	WB /RCI	1,800,000,000	2010 - 2012	Works completed
AEP works, presidential visits – Savanes District	BSPPU	7,100,000,000	2013	Works completed
AEP works, presidential visits - Gbèkè, Belier and Yamoussoukro Regions	BSPPU	6,200,000,000	2014	Works completed
AEP works, presidential visits - Ifou Region	BSPPU / FDE	7,700,000,000	2014	Works completed
Drilling equipment programme	JICA / RCI	2,000,000,000	January, 2013 – December, 2014	Operations completed
Production boosting works for 44 towns (Emergency presidential programme – potable water component, Phase 1)	PPU	5,500,000,000	2011 - 2012	Works completed
Network extension works in 22 towns (Emergency presidential programme – potable water component, Phase 1)	PPU	1,700,000,000	2011 - 2012	Works completed
Rehabilitation of manually operated pumps	RCI	3,582,769,000	July, 2012 – December, 2013	Works completed
Manually operated pump cleaning and maintenance operations	RCI	3,481,792,000	July, 2012 – December, 2013	Works completed
Reinforcement works of the AEP of the towns of Daloa, Tabou and San Pedro, laying of ductile cast-iron pipes, rehabilitation, construction and equipping the hydro-electric and mechanical facilities with storage tanks and installation of compact treatment plants	EU	6,800,000,000	2010 - 2012	Works completed
	TOTAL COMPLETED	73,714,561,000		

Table: Data on Water Infrastructure

Year 2013	Number of manually operated pumps	Number of improved village water works	Number of towns connected to the urban water network
Existing works	17,626	262	833
Eligible towns	7,000	19,02	1,194
Impacted population	10,575,600	1,048,000	16,660,000

Source: Ministry of Economic Infrastructure

An amount of more than 22.7 billion CFA Francs has been disbursed under the PPU for the rehabilitation of village wells and boreholes.

6-Right to potable water and electricity

Activities in Urban and Suburban Areas

For the city of Abidjan, where the population is estimated at 4,707,000 inhabitants, i.e. 20% of the Ivorian population, according to the 2014 General Population and Housing Census (RGPH), an emergency plan of 48 billion has been put in place to reduce the potable water deficit.

The optimal functional storage capacity is expected to meet a fifth of the daily needs. Currently, with the commissioning of the Niangon II (Yopougon), Bonoua and Anyama water towers, Abidjan has a storage capacity of more than 162,000 m³. With a need of 500 000 m³/d, this storage level is inadequate.

The table below shows efforts made by the State in order to reduce this deficit.

Table: Works relating to the ABIDJAN District Emergency Plan

ACTIVITIES	SECTOR	No.	Project Description	Amount (FCFA Millions)	Expected Production	Commissioning Timeframe
IMPROVEMENT IN COVERAGE	PRODUCTION	I	PRODUCTION /ON-GOING	3,801	35,000	
		I.1	Completion of the 780 m ³ /h neutralization plant	1,400		31/07/2013
		I.2	Drilling equipment completed in the ONEP park as backup to the Niangon Nord plant	205	5,000	31/05/2013
			Drilling equipment in the yard of the Niangon plant	178	5,000	31/03/2013
			Drilling equipment at Yopougon	180	5,000	31/03/2013
		I.3	Equipment and connection of 2 boreholes at Bimbresso	510	10,000	31/07/2013
		I.4	Completion of the 500 m ³ /h neutralization plant at Bimbresso	941		31/07/2013
		I.5	Equipment of the 2 new Nord Riviera boreholes	387	10,000	31/07/2013
		I.6	PRODUCTION /TO BE EXECUTED	5,946	25,000	
		I.7	Equipment and Connection of 4 60 m ³ /h boreholes + a plant at Anyama	1,280	4,000	31/09/2013
		I.8	Drilling, equipment and connection of 2 additional boreholes at N'Dotré+ a 300 m ³ /h neutralization plant	800	6,600	31/09/2013
		I.9	Provision of a high pressure plant at Niangon to supply the developing N'Dotré area	270		31/12/2013
		I.10	Equipment and Connection of 2 boreholes at Saint Viateur and a 500 m ³ /h neutralization plant	1,861	10,000	31/12/2013
		I.11	Boreholes in the south	1,735	4,400	31/12/2013
				TOTAL EXPECTED PRODUCTION		
	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	II	TRANSMISSION OF POTABLE WATER	2,450		
			Construction of a high pressure plant for future water towers in the N'Dotré area	270		31/06/2014
		II.1	Laying of a transmission network between Niangon and N'dotré	228		31/06/2014
		II.2	Laying of a transmission network at Adiopodoumé - Yopougon	600		15/04/2013

	II.3	Laying of a transmission network at Akandjé-Abatta	560		31/07/2013
	II.4	Laying of a transmission network at Saint Viateur - Djorogobité-Palmeraie	792		31/12/2013
	III	SECONDARY DISTRIBUTION NETWORK	4,300		
	III.1	Laying of distribution pipe at Abatta	2,000		
	III.2	Laying of distribution pipe at N'Dotré	500		
	III.3	Laying of distribution pipe at Djorogobité	1,200		
	III.4	Laying of distribution pipe at Port Bouët	600		
	IV	STORAGE	12,364		
	STORAGE	IV.1	Construction of a 5000 m ³ 35 m Reservoir at N'dotré	5,432	30/06/2014
		IV.2	Construction of a 5 000 m ³ 35 m Reservoir at Yopougon	5,432	30/06/2014
		IV.3	Construction of a 1000 m ³ tank at Abadjin -Kouté	600	30/09/2013
		IV.4	Rehabilitation of the Koumassi - Vridi - Adjamé reservoirs	1,300	31/12/2013
	V	SECURITY OF STRATEGIC AND SENSITIVE SITES	1,250		
SAFETY OF SUPPLY	DIVERSE WORKS	V.1	Construction of a 500 m ³ tank at the Plateau Presidential Palace, including the high pressure plant	600	30/09/2013
		V.2	Construction of a 200 m ³ tank at the Plateau Presidential Palace, including the high pressure plant	400	30/09/2013
		V.3	MACA	250	30/08/2013
		VI	COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS OF THE ABIDJAN RISK-PRONE NETWORKS	5,261	
		VI.1	Security of catchment areas	1,820	31/12/2013
		VI.2	Movement of the potable water network laid over the sewerage network	1,641	31/12/2013
		VI.3	Primary networks at risk of pollution	1,800	31/12/2013
		VII	SECURITY OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO THE ABIDJAN POTABLE WATER PRODUCTION PLANTS WITH GENERATORS	9,675	
		VIII	FINAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACCESS ROADS TO THE NORD RIVIERA AND NIANGON NORD BOREHOLES	2,030	
				<i>TOTAL WORKS TO BE EXECUTED</i>	47,477

Infrastructure

Customers in the hinterland are supplied by 354 production centres operating 480 boreholes, 70 full treatment plants and a 9,686-kilometre section of the network. Current production stands at 200,000 m³/day.

Emergency Programme

In the face of these serious deficits, the government decided to introduce an emergency programme involving the fast-tracking of on-going projects and rehabilitation of the production centres. This ensured the following:

- rehabilitation of 44 production centres in 2012, including 10 regional county towns and 30 administrative divisions at a cost of 5.75 billion and a reviewed production capacity of 5,000 m³/d;
- boosting of potable water supply for the town of Man, BID-MAN at a cost of 7.2 billion and completed since 30 December 2012, with a production capacity of 12,000m³/d;
- boosting of potable water supply for the towns of Daloa, San Pedro and Tabou a cost of 14.8 billion for a capacity of 33,475m³/d with financing from the European Union;
- boosting of potable water supply for the towns of Korhogo and Bouaké at a cost of 13 billion with financing from the World Bank.

Table: Emergency Works in Towns of the Hinterland

Description of Project	Financing	Amount (millions of F CFA)	Timeframe for Delivery of Works
Boosting of potable water supply at Man	IDB	7,200	30/12/2012
Boosting of potable water supply in the towns of Daloa, Tabou and San Pedro	EU	14,800	12/12/2012
Boosting of potable water supply in the towns of Korhogo and Bouaké	PUIUR/WB	13,000	30/12/2012
Boosting of production in 44 towns	BSPPU	5,750	30/12/2012
TOTAL		40,750	

The overall objective is for the water needs of the people to be met.

Strategy

The strategy for the reduction of the shortfall in the towns of the hinterland consists of the following measures:

- rehabilitation and facelift of existing systems, and
- extension of existing networks.

Once the existing systems have been upgraded and demand is met, water supply systems should be developed for new towns which do not have access to same, by giving priority to more densely populated towns.

Furthermore, as an overarching measure common to that of Abidjan, social connections and public standpipes should be developed.

On-going Works

As a matter of priority, on-going projects have to do with rehabilitation, boosting and extension works for

the networks of the big towns in the hinterland as well as smaller towns. These projects concern Presidential Emergency Programme 2 and the annual programme for the facelift and rehabilitation of the production centres in order to ensure the continuity of service in the sum of 7 billion from the FDE (Water Development Funds)

Table: Status of On-going Projects in the Towns of the Hinterland

Description of Project	Financing	Amount (millions of F CFA)	Timeframe for Delivery of Works
Finalization of works in 25 towns and provision of 11 new AEPs	BSPPU	7,000	30/12/2013
Emergency programme of the Montagnes District	TRESOR	8,460	30/12/2013
Annual works programme	FDE	7,000	30/12/2013
Works to boost production in the Savanes District	BSPPU	7,131	30/04/2013
TOTAL		29 91	

Table: Short-Term Works

Description of Project	Financing	Amount (millions of F CFA)	Timeframe for Delivery of Works
Rehabilitation of production facilities, replacement of pipes and extension of the YAMOUSSOUKRO network	PRICI	2,950	30/12/2014
Upgrading of the potable water facilities of the Bouaké KAN plant	PRICI	2,000	30/12/2014
Extension and boosting of the network in the town of KORHOGO	PRICI	1,000	30/12/2014
TOTAL		5,950	

Table: Medium-Term Works in the Towns of the Hinterland

N°	Sub-Prefectures & Towns	Rehabilitation and Extension or Development in Millions of FCFA	Financing	Timeframe for Delivery of Works
1	31 regional county towns	60,537	To be sourced	30/12/2015
2	76 county towns in the administrative divisions	43,346	To be sourced	30/12/2015
3	261 equipped county towns in the sub-prefectures to be rehabilitated	32,500	To be sourced	30/12/2015
4	245 new sub-prefectures to be equipped	73,500	To be sourced	30/12/2017
5	108 towns of more than 10,000 inhabitants to be equipped	32,400	To be sourced	30/12/2018
6	117 towns of more than 4,000 inhabitants to be equipped	34,250	To be sourced	30/12/2018
Total		276,533		

The following table presents the investment programme depending on the nature of works carried out or on-going over the period 2014-2017.

Table: 2014-2017 Investment Programme of the Towns of the Hinterland (in millions of FCFA Francs)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	Financing	
						Available	To be sourced
Rehabilitation	19,845	20,213	12,507	4,150	56,715	563	56,152
Extension	36,347	29,539	10,721	4,252	80,859	224	81,653
Development	15,927	19,145	13,625	5,595	54,292	166	54,126
Total HU	72,119	68,897	36,853	13,997	191,866	953	191,913

7- Right to Suitable Housing

With regard to the right to suitable housing, a set of legislative and regulatory enactments has been formulated. These measures aim at both reforming the conditions for obtaining land title and constructing decent houses for the disadvantaged sections of the population. Thus, as part of its 2012-2015 National Development Plan (PND), the government made a commitment to construct between 10,000 and 30,000 houses per year before reaching an annual construction rate of between 40,000 and 50,000 houses by 2015. To attain this objective, the authorities have put in place a number of measures to support the real estate sector.

In fact, in order to replace public real estate promoters who were done away with in the 80s, the Government established three national funds under the auspices of the Autonomous Amortization Scheme: the Housing Support Fund (FSH), Urban Lands Account and the Housing Mobilization Account (CDMH). The CDMH provides qualified buyers and promoters carrying out certain social housing projects with some tax benefits: exemption from value-added tax (18 %) and taxes on services and building materials (18 %), as well as real estate credit at a subsidized rate, i.e. 9.09 %. In addition, the buyer's share of the interest rate charged on credits has been reduced to 9.5 %. The difference with regard to the interest rate charged by the creditor is paid by the CDMH.

Furthermore, to assist the people to access social housing, the Ivorian Government has set up a Housing Access Formality Facilitation Centre (CEFFAL).

In order to guarantee the right to property, the Government, per Order No. 2013-481 of 2 July, 2013, has instituted the state reform of the Final Concession By-Law (ACD) in order to bring some sanity into urban land sector. From now on, the ACD is a single act which confers full ownership of property in the urban areas. The reform simplifies the procedure governing the issuance of administrative acts relating to urban lands and reassures the people.

II- INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE IN THE AREA OF THE PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY

1- Protection of the Rights of Women (Article 18, Paragraph 3 of the Charter).

The State has carried out activities to guarantee the rights of women. Among others, these are:

- establishment of a Ministry responsible for the rights of women;

Cote d'Ivoire, which has made a commitment to confront the challenges linked to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, is pursuing the efforts it is making to ensure that gender is better catered for by the development strategies and policies.

In this regard, it established a National Equity and Gender Observatory (ONEG) in December, 2014. The mission of this observatory is to monitor, assess and formulate proposals for the promotion of gender

equality in the political, economic and social spheres of life.

Furthermore, through the intervention of the Office of the President of the Republic, a survey on all the skills of women was conducted in order to place a list of female executives at the disposal of job providers desirous of their services. This survey led to the preparation of a Compendium on the Skills of Women in Cote d'Ivoire (COCOFCI).

Through this skills data base on more than 10,000 women in Cote d'Ivoire and the diaspora, the Government will most of all be able to reduce the disparities between the two sexes in public and private employment and to empower women as essential instruments of development.

Besides, it should be recalled that in December, 2012, Cote d'Ivoire passed a law providing for the equality of men and women in the household through the institution of the notion of parental authority in place of the then existing notion of paternal authority.

In the same spirit, and as part of the development of the skills of women, far-reaching measures have been taken to ensure the access of girls to military training institutions like the Preparatory Technical Military Academy (EMPT) and the National Gendarmerie. It can also be observed that a greater number of women are occupying decision-making positions.

Incidentally, the National Council on Women has just been established by the President of the Republic himself in order to fast-track Cote d'Ivoire's policy on equal opportunities between men and women for the purposes of ensuring balanced and sustainable human development.

Among others, the prevention and elimination of violence against women materialized through the formulation, adoption and implementation of a number of reference documents as follows:

- roadmap on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- National Strategy on the Fight against Gender-Based Violence (SNLVBG): This document is a common framework on actions aimed at deepening the holistic response to gender-based violence in Cote d'Ivoire.

With regard to the institutional mechanisms and measures to cater for survivors of violence, the following should be noted:

- establishment of the National Committee on the Fight against Gender-Based Violence, operational since 2014;
- setting up of forty-three (43) platforms for the fight against GBV throughout the country. These are centres set up to promote a multisectoral approach and to manage individual cases at the local level;
- opening of fourteen (14) other counselling offices for victims, and
- waiver of the requirement of a medical certificate at the commencement of legal proceedings against suspected rapists by a circular from the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms.

In addition the Government's initiatives were also targeted at the phenomenon of the trade, exploitation and the worst forms of labour of persons, particularly girls who are forced to engage in dishonourable and degrading practices, in utter disregard of their rights. These included the following:

- setting up a national committee on the fight against the trade, exploitation and worst forms of labour of persons;

- organization of an information and sensitization campaign for target families and populations, and
- crackdown on persons who indulge in such activities. Similarly, various

steps taken in the same regard have to do with the following:

- fight against poverty through the setting up of a Fund devoted to income-generating activities since March, 2012 called the Assistance Fund for Women in Cote d'Ivoire (FAFCI). Thanks to this fund, more than one million women were able to initiate projects which enabled them to meet their financial needs, and
- improvement in health coverage and free mother-and-child care since the end of the post-election crisis, free Caesarean section...

The National Assembly has also made the "promotion of gender" part of priority strategic thrusts, within the framework of the inclusive and forward-looking-oriented dynamic it intends to inculcate among its members.

2- Principle of Equality and Non-Discrimination (Article 3 of the Charter).

Article 2 of the Constitution of Cote d'Ivoire provides that "all human beings are born free and equal before the law."

Commitment to this principle which goes in tandem with non-discrimination is given expression to by the signing and ratification of international instruments like the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).

3- Participation of Women in Political Life and Decision-Making Bodies

Over the last few years, the Ivorian Government has been committed to the promotion of the participation of women in political life and decision-making bodies. This political will was given expression to by the appointment of women and the possibility for them to access positions hitherto reserved for men. For example, for the first time, a woman has been appointed to the position of Chancellor, while another has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. In addition, the position of Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly is held by a woman, while there are 25 female MPs out of a total of 225 in the Chamber, representing 11.11 %.

In addition to the foregoing, the 2015 presidential election witnessed the participation of two women. The following tables present the percentage of representation of women on decision-making bodies since 1995:

Table: Representation of Women on Decision-Making Bodies (in % of total)

Indicators	1995	2001	2003	2012 / 2013	Sources
Female Members of Government	8.33	21.4	15.38	17.24	Gazette
Female Parliamentarians	8	8.5	8.52	11.11	National Assembly
Female Mayors	5.1	5	4.54	10.65	Local Government Department
Economic and Social Council	11	10.8	19.17	27.5	Economic and Social Council

Table: Representation on Decision-Making Bodies

Executive		
Percentage of Female Ministers		
Term	Percentage of Women (%)	Total Number of Ministers
1995-2000	10	30
2000-2005	21.4	28
2012	17.85	28
Percentage of Female Economic and Social Advisers		
Term	Percentage of Women (%)	Total Number of Advisers
1995-2000	8.3	120
2000-2005	16.7	120
2012	28.69	115
Prefectorial Corps in 2002		
	Percentage (%)	Total Number
Prefect	1.7	58
Secretary-General	6.9	58
Sub-Prefect	8.7	231
Percentage of Female Mayors		
Term	Percentage of Women (%)	Total Number of Mayors
1995-2000	5.1	196
2000-2005	4.6	197
2013-2015	10.65	197
Legislature		
Term	Percentage of Women (%)	Total Number of MPs
1995-2000	8.3	168
2000-2005	7.5	225
2010-2015	11.11	225

Sources: Coordination Unit of the Bar Association and the Association of Notaries Public. Local Government Department. Standing Committees of the National Assembly, Economic and Social Council/Performance Indicators on the Situation of Children and Women, 2000; 2006 Population and Development Report.

In addition, the Ivorian political landscape is gradually changing with the presence of an increasing number of women at the head of management bodies, as a result of decisions taken by some political parties like the PDCI and FPI which have 20% female representation.

- Equal Access to Employment

Article 7 of the Ivorian Constitution stipulates that: "Every human being shall be entitled to development and the full enhancement of the material, intellectual and spiritual dimensions of his personality. The State shall ensure that all citizens have equal access to health, education, culture, information, professional training and employment..."

In this regard, the Gendarmerie Academy and the Bingerville Preparatory Technical Military Academy (EMPT) have been open to young girls since 2014. With regard to the National Police Academy, women have had access since the 90s.

The skills of women are felt in certain responsible positions. For example, establishments like the Université Houphouët-Boigny in Cocody and the National School of Administration are run by women.

- Protection of Women from Violence

In Cote d'Ivoire, there are several instruments for the protection of the rights of women from violence. The most significant is Law No. n°98-757 of 23 December, 1998 on the eradication of all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation.

At the level of the Ministry responsible for the Family, Women and Children, there is a National Committee on the fight against violence perpetrated against women and children.

The protection policy initiated by the Government ensured the conviction of several persons by the courts for engaging in excision.

3- Protection of the Rights of the Child (Article 18, Paragraph 3 of the Charter)

Article 6 of the constitution provides that the State shall ensure the protection of children. In this regard, Cote d'Ivoire has ratified the main International Legal Instruments relating to the protection and promotion of the Rights of the Child.

In addition, a ministry has been devoted to them: the Ministry for the Solidarity of the Family, Women and Children. Besides, two Committees have been set up by decree to fight against the trade, exploitation and labour of children. These are:

- Interministerial Committee on the fight against the trade, exploitation and labour of children (CIM), and
- National Committee for the Monitoring of Activities in the fight against the trade, exploitation and labour of children (CNS);

Thus, the formulation and adoption of the 2012-2014 National Plan of Action for the fight against child labour led to satisfactory results, a few of which should be presented here:

- prevention of the phenomenon – the strengthening of the legal and regulatory framework through the adoption of several enactments, including the one prohibiting the worst forms of child labour in Cote d'Ivoire. This enactment enabled the arrest and conviction of several child traffickers to terms of imprisonment;
- deepening of sub-regional cooperation through the signing of two cooperation agreements: one with Mali, and the other with Burkina Faso. These agreements ensure that there is a permanent formal consultation and cooperation framework for the fight against crossborder trade in children;
- community campaigns have been initiated to stimulate national awareness for the people to buy into the national effort in the fight against the worst forms of child labour. In this regard, cocoa farmers have been sensitized on the dangerous tasks children must not be made to perform and the prohibition of the use of child labour on their plantations, and
- activities of the government to promote and protect the rights of the child.

* At the Legal Level

The national legal framework first entails the conversion by decree of the Child Protection Department into a Central Administrative Department of the Ministry of Solidarity, the Family and the Child. Also attached to this Department are the Technical Secretariat of the National Committee on the Fight against the Trade and Exploitation of Children, the Implementation Unit of the Programme for the Protection of Vulnerable Children and Adolescents and the National Child Protection Coordination Unit.

There is also a legal child protection mechanism: This is the Department for the Legal Protection of the Child and the Youth (DPJEJ) at the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms.

The international legal arsenal for the protection of the rights of the child ratified by Cote d'Ivoire makes mention of its awareness of and commitment to this category of rights. These are as follows:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- ILO Convention (No. 182) on the prohibition of the worst forms of child labour and immediate action to ensure their eradication;

- African Charter on the Rights and Wellbeing of the Child;

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child Trafficking, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts...

* At the General Policy Level

- formulation of a National Plan to Combat the Trade, Exploitation and Labour of Children. In 2011, the Government initiated a national campaign to combat the trade in and sexual exploitation of children.

With the government's free primary education policy and the facilitation of enrolment conditions, access to school by boys and girls has been considerable. In the northern part of the country, many activities are being carried out to encourage the girl-child to go to school.

The average for admission into college has been reviewed downwards in order to reduce the dropout rate at the end of primary school. Since this measure has put an end to discrimination which consisted of setting different required cut-off points, depending on whether one was in Abidjan or the hinterland, all children in the country have been offered equal opportunities of access to college.

Law No. 2015-635 of 17 September, 2015 on the amendment of Law No. 95-696 of 7 September, 1995 on education which makes education compulsory for children aged between 6 and 16 years in Cote d'Ivoire is a measure which has deepened the will of the authorities.

- Inclusion of Wards of the State

A law on the status of Wards of the State has been passed. It clearly defines the categories of targeted persons. These are children aged between zero and eighteen years old, particularly abandoned children, children of drug addicts or parents suffering from psychological problems, children of imprisoned mothers or mothers who died during delivery, fatherless and/or motherless children, children whose fathers and mothers are unable to fulfil their parental obligations or have been stripped of their parental authority and children who find themselves in a vulnerable situation which can harm their lives.

4-Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Article 18, Paragraph 4 of the Charter)

In accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Ivorian Constitution, the promotion and protection of vulnerable persons (the elderly and people with disabilities) is a major concern for the authorities. They are considered as full members of society, and their contribution remains an important factor in national development. Activities undertaken in favour of the elderly are part of the fight against exclusion and the promotion of national solidarity.

4-1- Measures taken in the Area of the Protection of Persons with Disabilities

The government's policy on the protection and promotion of persons with disabilities takes the following into account:

- risk prevention (early screening, premarital, ante-natal and post-natal medical examinations, measures to combat endemic diseases..) and social prevention (safety measures aimed at avoiding accidents in various environments, ..);
- rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, including psycho-social assistance to the person (psychological strengthening, development of self-esteem, deepening of relations with the various environments in order to reconcile the person with disability with himself and with his environment..), special and inclusive education, medical rehabilitation and functional rehabilitation;

- socio-economic integration through access by persons with disabilities to education, vocational training and employment; access to information, cultural activities, sports and leisure, access to infrastructure, housing, transport, and participation in political and civic life, and
- decision to increase the number of posts available in the Civil Service to persons with disabilities from 94 to 300.

4-2- Activities Carried Out

- access to the Civil Service by persons with disabilities: note is taken of Framework Law No. 98-594 of 10 November, 1998 in favour of persons living with disabilities. This law recognizes the equality of opportunities for and treatment of persons living with disabilities, particularly in the area of training and employment. It assigns an important role to employers' and labour associations in the reintegration of persons with disabilities into the job market.

In addition to this law, international Conventions have been ratified. Among others, these are as follows:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (10 January, 2014) adopted on 13 December, 2006 in New York (USA);
- Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and
- ILO Convention on the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities adopted on 20 June, 1983.

Furthermore, subsidies are granted to national establishments specializing in the emotional, educational and psychological care of persons with disabilities. Among others, these are the School of the Deaf and Dumb, Institute of the Blind at Yopougon and the *Page Blanche* School in Cocody Plateaux.

In addition, persons with disabilities get support in the form of devices (tricycles, wheelchairs, white canes, crutches and hearing aids) as well as allocation various aid assistance packages (educational, medical and socio-economic assistance).

In this regard, senior citizens have not been left out. Certain categories of them enjoy support from the State. These are artistes who have made a certain contribution to the country's cultural heritage. They receive a monthly amount of 300,000 CFA Francs. For senior citizens, there are specialized bodies like the International Fund for the Development of Active Retirement (FIDRA).

PART FIVE:

DUTIES UNDER THE CHARTER (Articles 27, 28 and 29)

Chapter 2 of the Constitution (Articles 23 to 28) sets forth these duties which consist in respecting the constitution, laws and regulations as well as the defence of the nation and territorial integrity...

For the implementation of these duties, the State has carried out certain activities including the establishment of the National Youth Council of Cote d'Ivoire (CNJCI) per Decree No. 2012-989 of 10 October, 2012. This body aims at involving the youth in the decision-making process, participating in training and the promotion of civic education among the population, particularly the youth. This ensured the setting up of community committees for the civic education and training of the youth.

To ensure that the youth issue is better catered for in a holistic manner, a ministry responsible for the promotion of the youth, youth employment and civic service was set up in May, 2015.

Furthermore, a human rights education programme called the EDHC was incorporated into the school curriculum. The EDHC programme, from nursery through technical and vocational training to higher education, aims at developing a Human Rights and Citizenship culture through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and related values:

- respect of ethics, Human Rights and fundamental freedoms;
- democratic practice based on the the principles of law and justice for sustainable social peace;
- promotion of good governance and sustainable development;
- exercise of Human Rights;
- respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL),
and
- exercise of rights and duties in respect of others and the community for course objectives and content.

Human Rights and Citizenship Education eventually aims at changing the behaviour of the citizenry through the defence of their human rights and the promotion of the values of the culture of peace for nation building. Like history and geography, it facilitates the integration of the citizen into his environment.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

Cote d'Ivoire is firmly committed to the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights in general, and is particularly determined to implement the relevant provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Convinced that the promotion and protection of Human Rights is materializing through an improvement in the living standards of the citizenry, among others, the Ivorian Government has carried out many activities in order to ensure the entrenchment of the Rule of Law, democracy and prosperity. Evidence of this is as follows:

- formulation of the National Development Plan (PND);
- reforms of the institutional and structural plan, particularly the CNDHCI, CNP and HACA;
- establishment of the High Authority for Good Governance;
- launch of major job creating structural and integrative projects (bridges, highways, road works, dams, and
- actual establishment of the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), the independent election management body.

This institution had its first assignment when it organized the October-November 2010 presidential election which included, for the first time ever, the votes of Ivorians in the Diaspora.

Moreover, the legal environment has normalized with the establishment and opening of courts in the ex-Central Northern and Western zones. In addition to this are the rehabilitation and refitting of courts and prison facilities. (To be broadened)

Efforts have been made in the area of economic and social rights, in spite of the post-crisis situation.

In addition, Cote d'Ivoire is, in collaboration with civil society, striving to deepen the process initiated in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights with the broadening of all contributions made in good faith, particularly recommendations from organized seminars and conferences as well as reports prepared by experts after their field trips. Human rights have actually been incorporated into the primary and secondary school curricula.

In this regard, Cote d'Ivoire intends to pursue its constructive dialogue and cooperation with all the Human Rights mechanisms in all sincerity and transparency. Although it is aware that a lot of effort has been made, it also knows that a dynamic process is necessary for the promotion and protection of Human Rights. It hopes to be able to benefit from the effective assistance of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and all international human rights promotion and protection institutions to successfully carry out projects aimed at building a strong nation and entrenching the culture of Human Rights in Cote d'Ivoire.

