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National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Guinea

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Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	3
I. Process of preparing the report.....	3
II. Developments in relation to the legal and institutional framework and public policies on human rights.....	4
A. Legal framework.....	4
B. Institutional framework.....	4
C. Public policies.....	5
III. Promotion and protection of human rights	5
A. Respect for international obligations	5
B. Action to promote human rights	6
C. Action to protect and defend human rights	6
D. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms	8
IV. Implementation of recommendations	8
Implementation of accepted recommendations	8
A. Equality and non-discrimination (113.176)	8
B. Civil and political rights	9
C. Economic, social and cultural rights and sustainable development	10
D. Respect for the right to housing	11
E. Access to safe drinking water	11
F. Sustainable development	12
G. Rights of specific groups	13
V. Challenges and best practices.....	17
A. Challenges and outlook.....	17
B. Best practices	18
VI. Initiatives and commitments to improve the human rights situation	18
A. Initiatives	18
B. Commitments to improve the human rights situation	18
VII. Financial capacity-building and technical assistance needs	18

Introduction

1. The present report, submitted under the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, gives an account of the human rights situation in Guinea during the period under review and of the implementation of the 203 recommendations accepted out of the 213 made following the country's third universal periodic review in 2020.
2. Ten of the 213 recommendations were noted, including 5 on the decriminalization of homosexual relations between consenting adults and 5 others on the law on maintaining public order and the law on cybersecurity and defamation.
3. In 2020, following the former regime's amendment of the Constitution, Guinea was gripped by intense sociopolitical tensions.
4. It was against this backdrop that, on 5 September 2021, the army, led by the National Committee of Reconciliation and Development, assumed its responsibilities and set in motion a process to restore the constitutional order. Virtually all the achievements in the field of human rights described in this document can be attributed to this new governance, the aim of which is to reform institutions and rebuild the country's foundations.

I. Process of preparing the report

5. The coming to power of the National Committee of Reconciliation and Development led to government restructuring, with a reduction in the number of departments. Thus, the Ministry of Citizenship and National Unity (in charge of human rights issues) was merged with the Ministry of Justice to become the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.
6. This restructuring affected the functioning of the National Interministerial Mechanism for Reporting and Monitoring the Implementation of Human Rights Recommendations, with the replacement of many of its members.
7. The report of Guinea has been prepared using an inclusive approach, with the involvement, alongside the Government, of civil society organizations and technical and financial partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
8. The process of drafting the report began with the organization of a capacity-building workshop for members of the National Interministerial Mechanism, with technical and financial support from OHCHR, in November 2023.
9. A second training workshop for Mechanism members, on report-writing techniques, was held in Kindia, from 24 to 27 April 2024. This workshop also provided an opportunity to draw up the road map for the drafting of the report.
10. One of the first activities involved collecting data from ministerial departments; subsequently, a data analysis retreat was organized on 11 and 12 June 2024 in Conakry.
11. The first draft of the report was prepared during a retreat held in Kindia from June 28 to 2 July 2024.
12. This draft was presented to all stakeholders (Mechanism members, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and members of the National Transition Council), at a national validation workshop held on 4, 5 and 6 December 2024, and was validated by the Government Council on 21 January 2025.

II. Developments in relation to the legal and institutional framework and public policies on human rights

A. Legal framework

13. Following its third universal periodic review, Guinea embarked on the adoption of numerous texts designed to strengthen its legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. These include:

- The Transition Charter of 27 September 2021
- Act No. L/2020/0027/AN of 19 December 2020 on the Right of Access to Public Information
- Act No. 2021/0016 /AN of 30 April 2021 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Albinism
- Act No. L/2021/0018/AN of 7 May 2021 on the Organization, Promotion and Monitoring of Physical Activities
- Act No. L/2022/0010 of 22 September 2022 on Local Content
- Act No. L/2022/012/CNT of 23 September 2022 on Legal Aid
- Act No. L/2022/013/CNT of 23 September 2022 on the Rules for the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Persons at Risk
- Act No. L/2022/0017/CNT of 9 December 2022 on the Status of Local Authority Employees
- Act No. L/2023/0019/CNT of 25 October 2023 on the Identification of Natural Persons
- Act No. L/2023/0020 of 25 October 2023 on Civil Status
- Ordinary Act No. L/2023/0013/CNT of 26 April 2024 on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices
- Decree No. D/2022/0553/PRG/CNRD/SGG of 24 November 2022 on the dissemination of human rights laws relating to gender-based violence in public and private media programming

B. Institutional framework

14. Several public structures and institutions that contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights have been established or strengthened:

- A victims' compensation fund was established pursuant to Joint Decree No. A/2024/1313/MJDH/MEF/MB/CAB/SGG of 4 October 2024 amending Joint Decree No. A/2022/2477/MJDH/MB/MEFP/CAB/SGG of 15 September 2022 on the management of the resources and expenditures of the Special Fund for the trial in connection with the events of 28 September 2009 and the Special Fund for the compensation of victims of the events of 28 September 2009.
- The Court for the Suppression of Economic and Financial Offences was created pursuant to Ordinance 2021/007/PRG/CNRD/SGG of 2 December 2021, as amended on 6 December 2021 by Ordinance 2021/008/PRG/CNRD/SGG.
- A legal aid fund was established pursuant to Act No. L/2022/012/CNT of 23 September 2022.
- The Agency for the Management and Recovery of Seized and Confiscated Assets was created pursuant to Decree No. D/2022/514/PRG/CNRD/SGG of 26 October 2022.

- A central service for the protection of vulnerable persons was established in January 2022.
- The National Civil Status Census Programme was set up.

C. Public policies

15. The Government has initiated numerous programmes and policies on the promotion and protection of human rights.

16. All these programmes and policies stem from strategic documents drawn up by the Government, such as the Interim Reference Programme and the National Civil Status Census Programme.

III. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Respect for international obligations

Regarding recommendations 113.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 40 on acceding to, signing and ratifying international legal instruments

17. Articles 73 and 74 of the Transition Charter of 27 September 2021 stipulate that “treaties, conventions and agreements that have been duly ratified or approved shall take precedence over laws as soon as they have been published in the Official Gazette, subject to reciprocity. International treaties and agreements previously concluded by Guinea and duly ratified shall remain in force, subject to reciprocity.”

18. These provisions are reinforced by Ordinance 0/2021/001/PRG/CNRD/SGG of 16 September 2021, which extended national laws and international conventions, treaties and agreements in force on 5 September 2021.

19. While Guinea has ratified the majority of instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights, a few remain outstanding, such as: 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 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which is currently in the process of ratification.

Ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (113.8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 30, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71 and 72)

20. The deliberate omission of the death penalty from the 2016 Criminal Code, the prohibition of the death penalty in the preliminary draft of the new constitution and the drafting of a position paper on the law to abolish the death penalty represent the first steps towards ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

21. This process will be pursued through, on the one hand, the commutation of death sentences to life imprisonment and, on the other, the formal ratification of the Optional Protocol.

B. Action to promote human rights

22. To raise the profile of action to promote human rights, the Government has assigned responsibility for implementing human rights policy to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and for implementing policy on the rights of specific groups to the Department for the Advancement of Women, Children and Vulnerable Persons.

23. In line with this mandate, a number of programmes and initiatives have been carried out, including:

- Capacity-building for members of the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, in November 2023 and April 2024, on human rights reporting techniques
- Celebration on 13 June each year of International Albinism Awareness Day, on 26 June of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, on 11 October of the International Day of the Girl Child and on 10 December of Human Rights Day
- Training for members of the national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up of the Gambia, Senegal, Mali and Guinea, from 31 January to 2 February 2024
- Training, between 2021 and 2023, of 2,466 senior officers of the defence and security forces on the role and responsibilities of armed forces on peacekeeping missions with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights, the fight against gender-based violence and the promotion of international humanitarian law (Gangan 7, 8 and 9)
- Drawing up of a compendium of legal texts on the promotion and protection of women's rights
- Dissemination of the 45 recommendations on national reconciliation resulting from the national conference of March 2022
- Visits by members of the children's parliament to national institutions in June 2024
- Revitalization of the National Interministerial Mechanism for Reporting and Monitoring the Implementation of Human Rights Recommendations pursuant to Prime Ministerial Order A/2023/009/PM/CAB/SGG of 11 January 2022
- Drafting of the periodic reports on civil and political rights and on the implementation of the Convention against Torture

24. Every year, the Government commemorates the international days in order to educate people through vast awareness-raising campaigns.

C. Action to protect and defend human rights

Improvement of conditions of detention and suppression of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in prisons (113.74, 75, 76 and 50)

25. The Government has adopted important laws and regulations with a view to considerably reducing the number of cases of human rights violations and abuses and providing redress should such cases arise.

26. To bring domestic law into line with the Convention against Torture, Guinea has harmonized the revised Criminal Code with that instrument. Articles 232 et seq. of the Code define torture and establish it as a specific offence. Under article 233, "subjecting a person to acts of torture is punishable by 5 to 10 years' imprisonment and/or a fine of 500,000 to 5 million Guinean francs (GF)". A significant gap in the law has thus been filled.

27. A number of cases involving torture or inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment by officers of the defence and security forces are currently before the courts of general jurisdiction.

28. From 2020 to 2024, the technical departments of the ministries responsible for human rights issues carried out more than twenty visits to places of detention throughout the country.

29. These departments (the National Directorate for Human Rights and the National Directorate for Children) ensure the protection of human rights by conducting monitoring and dealing with violations or abuses, particularly prolonged pretrial detention.

30. In a bid to provide a better living environment for persons deprived of their liberty, the Government launched an ambitious programme to build, renovate and extend detention centres from 2021. Projects include:

- Renovation and extension of the Conakry central prison and the Coyah remand and short-stay prison
- Renovation of the Kankan, Kissidougou, Guéckédou, Yomou, Pita and Forécariah remand and short-stay prisons
- Construction of the Macenta remand and short-stay prison, which is nearing completion

31. With regard to healthcare for prisoners, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Health and Hygiene and the Ministry of the Budget are in the process of signing a joint order to assign doctors to each prison to support health workers and nurses.

32. Regarding compliance with minimum standards on detention, the Government has increased the budget line for social benefits in kind to GF 13.5 billion. The Government has renegotiated the contracts of all catering companies with a view to better aligning prices with the new economic context and has obtained the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the nutritional design and calibration of meals.

33. The National Transition Council also recommended increasing the amount earmarked for the purchase of pharmaceutical products for detainees to GF 42.5 billion and the number of vans to 25 to ensure the transportation of detainees in conditions that respect their dignity and the presumption of innocence. The budget of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has been increased to respond to this recommendation.

34. The problem of prison overcrowding is one factor behind the deterioration in detention conditions and the majority of human rights violations observed in Guinean detention centres. Another problem is the high number of prisoners awaiting trial (prolonged pretrial detention).

35. Faced with this situation, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has appealed to certain partners to support the holding of trials for these detainees.

36. With financial support from OHCHR, the Mafanco court of first instance has held hearings for some detainees in this situation (76 cases involving 80 detainees, including 2 women, were brought to trial).

37. Likewise, the Faranah, N'Zérékoré, Siguiri, Labé and Pita courts of first instance organized mobile court hearings (with 32 cases involving 47 persons, including 3 women, brought to trial).

38. Convictions were handed down in 15 cases involving 16 persons and acquittals in 5 cases involving 15 persons, while 12 cases were dismissed.

39. In 2024, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights released 32 persons from prolonged pretrial detention.

40. On a structural level, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, with the support of OHCHR, organized a workshop to reflect on the causes of prolonged pretrial detention. At the end of the workshop, the report – drawn up by judges and prosecutors themselves – was submitted to the Minister for the assignment of roles with respect to the actions to be implemented.

Regarding recommendations 113.41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 63 on the establishment and strengthening of an independent national human rights institution that is in conformity with the Paris Principles

41. The arrival in power of the National Committee of Reconciliation and Development on 5 September 2021 led to the suspension of the Constitution and the dissolution of all national institutions.

42. However, the preliminary draft of the new constitution provides for the powers of the former independent national human rights institution to be transferred to a new body, the National Commission for Civic Education and Human Rights.

D. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

(113.38 and 39)

43. Since 2014, Guinea has set up the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights to draft the various reports and monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by human rights mechanisms.

44. This Committee was revitalized in 2023, pursuant to a decree of the Prime Minister, and the Government works closely with the OHCHR office in Guinea to follow up on cases of human rights violations, through a consultation framework established for that purpose.

45. In addition, Guinea has regularly participated in sessions of the Human Rights Council, periodically submits reports to international bodies and implements the recommendations made following the presentation of its reports.

46. Since 2020, Guinea has submitted its reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

IV. Implementation of recommendations

47. After its review in 2020, Guinea accepted 203 out of the 213 consolidated recommendations, on the basis of their aims and their conformity with the country's laws and sociocultural realities.

48. Ten of the 213 recommendations were noted (113.58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 98, 99, 107, 108 and 110), including 5 on the decriminalization of homosexual relations between consenting adults.

49. The rejection of the recommendations to decriminalize homosexual relations between consenting adults in Guinea is justified by the need to preserve stability, social cohesion and peace.

50. Regarding recommendation 113.98 on the alignment of the law on maintaining public order with international human rights standards, Act No. L/2015/009/AN of 4 June 2015 on the Maintenance of Public Order provides that only conventional weapons may be used (tear gas and other riot control agents, water cannons, truncheons, etc.).

51. The use of force and firearms is subject to the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality.

Implementation of accepted recommendations

A. Equality and non-discrimination (113.176)

52. Guinea has ratified the main international and regional instruments on the rights of vulnerable persons to equality and non-discrimination:

- (a) The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- (b) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- (c) The Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- (d) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

53. The principle of equality and non-discrimination is enshrined in the Transition Charter.

54. Under article 9, «all citizens are equal in rights and duties. They are equal before the law, without any distinction. They are thus entitled to vote and to be elected in accordance with the conditions prescribed by law.»

B. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person

Freedom of opinion, expression and association, access to information and protection of human rights defenders (113.43, 89, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109)

55. In 2022, 678 public order operations and 296 other operations to restore order were carried out by the national police's operational units. Public demonstrations and post-election crises claim lives, including among the defence and security forces.

56. In accordance with recommendation 113.90, the Government, with the support of OHCHR, organized several capacity-building sessions between 2022 and 2024 for 280 officers involved in maintaining public order on the basic principles of the United Nations, the use of force and firearms and Act No. L/2015/009/AN on the Maintenance of Public Order.

57. Freedom of expression is guaranteed in articles 8, 19 and 23 of the Transition Charter.

58. With regard to recommendations 113.109, 100 and 94 concerning the adoption of an organic law on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders, steps are being taken for the presentation of the preliminary bill to all stakeholders.

59. Act No. L/2020/0027/AN of 19 December 2020 on the Right of Access to Public Information has been adopted.

60. There are numerous private radio stations and television channels that broadcast throughout the territory, and journalists enjoy freedom of the press.

61. Regarding print media, many publications appear regularly; online publications are also thriving.

62. All press associations, including the Guinean Online Press Association, the Guinean Association of Independent Newspaper Publishers, the Guinean Free Radio and Television Union and the Guinean Bloggers' Association, receive regular subsidies from the Government.

63. However, the Government has suspended certain radio stations and television channels because their news coverage poses a threat to public order and social harmony.

Administration of justice

Access to justice, strengthening the effectiveness and independence of the justice system and combating impunity (113.77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87 and 88)

64. The Government has always advocated not only bringing justice closer to the people, but also providing easy access to justice, particularly for vulnerable persons and disadvantaged categories of the population. In this connection, a legal aid fund has been set up to assist indigent people in legal proceedings.

65. The National Committee of Reconciliation and Development committed itself, from the moment it took office, to leading a merciless fight against impunity, considering justice to be the lodestar of its governance.

66. To fulfil this commitment, the Government signed a complementarity agreement with the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the Rome

Statute, with the aim of organizing the trial in connection with the events of 28 September 2009.

67. On 28 September 2022, the trial opened in Conakry.

68. On 31 July 2024, the Dixinn court of first instance handed down its decision. The dissatisfied parties appealed.

69. In keeping with the principle of accountability of public managers, the Government has set up the Court for the Suppression of Economic and Financial Offences, which has jurisdiction over all economic and financial offences involving sums equal to or greater than GF 1 billion.

70. Since its creation, this special court has ruled on 100 cases, 77 of which were referred to it at the investigation stage; 89 cases are pending. These cases concerned 10 corporate bodies and 299 individuals; 11 of those persons were held in custody, including 3 who were convicted and 6 who were acquitted.

Right to life, physical integrity, safety and security of person (113.73)

71. Article 8 of the Transition Charter recognizes the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to citizens under the conditions and in the forms laid down by law. No exceptional circumstances or emergency may be invoked as justification for human rights violations.

72. To protect people and their property, the Government has set up operational units along its land borders. The same type of unit exists within the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights and sustainable development

Right to an adequate standard of living

Efforts to combat poverty and distribution of development gains (113.111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 159 and 65)

73. In the context of efforts to combat poverty, under the Interim Reference Programme, which replaced the National Economic and Social Development Plan, the Government has established human capital development strategies for a 36-month period from 2022 to 2025. These strategies focus on two objectives:

- Reducing multidimensional poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children
- Strengthening social protection to reduce the vulnerability of households to natural, social and economic hazards and other dangers, including gender-based violence

74. The Interim Reference Programme is designed to establish conditions conducive to alleviating poverty.

75. The Government has implemented a number of sectoral policies to achieve sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of all.

76. In the mining sector, the Government has taken account of the main concerns of communities affected by mining activities.

77. During environmental impact studies, all affected communities are consulted, their concerns considered, damages assessed and compensation measures implemented in accordance with the Mining Code and the related regulations.

Managing fishery resources

78. The Government has declared fishery resources to be part of the national heritage and established an obligation to manage them sustainably and responsibly.

79. In partnership with UNDP, the Government has drawn up and rolled out the Blue Economy Policy, which promotes the development of fishery resources along the entire chain while taking account of the interests of stakeholders.

Respect for the right to food

80. In the agricultural sector, the State has adopted the National Agricultural Development Plan, an associated strategic planning framework and the National Plan for Agricultural Investment, Food Security and Nutrition, which covers an eight-year period from 2018 to 2025.

81. The Government has also taken significant steps to uphold the right to adequate food by ensuring the availability of essential products and commodities in sufficient quantity and quality.

82. To strengthen social protection and reduce household vulnerability to natural, social or economic hazards or shocks, the Government set up the Social Development and Indigence Fund.

83. Since 2021, the Fund has assisted around 2,008 indigent patients by covering the cost of healthcare services and food, including for 1,246 households, which were provided with meal support through community services and hospitals in the country's eight administrative regions.

D. Respect for the right to housing

84. To assist persons whose property has been expropriated, the State developed the National Land Policy based on the recommendations of the forum on land tenure and the National Urban Policy.

85. From 2020 to 2024, it undertook far-reaching reforms to strengthen the regulatory and institutional framework governing urban planning, housing and regional development, adopting the following texts:

- Decree No. D/2022/0413/PRG/CNRD/SGG of 7 September 2022 on the establishment, powers, organization and operation of the National Agency for Urban Renewal
- Decree No. D/2022/0424/PRG/CNRD/SGG of 17 September 2022 on the declaration of projects to be in the national interest
- Order No. A/2023/813/MUHAT/CAB/SGG of 7 March 2023 on the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Regional Planning

86. To facilitate access to decent housing, the State has taken a number of measures to build low-cost, high-quality social housing, including the initiation of a project with the Guinean Agency for Housing Financing to build 1,662 social housing units, of which 1,300 are currently under construction.

E. Access to safe drinking water

87. Under its policy to promote universal access to water, the Government has made significant progress, including:

- Rehabilitation of drinking water supply systems in the towns of Kankan and Kouroussa
- Construction of 30 surface water purification plants in 30 villages in Guinea Forestière

F. Sustainable development

Environmental protection and climate change (113.64)

88. In ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Guinea undertook to initiate policies, programmes and measures to promote implementation.

89. In 2020, Guinea drew up its nationally determined contribution strategy, which was evaluated in 2024, taking account of the issues of adaptation, mitigation, gender and social inclusion.

90. Regarding risks and disasters, Guinea has established the National Centre for Disaster and Environmental Emergency Management, which has developed a national strategy for the period 2024–2030.

Right to health (113.121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127 and 172)

91. The adoption of Act No. L/010/AN/2000 of 10 July 2000 on Reproductive Health, which prohibits excision and protects women's physical integrity through criminal provisions, demonstrates the State's commitment to promoting access to the right to health.

92. The Government is continuing to implement free healthcare for women and its efforts in this area have improved maternal and child health and reduced maternal and infant mortality.

93. The Government is also pursuing its efforts to ensure an efficient and rational healthcare system for the population. To build a healthcare system that meets the needs of the population, with services accessible to everyone, quality of care assessments are carried out using tools designed by the World Health Organization.

94. Community strategies are being put in place to improve access to education and health services in rural areas with the support of civil society organizations. A school health department was set up in 2020 within the Ministry of Pre-University Education and Literacy.

95. Vaccination campaigns for children are being stepped up throughout the country, and awareness-raising sessions are continuing in rural areas and in health services to promote acceptance of pregnancy follow-up.

Right to education (113.128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 141, 184, 193 and 200)

96. Regarding recommendation 113.136 on expanding support programmes for women and girls in higher education and scientific research, the Government has resumed the renovation of dormitories in certain universities (Faranah, Boké, Mamou) to accommodate female students.

97. Boarding facilities are also available for women and girls in technical or vocational training and employment. Participating institutions include the Tolo National School of Livestock and Agriculture campuses in Mamou, Koba and Macenta and the National School of Water Resources and Forestry in Mamou.

98. Guinea is building day-care facilities in tertiary education institutions, namely, the Higher Institute of Educational Sciences, General Lansana Conté University in Sonfonia and Julius Nyerere University in Kankan, for the children of female students and researchers, to be managed by the institutions themselves.

99. The Excellence Award for outstanding female teacher-researchers and researcher-students in higher studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is designed to encourage women and girls to take up technical and scientific subjects.

100. Since 2020, the number of teachers in continuing training has risen from 1,600 in 2021 to over 4,000 in 2023.

101. Teachers in rural areas, especially female teachers, are given priority in the distribution of tablets with educational content.

102. A mass literacy campaign aimed at reaching 2 million young people and adults by 2030 is under way, and a new model of bridging classes to improve access to learning for children and adolescents between the ages of 8 and 15 who have never attended school or who dropped out is being implemented in the six member countries of the Karanta Foundation in West Africa, including Guinea, where two pilot centres have been established in Boffa and Fria.

103. To improve access to inclusive, high-quality healthcare and educational services, particularly in rural areas, the Government has appointed 46 focal points responsible for training in inclusive education for 130 officials from the country's regional, communal and prefectural education directorates and elementary education delegations. These 46 focal points, alongside 193 regional and prefectural supervisors, have been trained in techniques for optimizing resource utilization (teachers, classrooms, multigrade classrooms) and managing and supervising multigrade classrooms.

G. Rights of specific groups

Women's rights

Promoting women's rights and combating gender-based violence (113.137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 186, 187, 188, 189 and 199)

104. Efforts to promote women's rights and combat gender-based violence have been stepped up through a number of actions focusing on women's empowerment, their participation in decision-making bodies and the fight against gender-based violence.

Women's empowerment

105. Several actions have been carried out to promote empowerment and entrepreneurship among women and girls, including:

- Establishment of a pool for capitalizing on women's professional competence and the organization of training in competitive trades for girls seeking a second chance
- Launch of the development of several compendiums of Guinean women's skills to identify women with proven skills in the public and private sectors in order to position them in decision-making bodies
- Training of 114 female instructors in various traditional and innovative sectors, including colour-fixing techniques, food processing, pastry-making and weaving
- Training in sewing, hairdressing and soap-making for 2,493 women and girls, 1,530 of whom have received certificates of completion
- Guidance for 318 learners from the Kaloum, Cameroun and Mamou women's empowerment and entrepreneurship support centres as part of the ESPOIR project implemented by the Belgian Development Agency through capacity-building sessions on entrepreneurship and business structuring and the provision of production kits, resulting in the establishment of 30 simplified women's cooperatives
- Creation of a fund to support the economic activities of women and girls as part of the SAREMATI project, which has helped 300 women and girls working as vendors to increase their income

106. The Sub-Saharan Africa Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend project focuses on vulnerable girls in partnership with traditional and religious leaders and the community, the protection and promotion of women's and girls' rights in the face of growing inequalities between the sexes and addressing gender-based violence.

107. It covers 153 communes in the regions of Kankan, Labé and Faranah, directly assisting 474,590 girls aged 10 to 19 and helping 4,990 women to achieve economic empowerment.

Women's participation in decision-making bodies

108. With the exception of the civil service, women's participation in decision-making bodies is still below international standards.

109. For example, women account for only 6 out of 27 members of the Government, 19 out of 64 Supreme Court judges, 1 out of 8 regional governors and 6 out of 13 members of the High Authority for Communication.

110. Although the percentage of women on the National Transitional Council is 28 per cent overall (23 women out of 81 members), there is still a very unequal representation of women in the different segments of Guinean society represented on the Council.

111. However, the number of women in the civil service is higher (35,101 women out of around 113,648 civil servants).

Combating gender-based violence

112. Guinea has taken a number of significant steps to combat gender-based violence:

- Development of a national strategic plan for accelerating the abandonment of female genital mutilation/circumcision for the period 2019–2023
- Development of a new programme to accelerate the abandonment of female genital mutilation/circumcision, with the aim of reducing its prevalence among girls under 14 by at least 3 per cent by 2026 in the target prefectures of Boké, Kindia and Conakry
- Implementation of advocacy actions on the occasion of the celebration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, 6 February 2023
- Conduct of a study on the perceived benefits of female genital mutilation among women and communities
- Conduct of an impact study of strategies to promote the abandonment of the practice of female genital mutilation (2020)
- Implementation of a protocol for comprehensively addressing gender-based violence and female genital mutilation (2021), resulting in the establishment of the Service for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons within the High Command of the National Gendarmerie, which strengthens collaboration between the security forces and the juvenile court
- Creation of a database within the National Directorate for the Advancement of Women and Gender to serve as a dynamic platform uniting stakeholders involved in reporting cases of gender-based violence and protecting women and girls

113. Despite these measures, gender-based violence persists in Guinea.

114. In 2022, the Office for the Protection of Gender, Children and Morals of the Ministry of Security and Civil Defence referred several cases to the courts, specifically: 249 cases of rape; 87 cases of assault and battery; 37 cases of forced or early marriage; 36 cases of domestic violence; and 13 cases of harassment.

115. Marital rape is not expressly defined in the Criminal Code. However, as the current definition of rape makes no distinction regarding the perpetrator of the offence, there are no obstacles to the punishment of rape in the marital context.

116. Article 268 of the Criminal Code provides that: "Any act of sexual penetration, regardless of its nature, committed against another person by force, coercion or deception constitutes rape. The penalty for rape is 5 to 10 years' imprisonment. Rape is punishable by 10 to 20 years' imprisonment when:

- It results in permanent disfigurement or disability
- It is committed against a minor under the age of 18
- It is committed against a person whose particular vulnerability, for example, owing to age, illness, infirmity, physical or mental deficiency or pregnancy, is apparent or known to the perpetrator"

117. Concerning recommendations 113.20, 140 and 198, the Criminal Code has been amended to provide for the punishment of perpetrators of forced or early marriage:

- Article 319 provides that: “Forced marriage and early marriage are categorically prohibited. Any marriage where one of the parties is under 18 years old is considered early. All marriages must be concluded on the basis of the mutual, free and voluntary consent of each of the future spouses of opposite sexes, unless otherwise stipulated.”
- Article 320 provides that: “Any person who, by any means whatsoever, forces a person to marry a partner whom he or she does not desire or before the age of 18 years, is liable to a prison sentence of 3 months to 1 year and/or a fine of GF 500,000 to GF 2 million, without prejudice to payment of damages.”

118. Despite the adoption of numerous laws, the mobilization of significant resources over decades and the implementation of several awareness-raising projects, the practice of female genital mutilation persists in society.

119. The difficulty in combating this practice lies in the majority of the population’s belief in it. This is also why cases of whistle-blowing remain rare.

120. However, where cases are identified and verified, legal action is taken against the alleged perpetrators.

Children’s rights

Trafficking in persons and child labour and its worst forms (113.171, 177, 185, 190, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 201, 202 and 203)

121. In the area of child protection and welfare, reforms have focused on data collection through digitization and support for the establishment of the children’s parliament through the drafting of implementing regulations for the Children’s Code.

122. Strategic changes have been made to the way in which social workers are deployed to enhance the quality of protection services, as a priority step in efforts to assist children who lack basic necessities, are at risk or have been subjected to violence.

123. Strengthening of coordination among the institutions that make up the child protection system in Guinea has been carried out in three key phases, as part of the evaluation of 10 years of the implementation of the national policy for the promotion and protection of children’s rights and well-being:

- Organization of a training session for the eight regional governors and heads of the central child protection services on the implementation of the recommendations of the international monitoring committee on children’s rights
- Conduct of a situational analysis of the rights of children and adolescents in Guinea
- Organization of a retreat for stakeholders to revitalize the child protection system

124. In the Special Region of Conakry, protection services are focused on seven areas: family identification, psychosocial support, judicial mediation, referral, family reintegration, follow-up of school or socioprofessional reintegration, and food, clothing and hygiene support.

125. These services reached 1,442 children in difficult situations, including 427 girls. In cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the National Child Protection Programme provided legal and judicial assistance to 620 children, including 74 girls.

126. Capacity-building sessions reached 474 social workers, including 60 women who deliver services to children and their families.

127. Shelters and foster families provided alternative care and protection for 890 vulnerable children, including 274 girls.

128. The plan is to deploy social workers to all districts of Conakry and all rural communes as part of the local public service framework.

129. Regarding reforms, implementing regulations adopted in respect of the Children's Code include:

- The decree establishing the conditions and procedures for promoting mobility, communication and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities
- The decree setting the maximum amount of a child's property or assets that may be managed by his or her guardian
- The decree regulating the administration of children's property
- The order regulating the intercountry adoption procedure
- The order regulating allowances, expenses for sessions, internships and exchange trips for child parliamentarians and their supervisors

130. To combat trafficking in persons, the Government has taken steps to improve the legal, political and institutional framework, promulgating Act No. L/2023/0013/CNT of 6 April 2023 on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Related Practices.

131. The State has also strengthened its preventive measures through communication and community mobilization strategies related to the fight against trafficking.

132. The Government has implemented measures to protect victims and intensified its efforts to combat trafficking through the following actions:

- Evaluation of the action plan of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons
- Drawing up of a standard operating procedure for assistance to victims of trafficking
- Introduction of modules on trafficking in persons in police and gendarmerie training facilities and the judicial training centre
- Training of 28 criminal investigation officers and public prosecutors in the fight against trafficking in persons
- Renovation of two reception centres for victims of trafficking (Central Service for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and a facility in Sonfonia)

133. In compliance with recommendations 113.191 and 195, the Government has taken various measures to improve detention conditions, especially for minors, carrying out construction and renovation work on the facilities concerned to bring conditions into line with the United Nations minimum standards.

134. With regard to recommendation 113.192 on free birth registration, Guinea has made significant progress in upholding children's fundamental right to legal identity through birth registration.

135. The development and validation in 2022 of a policy for the reform and modernization of the civil status system has strengthened the existing legislative framework.

136. Numerous awareness-raising campaigns in favour of birth registration have been organized throughout the country, leading to a significant increase in the birth registration rate to 96 per cent in urban areas and 69 per cent in rural areas.

137. Birth certificates are now issued free of charge within two months of birth, rather than within one week, to enable all parents to register their children.

138. Several other actions are being taken to promote birth registration, including:

- Extension of the civil status modernization project to the entire country, including rural areas, and issuance of birth certificates free of charge
- Roll-out of a comprehensive birth registration strategy taking into account the special needs of refugee children, former refugees and migrants
- Training and awareness-raising for grassroots community organizations and institutions in the child protection system (village councils for child protection, local councils for children and families, local child protection councils, prefectural child

protection committees and children's clubs) to promote birth registration in all communities

- Advocacy with local authorities to facilitate birth registration in communities and make birth certificates free

Rights of persons with disabilities and persons with albinism

Inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons with albinism in development programmes (113.204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 and 212)

139. Despite a number of initiatives, persons with disabilities are still penalized by the social stigma attached to disability.

140. Many persons with disabilities lack the assistive devices and equipment needed for rehabilitation and reintegration.

141. To meet these challenges, in 2023, the Government revised Act No. 2018/-021/AN of 15 May 2018 on Disability and, in 2021, adopted a law to protect persons with albinism. The implementing regulations for these laws are in the process of being signed.

142. In addition to the adoption of these legislative and regulatory texts, several other actions have been taken, including:

- In November 2023, training courses for persons with disabilities at the City of Solidarity in Conakry, including apprenticeships in dyeing, hairdressing, soap-making and shoemaking for 60 learners
- Construction of Regional Trade Apprenticeship Centres for Persons with Disabilities to promote the integration and empowerment of persons with disabilities who did not attend school or dropped out at an early age
- Distribution of 400 orthopaedic devices (prostheses, splints, orthoses) and walking aids (crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc.)

143. On the occasion of the celebration in 2024 of International Albinism Awareness Day in Kankan, 300 people received holistic care, skin consultations and kits.

Rights of migrants (113.213)

144. According to article 27 of the Transition Charter, "the Republic of Guinea shall grant the right of asylum, in its territory, to foreign nationals under the conditions determined by law".

145. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, ratified in 2000, guides Guinea in defining public policies on migration management and the protection of the rights of migrants and their family members.

146. In that regard, article 944 of the Children's Code provides that: "The Guinean authorities, in accordance with the law on asylum and refugee protection, shall ensure that any child seeking refugee status or who is considered to be a refugee shall receive the protection and humanitarian assistance to which he or she is entitled, whether or not he or she is accompanied by his or her parents, a legal guardian or a close relative."

V. Challenges and best practices

A. Challenges and outlook

147. Guinea is in the process of bringing the law on maintaining public order and the 25 June 2019 law on the use of firearms by the gendarmerie into line with international policing standards and the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

148. As part of efforts to strengthen legal and political measures aimed at eliminating the practices of female genital mutilation and child marriage, notably through awareness-raising campaigns targeting the general population and religious or traditional leaders, Guinea plans to continue implementing the national strategy to combat female genital mutilation.

149. The State, through the Ministry of Pre-University Education and Literacy, has been piloting a comprehensive sexuality education programme for young pupils aged 3 and above.

150. Moreover, the Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and Vulnerable Persons has set up a dynamic electronic database with a number of functionalities to unite stakeholders involved in promoting the reporting of gender-based violence and protecting women and girls.

B. Best practices

151. Guinea set up the National Interministerial Mechanism for Reporting and Monitoring the Implementation of Human Rights Recommendations. This mechanism operates on an inclusive basis in coordination with civil society organizations and national and international institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

VI. Initiatives and commitments to improve the human rights situation

A. Initiatives

152. Judicial investigations are systematically opened into cases of human rights violations by defence and security forces.

153. Drafting work on the preliminary bill for the protection of human rights defenders has been completed.

B. Commitments to improve the human rights situation

154. Guinea has made several commitments to improve the human rights situation, although it has also faced significant challenges in this area. These commitments relate in particular to justice, the fight against impunity and the protection of civil and political rights.

(a) Strengthening the judicial system: the Government is committed to making the judicial system more accessible and transparent. The establishment of new courts and the training of judges are part of efforts to improve access to justice for all citizens, although obstacles remain, particularly in terms of financial and logistical resources;

(b) Combating impunity: Guinea intends to investigate past violence and punish those responsible for serious human rights abuses and establish a culture of accountability;

(c) Right to development: Guinea has been committed to promoting the right to development since July 2021, when it organized an international conference on the right to development (Santa Cruz dialogue).

VII. Financial capacity-building and technical assistance needs

155. Between 2020 and 2024, Guinea encountered significant challenges requiring financial capacity-building and technical assistance in the following areas:

(a) Governance and institutional strengthening:

- Guinea needed technical assistance to improve governance, enhance transparency and fight corruption. Training programmes were set up to

improve the management skills of local administrations and to strengthen the judicial system

- (b) Support for the agricultural and mining sectors:
- The agricultural sector, which employs a large part of the population, required investment to improve productivity, modernize farming practices and reduce dependence on the export of raw materials
 - In the mining sector, technical and financial assistance is necessary for sustainable exploitation and economic diversification
- (c) Environmental protection and adaptation to climate change:
- Faced with the effects of climate change, Guinea is calling for local capacity-building measures and support for its development efforts, the management of natural resources, the preservation of biodiversity and the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices
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