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## Compilation on Suriname

### Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

#### I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies<sup>1, 2</sup>

2. The United Nations country team for Suriname recommended that the Government ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.<sup>3</sup>

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.<sup>4</sup>

4. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (ILO).<sup>5</sup>

5. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that the Government sign and ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.<sup>6</sup>

6. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to consider ratifying the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and seek technical assistance under the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour.<sup>7</sup>



7. The Committee on the Rights of the Child reiterated its recommendation that the State consider ratifying the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.<sup>8</sup>

8. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stated that Suriname should be encouraged to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>9</sup>

9. UNESCO encouraged the Government to ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.<sup>10</sup>

10. The United Nations country team recommended that the Government extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council.<sup>11</sup>

11. The country team also recommended that the Government submit its overdue reports for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and continue its cooperation with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.<sup>12</sup>

### **III. National human rights framework<sup>13</sup>**

12. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Institute in 2016 but regretted that it was not yet operational. The Committee called upon the State to operationalize the Institute, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), with a broad mandate including the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equality. It also recommended that the State allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources to the Institute and that it provide capacity-building for its staff on gender issues and women's rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>14</sup>

### **IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

##### **1. Equality and non-discrimination<sup>15</sup>**

13. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State adopt the draft law on the equal treatment of women and men and ensure that it included a definition of discrimination against women, including intersecting forms of discrimination, and prohibited direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Committee's previous concluding observations.<sup>16</sup>

14. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State intensify efforts to ensure the effective elimination of any form of discrimination against children from Amerindian and Maroon communities, children of Haitian migrants, children living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and other groups of children in marginalized situations through, among other things, awareness-raising campaigns and education, especially at the community level and in schools.<sup>17</sup>

15. The United Nations country team stated that the Government of Suriname had not sufficiently taken the necessary steps to adopt legislative and other measures to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and that it had not intensified measures to prevent and sanction violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. There were also no legal regulations that specifically addressed the status of transgender persons. It recommended that the Government enact

legislation that specifically addressed discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals.<sup>18</sup>

16. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons continued to face discrimination and harassment, in particular with regard to their rights to education, employment and health.<sup>19</sup>

## **2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights<sup>20</sup>**

17. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State take measures to combat all forms of corruption that negatively impacted the economic development of the State, including the adoption of the draft law on anti-corruption.<sup>21</sup>

18. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State formulate a government policy on the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Act, strengthen institutional capacities to effectively detect and investigate allegations of corruption in the public sector, prosecute the perpetrators and ensure transparency of the public financial management system.<sup>22</sup>

19. The same Committee was concerned about the negative impact of the activities of foreign-owned gold mining, petroleum extraction and agribusiness companies on the rights of rural women, Maroon women and indigenous women.<sup>23</sup>

20. The country team recommended that the Government continue work to combat land and water pollution caused by industrial waste, and promulgate supplementary regulations geared towards the implementation of the Environmental Framework Act (No. 97 of 2020).<sup>24</sup>

21. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ensure that Amerindian and Maroon communities were protected from illegal and uncontrolled logging and mining, which had a negative environmental impact on those communities, by adopting and enforcing legislation on sustainable land management in consultation with local communities, and promote corporate social responsibility.<sup>25</sup>

## **B. Civil and political rights**

### **1. Right to life, liberty and security of person<sup>26</sup>**

22. The United Nations country team stated that prison conditions generally met international standards, but that prisons were still understaffed, with high prisoner-to-guard ratios. Overcrowding was still a problem in the temporary holding cells connected to police stations and operated by the police. Older holding cells lacked adequate lighting and ventilation, with limited functioning sanitation facilities.<sup>27</sup>

23. The country team recommended that the Government adopt measures to ensure that the conditions of detention respected the dignity of prisoners, particularly in line with the revised United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).<sup>28</sup>

24. The country team recommended that the Government ensure that juveniles in detention were housed in separate facilities from adults, and ensure that there were child-friendly procedures in place for dealing with child offenders.<sup>29</sup>

25. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ensure that children were not detained together with adults, that boys and girls were held separately, that children were never held in solitary confinement, and that detention conditions were compliant with international standards, including with regard to access to education and health services, with particular focus on the Santa Boma prison.<sup>30</sup>

26. The same Committee reiterated its previous recommendation that the State amend its legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including in the family, day care and afterschool care facilities, schools, alternative care settings, residential care and penal institutions.<sup>31</sup>

## **2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law<sup>32</sup>**

27. The United Nations country team stated that there was a shortage of judges to hear both criminal and civil cases. Justice sector organizations had very little budgetary independence, while budgets for the courts, prosecutors, police and prisons were administered by the Ministry of Justice.<sup>33</sup>

28. The country team recommended that the Government develop and implement human rights education programmes for law enforcement.<sup>34</sup>

29. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ensure that all children under 18 years of age were protected by the juvenile justice system, and promote restorative justice and alternative measures to detention, taking into consideration gender-differentiated programmes for boys and girls in conflict with the law, such as diversion, probation, mediation, counselling or community service. It also recommended that the State ensure that detention was used as a last resort and for the shortest possible period of time and that it was reviewed on a regular basis with a view to withdrawing it.<sup>35</sup>

## **3. Fundamental freedoms<sup>36</sup>**

30. UNESCO stated that defamation was regarded as a criminal offence and could be punished by fines or by prison terms of up to three years. It recommended that the Government decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that was in accordance with international standards.<sup>37</sup>

31. UNESCO stated that there was no freedom of information legislation in Suriname, and encouraged the Government to introduce a freedom of information law that was in accordance with international standards.<sup>38</sup>

32. UNESCO stated that the Government should enable a media ecosystem that fostered self-regulatory approaches and media independence, including through an independent media regulator, in line with international standards.<sup>39</sup>

33. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations requested the Government to ensure that, in both law and practice, penalties involving compulsory labour could not be imposed for the expression of political and ideological views.<sup>40</sup>

## **4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery<sup>41</sup>**

34. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was seriously concerned that the State was a source, transit and destination country for children subjected to sex trafficking, in particular girls from Amerindian and Maroon communities in regions where mining and forestry operations were taking place. It was also seriously concerned about reports of children being coerced to engage in commercial sex, including sex tourism, and forced prostitution and forced labour in the State.<sup>42</sup>

35. The United Nations country team stated that reported cases of trafficking in the State's remote jungle interior had increased in recent years and that a limited Government presence in the interior made it hard to quantify the full scope of the operations. Trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, remained a concern since a coordinated approach to prevent and protect trafficking victims had not been fully developed in the region.<sup>43</sup>

36. The country team stated that there was no shelter dedicated to trafficking victims. A domestic violence shelter accepted female and child trafficking victims but did not accept male victims.<sup>44</sup>

37. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State establish a sufficient number of adequately equipped shelters for victims of trafficking in different parts of the State.<sup>45</sup>

38. The same Committee recommended that the State investigate, prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators and ensure that victims of trafficking and prostitution were exempted from criminal liability and provided with adequate protection, remedies and

reparations, including temporary residence permits, medical care, psychosocial counselling, rehabilitation, and reintegration support and compensation.<sup>46</sup>

39. The ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to strengthen its efforts to ensure that appropriate services were available for child victims of trafficking, including for their rehabilitation and social integration.<sup>47</sup>

40. UNHCR recommended that the Government provide enhanced training to law enforcement, immigration and judicial officials to better identify and protect victims of trafficking, and persons with international protection needs who may also be victims of trafficking.<sup>48</sup>

## **C. Economic, social and cultural rights**

### **1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work<sup>49</sup>**

41. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that according to available World Bank statistics, youth unemployment levels remained high: 15.69 per cent in 2016 and 15.86 per cent in 2017.<sup>50</sup>

42. The United Nations country team stated that young people and women had a disproportional higher unemployment rate. Available data were not collected nationally, but only for the districts of Paramaribo and Wanica. Vulnerability and impact in all 10 districts could therefore not be assessed. No specific action had been taken by the local government to empower women to compete in the labour market on an equal footing with men.<sup>51</sup>

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern women's unequal access to economic opportunities and the disproportionately high unemployment rate among women, in particular rural women, Maroon women and indigenous women.<sup>52</sup>

44. The same Committee noted with concern the continued occupational segregation in the labour market, the concentration of women in low-paying jobs in the informal sector and the underrepresentation of women in managerial positions and in non-traditional professions.<sup>53</sup>

45. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to strengthen labour inspectorates and monitoring mechanisms in the formal and informal sectors, and to make data on the number of inspections and violations publicly available.<sup>54</sup>

46. The ILO Committee of Experts requested that the Government take the necessary measures in order to ensure that if there was no union representing the majority of employees, collective bargaining rights were granted to the existing unions, jointly or separately, at least on behalf of their own members.<sup>55</sup>

47. The country team stated that the Minimum Wage Law had been updated in 2019 by the National Assembly and the minimum wage had been set at 8.4 Suriname dollars per hour. However, they noted that the law only applied to the formal sector. Persons working in the informal sector, consisting mostly of young adults and women, did not benefit from that law.<sup>56</sup>

48. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon the State to amend article 28 of the Constitution to ensure that it incorporated the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and adopt measures to effectively enforce that principle.<sup>57</sup>

### **2. Right to social security**

49. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State promote a comprehensive and coherent strategy to guarantee children a minimum level of access to basic services and financial security, especially in the interior areas, and create a nationally defined social protection floor as part of the Social Protection Floor Initiative of the United Nations.<sup>58</sup>

50. The same Committee also recommended that the State strengthen support to caregivers of children with disabilities, including by increasing social benefits and other services.<sup>59</sup>

### **3. Right to an adequate standard of living<sup>60</sup>**

51. The United Nations country team stated that the 2017 Survey of Living Conditions for Suriname of the Inter-American Development Bank had estimated an overall poverty rate of 26 per cent. It stated, however, that poverty in the country's interior was much higher, at 47.9 per cent, with almost one in every two households classified as poor.<sup>61</sup>

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted with concern the extremely high poverty rate among rural women, Maroon women and indigenous women and their very limited access to basic services, including health services, education, clean water, adequate sanitation, energy and communications technologies.<sup>62</sup>

53. The country team recommended that the Government establish a poverty line to guide targeted interventions.<sup>63</sup>

54. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State design public policies and a national plan to combat child poverty.<sup>64</sup>

55. The same Committee also recommended that the State ensure access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities, especially for people living in the interior areas, including by expanding the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme throughout the interior areas to Amerindian and Maroon communities, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund.<sup>65</sup>

56. The same Committee further recommended that the State introduce targeted interventions to prevent the undernourishment of children.<sup>66</sup>

### **4. Right to health<sup>67</sup>**

57. The United Nations country team stated that inequitable access to and use of essential health services remained evident, caused by inequalities related to gender, geographical location and socioeconomic status. Access to specialized care for those living in the interior remained limited, with persons in need of care having to travel to Paramaribo.<sup>68</sup>

58. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the inadequate funding of the health sector, resulting in women's very limited access to basic health-care services, in particular for rural women, Maroon women and indigenous women, who often had to travel to Paramaribo to seek specialist medical treatment.<sup>69</sup>

59. The same Committee also remained concerned about the lack of cardiovascular services and cancer screening for women outside Paramaribo, despite the high incidence of cardiovascular diseases and reproductive cancers, including breast, uterine and cervical cancer.<sup>70</sup>

60. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State continue to strengthen efforts to ensure adequate provision of prenatal and postnatal care and address the high rates of mortality of infants and children aged 5 years and younger, and the still high maternal mortality rates.<sup>71</sup>

61. The same Committee was seriously concerned about the high teenage pregnancy rate, the widespread prevalence of sexually transmitted infections among adolescents and the high rate of HIV infections, especially among adolescent girls. It was also seriously concerned about poor access to sexual and reproductive health care information and services.<sup>72</sup>

62. The country team recommended that the Government improve the access of marginalized and vulnerable populations to quality sexual and reproductive health care services and commodities.<sup>73</sup>

63. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to ensure that sexual and reproductive health education was part of the mandatory school curriculum and targeted

towards adolescent girls and boys, with special attention on preventing early pregnancy and sexual transmitted infections, including HIV.<sup>74</sup>

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the high incidence of unsafe abortion and the absence of measures to implement the Committee's previous recommendation to revise legislation criminalizing abortion.<sup>75</sup>

65. The same Committee recommended that the State provide access to safe and affordable contraceptives, family planning services and adequate information on sexual and reproductive health.<sup>76</sup>

66. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State develop policies and programmes to strengthen the capacity of families and the community to provide care and support for children living with HIV/AIDS, and continue activities aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination relating to HIV/AIDS, including awareness-raising on human rights within the context of HIV/AIDS.<sup>77</sup>

67. The country team recommended that the Government implement the HIV national strategic plan for 2021–2026 and strengthen care for persons living with HIV.<sup>78</sup>

68. The country team stated that the national suicide prevention plan for 2016–2020 had not been effectively implemented and that suicide remained a major concern. The country team also stated that Suriname had the highest score on the world ranking of deaths by suicides and of suicide attempts; there were 26 deaths by suicide per 100,000 inhabitants.<sup>79</sup>

69. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State strengthen both the quality and availability of mental health services and programmes for children, in particular by taking urgent action to strengthen efforts to prevent suicide among children and adolescents, including by increasing available psychological counselling services and social workers in schools and communities.<sup>80</sup>

70. The country team recommended that the Government establish a new national mental health plan.<sup>81</sup>

## **5. Right to education<sup>82</sup>**

71. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was seriously concerned about the lack of schools in some of the remote districts and the insufficient number of professionally trained teaching staff at all levels, inadequate teacher training and materials, and poor infrastructure.<sup>83</sup>

72. The same Committee was also seriously concerned about the insufficient access to education by children from low-income families, especially in the interior areas, the low compulsory school age, barriers to accessing education, including fees for school materials, and gaps with respect to early childhood education.<sup>84</sup>

73. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about limited access for girls from disadvantaged groups, including girls with disabilities, and significant disparities in enrolment rates between rural and urban areas, as well as the poor quality of elementary schools and the lack of secondary schools in rural areas.<sup>85</sup>

74. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was seriously concerned about the large number of students who dropped out of school, in particular girls in the interior areas and boys nationally, and the large number of students repeating grades.<sup>86</sup>

75. The United Nations country team stated that children with disabilities started school later, had difficulty in accessing higher education and exhibited the highest drop-out rate.<sup>87</sup>

76. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about high drop-out rates, and expulsion rates, due to early pregnancy, and the tendency among young mothers to pursue vocational training instead of returning to school.<sup>88</sup>

77. The same Committee also remained concerned about the period of compulsory education being only up to 12 years of age, and recommended that it be raised to 16 years for girls and boys.<sup>89</sup>

78. The Committee further remained concerned about the lack of bilingual education for both Maroon and indigenous girls and boys.<sup>90</sup>

79. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to continue efforts aimed at improving access to education, regardless of the ability to pay fees for school materials, at both the primary and secondary levels, and improve the quality of education by ensuring adequate and timely funding, adequate facilities, learning materials and education tools that take into consideration the national and local context, with particular emphasis on the interior areas, and by increasing safe transportation and the use of information and communication technologies.<sup>91</sup>

80. The country team recommended that the Government improve access to primary and secondary education for all children, including those with disabilities.<sup>92</sup>

81. The ILO Committee of Experts urged the Government to strengthen its efforts to improve the functioning of the education system, in particular to increase school enrolment, attendance and completion rates at the secondary level.<sup>93</sup>

## **D. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### **1. Women<sup>94</sup>**

82. The United Nations country team stated that domestic violence was a pervasive problem. The Government had adopted laws that provided specific protections for violence against women and girls, but its implementation had been stymied by a lack of training and tools at the operational level to ensure proper recording and tracking of cases, a lack of social services to support survivors, and inefficient and ineffective criminal justice systems to hold perpetrators accountable.<sup>95</sup>

83. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State establish, without delay, a confidential complaints mechanism for women who were victims of discrimination and gender-based violence.<sup>96</sup>

84. The same Committee also recommended that the State establish additional shelters for victims of gender-based violence that were accessible for all women and girls, especially those living in rural areas, and ensure that legal assistance, rehabilitation and psychosocial support was provided to victims there.<sup>97</sup>

85. The country team recommended that the Government continue to strengthen the capacity of and support to officials who were in contact with vulnerable individuals to conduct referrals and/or provide available services. It also recommended that the Government increase efforts to improve data collection on gender-based violence.<sup>98</sup>

86. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its previous concerns about the persistence of discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society.<sup>99</sup>

87. The same Committee was concerned about the minimum age of marriage, which was 15 years for girls, the disproportionately high number of rural women, Maroon women and indigenous women 15 to 17 years of age who were married, and the absence of a national strategy to combat and prevent child marriage.<sup>100</sup>

88. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to adopt the draft amendment to the Marriage Act, which set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years for both girls and boys.<sup>101</sup>

89. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reiterated its previous concern about the significant underrepresentation of women in political and public life, in particular in decision-making positions, including in the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers.<sup>102</sup>



## 2. Children<sup>103</sup>

90. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the increased number of children subject to abuse and neglect. It reiterated its recommendation that the State take all appropriate measures to ensure that reporting child abuse and neglect was mandatory for all persons working with and for children. It also recommended that the State establish a national database on all cases of domestic violence against children and carry out a comprehensive assessment of the extent, causes and nature of such violence.<sup>104</sup>

91. The same Committee further recommended that the State take measures to ensure that the child telephone hotline was available 24/7 and that it was adequately staffed and resourced, increase the number of shelters for child victims of abuse and neglect, and facilitate the physical and psychological rehabilitation of the child victims.<sup>105</sup>

92. The Committee also recommended that the State ensure that all professionals and staff working with and for children were provided with the necessary training and were subject to background checks, and provide systematic training for judges, prosecutors, police and other law enforcement officials on how to prevent and monitor domestic violence and receive and investigate complaints about such violence in a child- and gender-sensitive manner and prosecute perpetrators.<sup>106</sup>

93. The Committee was seriously concerned about the high rate of child sexual abuse and exploitation in the State, including incest, especially against girls. It was also concerned about the lack of shelters for child victims and information on investigations of cases of sexual abuse, including the outcomes of such trials and redress and compensation offered to victims.<sup>107</sup>

94. The Committee urged the State to establish mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to ensure mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse and exploitation, ensure that acts of sexual abuse and exploitation were effectively investigated and that perpetrators were brought to justice, with focus on the interior areas of the State.<sup>108</sup>

95. The Committee also urged the State to upgrade the existing shelter and open additional shelters for child victims of sexual abuse and ensure that they were adequately staffed with appropriately trained personnel and resourced to effectively provide comprehensive services.<sup>109</sup>

96. The Committee recommended that the State support and facilitate family-based care for children, including children in single-parent families, wherever possible, and strengthen the foster care system for children who could not stay with their families, including by adopting and implementing the Foster Child bill, with a view to reducing the institutionalization of children.<sup>110</sup>

97. The Committee also recommended that the State ensure that adequate human, technical and financial resources were allocated to alternative care centres and relevant child protection services, as well as adopt and implement the bill on Protection of Children in Residential and Day Care Institutions and the bill on Care Institutions to ensure that proper certification requirements and standards of care were respected by all such care facilities.<sup>111</sup>

98. The United Nations country team stated that about 6.1 per cent (7.5 per cent boys and 4.5 per cent girls) of children aged 5 to 17 years in Suriname were engaged in child labour, and recommended that the Government continue working towards the eradication of child labour.<sup>112</sup>

99. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was seriously concerned about the persistence of child labour in the State, in the agricultural, fishing, timber and mining sectors and domestic work, and in particular about boys from the Maroon communities in the interior areas who were disproportionately represented in the worst forms of child labour.<sup>113</sup>

100. The same Committee urged the State to take measures to prevent children from being economically exploited by ensuring that the relevant provisions of the Labour Code, the Penal Code and other legislation relating to child labour were enforced, and adopt policies to address child labour in both the formal and informal sectors.<sup>114</sup>

### 3. Persons with disabilities<sup>115</sup>

101. The United Nations country team stated that no laws specifically prohibited discrimination against persons with physical or mental disabilities. Persons with disabilities experienced discrimination when applying for jobs and services. No laws specifically provided that buildings were to be built according to accessibility codes.<sup>116</sup>

102. The Committee on the Rights of the Child stated that children with disabilities continued to face discrimination and were not effectively integrated into all areas of social life, including the education system, in particular in the interior areas of the State.<sup>117</sup>

103. The same Committee urged the State to adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and to devise a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities.<sup>118</sup>

104. The Committee recommended that the State strengthen efforts to implement the requisite legislative framework and policies for the effective protection of the rights of children with disabilities, including adoption of the draft law on special education and the draft law on primary education, as well as the draft policy on persons with disabilities.<sup>119</sup>

105. The Committee also recommended that the State ensure that schools provided inclusive education and that both schools and care facilities were accessible and adequately staffed and funded, as well as ensure that training was provided for professionals working with children with disabilities, such as teachers, social workers, and health, medical, therapeutic and care personnel.<sup>120</sup>

106. The Committee further recommended that the State periodically review the placement of children with disabilities in alternative care settings and monitor the quality of care therein, including by providing accessible channels for reporting, monitoring and remedying maltreatment of children.<sup>121</sup>

107. The Committee also recommended that the State take all the measures necessary to ensure that children with disabilities were fully integrated into all areas of social life, including schools, and sports and leisure activities, and that facilities and other public areas were accessible for children with disabilities.<sup>122</sup>

108. The Committee further recommended that the State conduct awareness-raising campaigns aimed at government officials, the public and families to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities.<sup>123</sup>

### 4. Indigenous peoples<sup>124</sup>

109. The United Nations country team stated that people living in the interior of Suriname still suffered from the negative impact of mining on the environment. Indigenous and tribal peoples were continually complaining about the fact that their rights to the lands where their villages are situated were not respected by the Government or by the private sector. There were still complaints regarding the fact that the Government gave out permits to private sector entities for natural resource mining and logging. The Government had not yet taken steps to establish a formal platform to guarantee and protect the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples.<sup>125</sup>

110. The country team recommended that the Government respect and ensure the rights of indigenous peoples related to the preservation of their land, culture and resources, and adopt measures to reduce the negative impact of mining on the environment and the rights of indigenous peoples and their lands, in conformity with international standards. It also recommended that the Government ensure that the judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding the Moiwana Community and Saramaka people were swiftly and completely implemented.<sup>126</sup>

111. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about violations of the land rights of indigenous women and tribal women, despite three judgments of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued in 2005, 2007 and 2015, holding that the State had violated the rights of indigenous people to land and access to justice. The Committee further regretted that rural women, Maroon women and indigenous

women were excluded from decision-making processes, in particular with regard to the use of land.<sup>127</sup>

## 5. Refugees and asylum seekers

112. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women noted that the State had experienced a sharp increase in the number of registered asylum seekers in 2016 and 2017 and was concerned about the lack of a national policy governing refugee protection or asylum procedures in the State, as well as the lack of long-term protection measures for women refugees and asylum seekers who were victims of trafficking or gender-based violence.<sup>128</sup>

113. UNHCR recommended that the Government develop, enact and implement refugee legislation consistent with international standards, which would include fair and efficient procedures for conducting refugee status determination, and guaranteeing the rights of all recognized refugees in Suriname.<sup>129</sup>

114. UNHCR also recommended that the Government review national legislation and take the necessary steps to harmonize national legislation with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.<sup>130</sup>

115. UNHCR further recommended that the Government facilitate access to asylum procedures for persons who had expressed a fear of returning to their country of origin and uphold the principle of non-refoulement of all persons in need of international protection.<sup>131</sup>

116. UNHCR also recommended that the Government reinforce efforts to identify international protection needs of victims of trafficking, and facilitate access to asylum procedures through a referral mechanism, at points of entry and in detention facilities.<sup>132</sup>

117. UNHCR further recommended that the Government ensure the issuance of documents or other identification cards for refugees.<sup>133</sup>

118. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that women refugees and asylum seekers in the State faced difficulties in gaining access to education, health, employment, income-generating opportunities and financial services.<sup>134</sup>

## 6. Stateless persons

119. UNHCR recommended that the Government institute statelessness status determination procedures.<sup>135</sup>

120. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State continue to strengthen efforts to ensure that all children born in its territory were registered and provided with official birth certificates, including by streamlining birth registration in the interior areas of the State through, among others, local registry offices, mobile units and outreach programmes.<sup>136</sup>

121. The same Committee recommended that the State carry out awareness-raising programmes and campaigns on the importance of registering the birth of all children, including children born to migrant workers in both regular and irregular situations.<sup>137</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Suriname will be available at [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/SRindex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/SRindex.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.1–133.22, 133.39–133.41, 134.1, 135.1–135.21, 135.23 and 135.26–135.31.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Suriname, p. 1. See also CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, paras. 45–61; and CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 44.

<sup>4</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 43.

<sup>5</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 45 (c).

- <sup>6</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Suriname, p. 4. See also CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 17.
- <sup>7</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 38 (f).
- <sup>8</sup> Ibid., para. 25.
- <sup>9</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Suriname, para. 9.
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid., para. 14.
- <sup>11</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 2.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid., pp. 1–2.
- <sup>13</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.23–133.24, 133.27–133.37, 135.22 and 135.24–135.25.
- <sup>14</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, paras. 16–17. See also CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 11 (a); and the United Nations country team submission, p. 2.
- <sup>15</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.38, 133.55–133.61 and 135.32–135.33.
- <sup>16</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 11 (c).
- <sup>17</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 14.
- <sup>18</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 3.
- <sup>19</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 50.
- <sup>20</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.102 and 135.43.
- <sup>21</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 9 (d).
- <sup>22</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 19.
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid., para. 20.
- <sup>24</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- <sup>25</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 36.
- <sup>26</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.62–133.66 and 135.34.
- <sup>27</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 4.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid., p. 8.
- <sup>30</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 41 (e).
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid., para. 18 (a). See also CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 27 (c); and UNESCO submission, para. 9.
- <sup>32</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.69, 133.81–133.83 and 134.2–134.3.
- <sup>33</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- <sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 3.
- <sup>35</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 41 (a) and (c)–(d).
- <sup>36</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/33/4, para. 135.40.
- <sup>37</sup> UNESCO submission, paras. 4 and 10.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid., paras. 5 and 11.
- <sup>39</sup> Ibid., para. 12.
- <sup>40</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3295134:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3295134:NO).
- <sup>41</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.75–133.80.
- <sup>42</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 39 (a)–(b).
- <sup>43</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- <sup>44</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>45</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 29 (a).
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid., para. 29 (b). See also United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- <sup>47</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3289947:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3289947:NO).
- <sup>48</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 5. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 5.
- <sup>49</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/33/4, para. 133.26.
- <sup>50</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3956501:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3956501:NO).
- <sup>51</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 12.
- <sup>52</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 36 (c).
- <sup>53</sup> Ibid., para. 36 (d).
- <sup>54</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 38 (d).
- <sup>55</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3962786:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3962786:NO).
- <sup>56</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- <sup>57</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 37 (c).
- <sup>58</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 33 (c).
- <sup>59</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (b).
- <sup>60</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.25 and 133.85.
- <sup>61</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 9.

- <sup>62</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 44.
- <sup>63</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
- <sup>64</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 33 (a).
- <sup>65</sup> Ibid., para. 28 (f).
- <sup>66</sup> Ibid., para. 28 (b).
- <sup>67</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.86–133.89.
- <sup>68</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 10.
- <sup>69</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 38 (a).
- <sup>70</sup> Ibid., para. 38 (b).
- <sup>71</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 28 (a).
- <sup>72</sup> Ibid., para. 30 (a)–(b).
- <sup>73</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- <sup>74</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 31 (b). See also CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 34 (e); and the United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- <sup>75</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 38 (c).
- <sup>76</sup> Ibid., para. 39 (e).
- <sup>77</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 28 (d).
- <sup>78</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid., p. 10.
- <sup>80</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 29 (b).
- <sup>81</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- <sup>82</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.90–133.95 and 135.41.
- <sup>83</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 34 (b).
- <sup>84</sup> Ibid., para. 34 (c).
- <sup>85</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 34 (b).
- <sup>86</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 34 (d).
- <sup>87</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- <sup>88</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 34 (d).
- <sup>89</sup> Ibid., paras. 34 (f) and 35 (e).
- <sup>90</sup> Ibid., para. 34 (c).
- <sup>91</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 35 (a).
- <sup>92</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 11.
- <sup>93</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3289947:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3289947:NO).
- <sup>94</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.42–133.54 and 133.67–133.68.
- <sup>95</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- <sup>96</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 13 (b).
- <sup>97</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (b).
- <sup>98</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 6.
- <sup>99</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 24.
- <sup>100</sup> Ibid., para. 52 (b).
- <sup>101</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 13. See also United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- <sup>102</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 30.
- <sup>103</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.70–133.74, 133.84 and 135.35–135.39.
- <sup>104</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 19 (b) and (d).
- <sup>105</sup> Ibid., para. 19 (f).
- <sup>106</sup> Ibid., para. 19 (g).
- <sup>107</sup> Ibid., para. 20.
- <sup>108</sup> Ibid., para. 21 (a).
- <sup>109</sup> Ibid., para. 21 (d).
- <sup>110</sup> Ibid., para. 24 (a).
- <sup>111</sup> Ibid., para. 24 (d).
- <sup>112</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 7.
- <sup>113</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 37.
- <sup>114</sup> Ibid., para. 38 (c).
- <sup>115</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/33/4, para. 135.42.
- <sup>116</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 8.
- <sup>117</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 26 (b).
- <sup>118</sup> Ibid., para. 27.
- <sup>119</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (a).
- <sup>120</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (c).
- <sup>121</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (d).
- <sup>122</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (e).

<sup>123</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (f).

<sup>124</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/33/4, paras. 133.96–133.101.

<sup>125</sup> United Nations country team submission, p. 8

<sup>126</sup> Ibid., p. 9.

<sup>127</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 44.

<sup>128</sup> Ibid., para. 48.

<sup>129</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 3.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid., p. 5.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

<sup>134</sup> CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 48.

<sup>135</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 4.

<sup>136</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 17. See also CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, paras. 32–33 (a).

<sup>137</sup> CRC/C/SUR/CO/3-4, para. 17. See also CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6, para. 33 (b).