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Niger

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I. Introduction

A. Country context

1. This report provides an overview of the human rights situation in the Niger since its review during the third cycle of the universal periodic review in 2021. It is set against the backdrop of an acute security crisis that has led to profound institutional changes in the exercise of State power with the coming to power on 26 July 2023 of the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland.
2. The National Conference for the Refoundation, held from 15 to 20 February 2025, provided an opportunity to assess the severity of the crisis and its implications and to propose appropriate solutions that pave the way for a new era of major political, institutional, economic, social and cultural reform.
3. Since its last review under the universal periodic review, the Niger has continued to implement institutional and legal reforms aimed at strengthening the rule of law, improving democratic governance and ensuring that its citizens enjoy greater fundamental rights. It also worked to implement the recommendations, particularly in the areas of security, education, health, justice, the fight against discrimination, the protection of vulnerable groups and the promotion of gender equality.

B. Methodology and process for preparation of the report

4. This report was prepared in accordance with the Human Rights Council guidelines for the preparation of information under the universal periodic review. The methodology was based on the principles of participation, transparency and inclusivity and followed several steps:
 - Regional workshops on data collection and evaluation of the operational plan for the implementation of accepted recommendations
 - Workshop on compiling and reviewing the draft report
 - National workshop for the validation of the draft report
 - Adoption of the report by the Council of Ministers

II. Changes in the normative and institutional framework and public policies

A. Normative framework

Newly ratified international and regional instruments

5. The Niger has acceded to or ratified the following instruments:
 - Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa, ratified on 26 December 2022
 - Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, ratified on 26 December 2022
 - Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression, ratified on 14 April 2023
 - Treaty establishing the Confederation of Sahel States, signed on 6 July 2024
6. In January 2024, the Niger withdrew from the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in response to the illegal and unprecedented economic sanctions imposed on its people and threats of military intervention, solely because of the political change that took place on 26 July 2023.

Newly adopted national legislation relating to human rights*(a) Laws*

7. Among the pieces of legislation relating to human rights adopted between 2021 and 2025, the following are noteworthy:

- Act No. 2022-27 of 20 June 2022 establishing the rights and duties of human rights defenders
- Act No. 2022-30 of 22 June 2022 amending Act No. 2019-33 of 3 July 2019 on the suppression of cybercrime
- Act No. 2022-033 of 5 July 2022 on mining regulations and amendments thereto
- Act No. 2022-034 of 11 July 2022 establishing the fundamental principles of public health and hygiene
- Act No. 2023-018 of 15 May 2023 amending Act No. 2007-26 of 23 July 2007 establishing the General Civil Service Regulations
- Act No. 2023-22 of 6 June 2023 on the composition, responsibilities, organization and operation of the Supreme Council of Justice
- Ordinance No. 2023-01 of 28 July suspending the Constitution and establishing the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland
- Ordinance No. 2023-02 of 28 July 2023 on the organization of public authorities during the transition period
- Ordinance No. 2023-09 of 13 September 2023 on the establishment, composition and operating procedures of the National Commission on Economic, Financial and Tax Crime
- Ordinance No. 2023-11 of 5 October 2023 establishing the organization, duties and operation of the State Court
- Ordinance No. 2023-13 of 11 October 2023 establishing a solidarity fund for the safeguarding of the homeland
- Ordinance No. 2023-16 of 25 November 2023 repealing Act No. 2015-36 of 26 May 2015 on the smuggling of migrants
- Ordinance No. 2023-18 of 21 December 2023 amending Ordinance No. 2023-13 of 11 October 2023 establishing a solidarity fund for the safeguarding of the homeland
- Ordinance No. 2024-20 of 29 May 2024 on the fundamental principles of social protection for older persons
- Ordinance No. 2024-28 of 7 June 2024 amending Act No. 2019-33 of 3 July 2019 on the suppression of cybercrime in the Niger
- Ordinance No. 2024-43 of 27 August 2024 establishing a register of individuals, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts
- Ordinance No. 2024-49 of 23 October 2024 amending the regulations governing the judiciary
- Ordinance No. 2024-60 of 31 December 2024 establishing the duties, composition and functioning of the Court of Auditors
- Ordinance No. 2025-02 of 13 January 2025 on the entry and residence of foreign nationals in the Niger
- Order No. 2025-07 of 18 April 2025, regarding the mandates, composition and operating procedures of the Advisory Council for the Refoundation (Conseil consultatif de la refondation)
- Ordinance No. 2025-29 of 1 September 2025 on the National Media Observatory

- Ordinance No. 2025-35 of 22 October 2025 repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 2023-13 of 11 October 2023 establishing a solidarity fund for the safeguarding of the homeland

(b) *Regulations*

8. These include:

- Decree No. 2021-539 of 12 July 2021 laying down the procedures for implementing Act No. 2019-62 of 10 December 2019 establishing the fundamental principles for the integration of persons with disabilities
- Decree No. 2021-583 of 23 July 2021 on the adoption of the National Strategy for Universal Health Coverage
- Decree No. 2021-994 of 23 September 2021 establishing the National Institute for Medical Assistance
- Decree No. 2022-745 of 29 September 2022 on the organization of the civil service pension scheme
- Decree No. 2023-043 of 12 January 2023 establishing the Mutual Social Insurance Agency of the Niger
- Inter-Occupational collective agreement of 7 May 2022
- Decree No. 2024-538 of 22 August 2024 setting the rates for healthcare services in the public health sector
- Decree No. 2025-081 of 7 February 2025 granting a monthly allowance to retired civil servants of decentralized government and other State institutions
- Decree No. 2025-082 of 7 February 2025 amending Decree No. 2022-745 of 29 September 2022 on pensions for retirees
- Decree No. 2025-160 of 26 March 2025 promulgating the Charter of the Refoundation (Charte de la Refondation)
- Decree No. 2025-391 of 18 July 2025 on the reduction of tuition fees at private educational establishments and institutions
- Decree No. 2025-580 of 11 October 2025 on the adoption of the Programme for the Refoundation of the Republic
- Decree No. 2025-608 of 22 October 2025 establishing the minimum wage by professional category for workers governed by the Inter-Occupational Collective Agreement

B. Institutional framework

9. The current institutional framework of the Niger is characterized by a political transition led by the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland, supported by a Government that is mainly civilian-led. The Charter of the Refoundation, which has constitutional status and was adopted by the National Conference for the Refoundation, was promulgated on 26 March 2025.

10. The current institutional structure is as follows:

- President of the Republic, Head of State
- National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland
- Government of the Refoundation
- Advisory Council for the Refoundation
- State Court
- Court of Auditors

- National Media Observatory
- National Observatory for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

C. Public policies

11. A number of policies, strategies, programmes, projects and plans aimed at promoting and protecting human rights were adopted during the reporting period. The implementation of existing measures has been continued and strengthened:

- Sectoral Programme for Education and Training 2014–2024
- National Health Policy 2016–2035
- Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Sector Programme 2016–2030
- Niger Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy 2017–2035
- National Strategy for Women’s Economic Empowerment and its five-year action plan for 2018–2022
- National Population Policy 2019–2035
- National Migration Policy 2020–2035
- National Gender Policy 2020–2024
- Accelerated National Strategy for the Education and Training of Girls and Women 2020–2030
- National Programme for the Promotion of Women’s Leadership in the Niger 2021–2025
- National Strategy for Universal Health Coverage 2021–2030
- Health and Social Care Development Plan 2022–2026
- National Social Protection Policy 2023–2027
- National Youth Policy 2023–2032
- National Child Protection Policy 2024–2028
- National Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence and its action plan for 2024–2028
- National Strategic Plan to End Child Marriage 2024–2028
- Large-Scale Irrigation Programme 2024–2027
- Programme for the Refoundation of the Republic 2025–2029

III. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Fulfilment of international obligations

12. The Niger is a party to almost all international human rights treaties. The political change that took place on 26 July 2023 did not affect the country’s compliance with its international obligations. The new authorities have declared their commitment to upholding all the instruments to which the Niger has subscribed as a sovereign State. The Charter of the Refoundation recognizes and reinforces all the rights enshrined in the abrogated Constitution.

13. The Niger cooperates with the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies by regularly submitting its reports and welcoming visits from special rapporteurs and other experts.

14. The Niger has embarked on an ongoing process of adapting and bringing its domestic legislation into line with the instruments it has ratified.

B. Human rights education and awareness-raising

15. Human rights are gradually being incorporated into school and university curricula, particularly in civic education and ethics courses from primary school onwards.

16. Specific textbooks and teaching modules have been developed to educate students about the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and African regional instruments.

17. Civil society organizations run awareness campaigns in rural and urban communities, focusing on citizens' rights and responsibilities. They also provide legal assistance to victims of human rights violations in support of the State, thereby helping to raise awareness of the available remedies.

18. Community radio stations, which are widespread in rural areas, help disseminate messages about human rights and citizenship. The involvement of traditional and religious leaders in passing on messages to communities to raise awareness is a valuable asset in human rights education.

19. National and international Human Rights Days are marked by the organization of public debates, conferences and cultural events and the translation of key instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights into national languages.

C. Actions for the protection of human rights

20. The Niger has taken numerous measures to ensure that its citizens can effectively exercise their rights. Such measures include:

- Strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks
- Combating terrorism and transnational organized crime
- Protecting vulnerable groups
- Ensuring access to justice and judicial independence
- Providing access to basic social services
- Combating impunity and corruption
- Improving detention conditions and modernizing the prison system

21. All these measures are elaborated upon in section IV of this report, on the implementation of the recommendations.

D. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

22. The Niger continues to cooperate with the United Nations and regional treaty bodies. It thus prepared and submitted the following:

- Fifteenth periodic report on the implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in December 2021
- Initial report on the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances in March 2022
- Combined twenty-second to twenty-fifth periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in April 2023
- Fifth periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in January 2024
- Third periodic report on the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in April 2024

- Second periodic report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in April 2025

23. In March 2025, the Niger also submitted its second periodic report to the Committee against Torture on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

24. The drafting of the second periodic report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has just been completed, and work is currently under way on the sixteenth report on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

25. The Niger has always responded positively to requests for information from special rapporteurs and to their requests for country or thematic visits. In October 2021, it received a delegation from the Security Council to discuss security and humanitarian challenges and, in December 2021, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss human rights challenges in the context of a security crisis. In May 2025, it hosted the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel.

26. The Niger has been elected as a full member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office for the period 2024–2027 and will also coordinate the activities of the Group of African States at the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the same period.

IV. Follow-up and implementation of recommendations and pledges made in the third cycle of the universal periodic review

A. Status of implementation of accepted recommendations

27. The accepted recommendations have been summarized and grouped by theme in accordance with the implementation plan adopted by the Council of Ministers on 2 March 2022.

28. The following paragraphs outline the level of implementation and how each measure was carried out.

Implementation of the National Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Strategy

29. A new strategy aimed at addressing the shortcomings identified in the implementation of the previous one has been adopted for the period 2023–2027.

30. Community and school-based awareness campaigns aimed at changing discriminatory social norms continued, along with training programmes for religious and traditional leaders to promote protective behaviours. For example, at least 5,000 people in the Diffa region and over 8,000 people in Niamey benefited from awareness-raising initiatives during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign in November and December 2025.

31. Five holistic counselling and reception centres offer victims assistance, medical care and psychosocial support. Gender-based violence has declined significantly, with the rate dropping from 28.4% in 2015 to 15.4% in 2021. Such violence affects 16% of men and 38% of women.

32. Legal assistance and support services for survivors have been expanded; according to the office of the National Agency for Legal and Judicial Assistance in Agadez, 692 victims of gender-based violence received assistance between April and August 2025.

33. Numerous training and awareness-raising sessions on victim protection and the prosecution of perpetrators have been attended by several hundred members of the defence and security forces. In 2021, 203 cases of legal action were filed in relation to gender-based violence, compared to 118 cases in 2017.

Promoting sexual and reproductive health and empowering women and girls (122.178)

34. A number of measures have been taken, including the training of healthcare providers on the adolescent and youth health guidance programme, the transformation of more than 30 community health centres into youth-friendly community health centres and the organization of awareness-raising campaigns and adolescent and youth health services at major events. However, adolescents and young people make very little use of sexual health services, largely because of sociocultural and religious constraints.

35. The National Population Policy sets out the targets to be achieved by 2035. It is therefore hoped that both women and men will become aware of the importance of modern methods of contraception. The aim is to increase the demand for contraception from 30% in 2012 (according to the Demographic and Health Survey) to at least 55% and the use of contraception from 12.2% in 2012 to 50% by 2035 and to reduce the total fertility rate from 7.6 children to approximately 4 children per woman (the target is currently 6.2) and high-risk pregnancies from 83% in 2012 to 40% by 2035. The Health and Social Development Plan 2022–2026 provides for a programme aimed at improving fertility control through the expanded availability of family planning services.

36. The contraceptive prevalence rate for married women aged 15 to 24 was 7.90% in 2023, and the unmet need for family planning in this same group was 16.40%.

37. With regard to the economic situation of women, the Government has developed a National Strategy for Women's Economic Empowerment and a 2018–2022 action plan.

38. This strategy was reviewed in 2023, and a new strategy covering the period 2024–2029, accompanied by an action plan, was adopted. The employment rate in the Niger was 42.5% for women and 92.70% for men in 2019 and 62.21% and 83.64%, respectively, in 2023. The proportion of businesses owned by women stood at 17.60% compared to 84.40% for men in 2019 and 10.60% and 89.40%, respectively, in 2023.

Adopt a national strategy and an action plan on the elimination of slavery, assimilated practices and descent-based discrimination and the smuggling of migrants (122.37)

39. There is not yet a national strategy to combat slavery, but the issue is addressed in the National Policy on Justice and Human Rights 2014–2035. Following the expiry of the first action plan to combat trafficking in persons, a second national action plan to combat trafficking in persons and slavery is currently being drawn up.

Implement the national strategic plan to combat child marriage (122.243)

40. The strategic plan to end child marriage 2018–2021 was evaluated in 2022, and a second plan was drawn up for the period 2024–2028. This initiative is part of the efforts of the Niger to fulfil its international commitments to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5.3 to end child marriage by 2030.

41. In terms of progress made in implementing the first plan, and according to the findings of the final report of the National Fertility and Infant Mortality Survey, it appears that the incidence of child marriage is on the decline in the Niger, as evidenced by the statistics below:

- The proportion of girls aged 15–19 who were married before the age of 15 has fallen significantly, from 24% in 2012 to 15% in 2021.
- The percentage of women aged 20–24 who were married before the age of 18 followed the same positive trend, falling from 76% in 2012 to 65% in 2021.

42. At regional level, the marriage rates for girls under the age of 18 are as follows:

- Zinder, 70% in 2024

- Maradi, 65% in 2024
- Tahoua, 60% in 2023
- Niamey, 40% in 2023
- Diffa, 40% in 2024

43. Awareness campaigns against child marriage have reached hundreds of thousands of people (parents, religious and traditional leaders and young people). Community campaigns (educational talks, skits, radio programmes, workshops, etc.) were carried out in the regions of Maradi, Zinder, Tahoua and Diffa, which are the areas most affected by the problem.

Implement cross-cutting national policies on child protection in the areas of health and education (122.249)

44. Several policies are being implemented in accordance with the framework document for child protection. The most important are:

- National Strategic Plan for Child Survival, aimed at reducing child mortality and improving children's health through vaccination, nutrition and primary healthcare
- Expanded Programme on Immunization, which ensures that children have access to essential vaccines against preventable diseases
- National Nutrition Security Policy and its action plan to combat acute and chronic malnutrition, including vitamin A and iron supplementation programmes
- Sectoral programme for education and training, a strategic framework for improving access to and the quality of basic education
- Policy on girl's education, aimed at reducing early marriage and keeping girls in school
- National Education Development Plan, with a focus on inclusive education and the protection of vulnerable children
- Learning Improvement for Results in Education (LIRE) project, which aims to revitalize education in the Niger by improving access and quality

45. The impact of all these policies is a gradual reduction in infant mortality, an increase in school enrolment rates, particularly among girls, and better coordination between sectors to protect children from violence and exploitation.

Strengthen the fight against slavery and train judges (122.157)

46. The new Criminal Code of the Niger, adopted on 16 February 2026, provides for stricter penalties for crimes related to slavery by introducing provisions that more clearly criminalize slavery and similar practices. The Code introduces new provisions in accordance with ratified international conventions and provides for harsher penalties.

47. Since 2023, the Association Timidria and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights have conducted awareness-raising campaigns reaching hundreds of people to explain the new provisions to judges and traditional leaders.

Implement comprehensive national plans and programmes in accordance with the right to development (122.39, 122.69 and 122.74)

48. Between 2021 and 2025, the Niger implemented a number of plans and programmes, including the 2021–2025 action plan for the 3N Initiative ("Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens", or "The People of the Niger Feed the People of the Niger"), which concluded in 2023; the Rural Code Action Plan 2021–2025, the Economic and Social Development Plan 2022–2026, the Programme for the Refoundation of the Republic 2025–2029; and the Large-Scale Irrigation Programme 2024–2027. These strategic frameworks have helped to ensure food security, sustainable management of natural resources, inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

Allocate sufficient resources to the National Human Rights Commission (122.52)

49. The National Human Rights Commission was dissolved in 2023 following the change in political regime. The Charter for the Refoundation, which has constitutional status, provides for the establishment of a national observatory for human rights and fundamental freedoms, but it is not yet operational.

Undertake comprehensive investigations into the findings by the National Human Rights Commission regarding possible extrajudicial killings by the security forces (122.103)

50. The National Human Rights Commission has investigated extrajudicial killings that, according to its findings, were allegedly committed by members of the defence and security forces in the Tillabéri region, including in Inatès and Ayerou in 2020, where at least 71 unarmed civilians who had been summarily executed were found in mass graves.

51. The military has denied any responsibility, and the case is currently pending before the military court.

Raise public awareness about duly ratified regional and international human rights instruments (122.32)

52. Further details regarding the implementation of this recommendation are provided in paragraphs 16–20 above. The Government's efforts to raise public awareness about duly ratified regional and international human rights instruments are supported by those of many civil society organizations working to promote and protect human rights through the translation and dissemination of international instruments into local languages, as well as through the awareness-raising and training of stakeholders. For example, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been translated and made accessible in the 11 national languages. Its 30 articles are displayed on large information panels that have been installed in front of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

Ratify international instruments (122.1–122.22)

53. The Niger has ratified a number of the instruments referred to in these recommendations, namely the:

- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified on 18 January 2009
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, ratified on 6 May 2019
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa, ratified on 26 December 2022
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, ratified on 26 December 2022
- Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression, ratified on 14 April 2023

54. Significant progress has been made in the ratification processes for the following instruments:

- Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure
- International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189)

Strictly enforce the provisions of the Criminal Code prohibiting female genital mutilation (122.33)

55. Female genital mutilation has been in sharp decline as a result of initiatives to end the practice, awareness-raising campaigns and the committed efforts of government authorities and NGOs. Its rate of prevalence fell from 5% in 1998 to 2.2% in 2006, 2% in 2012 and just 0.7% in 2021. This makes the Niger one of the leading African countries in eradicating this practice. Between 2000 and 2021, 183 cutters were retrained in alternative income-generating activities, 193 communities benefited from outreach efforts and 833 women were educated about the issue.

56. Furthermore, the new Criminal Code provides for increased penalties for the perpetrators, co-perpetrators and accomplices of this practice.

Adopt legislation regulating the artisanal and small-scale mining sector (122.34)

57. The Mining Act (No. 2022-033) of 5 July 2022, which was subsequently amended and supplemented by Ordinance No. 2024-37 of 8 August 2024, is aimed at making the sector more attractive to investors while increasing financial returns for the State, by adjusting fees and charges and introducing provisions that favour domestic operators and environmental management. Ordinance No. 2024-34 of 2 August 2024, regarding local content in the mining and hydrocarbon industries, was also adopted. These texts are supplemented by implementing decrees and a 2021–2025 national action plan specifically addressing artisanal, small-scale gold mining.

Enact the draft Children’s Code, the draft law on the protection of young girls during schooling and the draft decree on approval of the statutes of the special compensation fund for victims of trafficking (122.35)

58. Drafted in 2005 and revised in 2010, the draft Children’s Code was introduced into the legislative process in 2017 but has still not been approved. The debate has focused on certain provisions deemed to be at odds with local traditions, including the compatibility of customary law, religious law and modern law. The authorities continue to work towards consensus.

59. The draft legislation on girls’ schooling was adopted through a regulatory act, specifically Decree No. 2017-935 of 6 December 2017 on support and guidance for young girls in school.

60. The special compensation fund for victims of trafficking is not yet operational, but discussions are ongoing.

Bring legislation on cybercrime and terrorism into line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and narrow the scope of the definition of terrorism contained in Ordinance No. 2011-12 of 2011 (122.41)

61. Act No. 2019-33 of 3 July 2019 on cybercrime has been amended twice. Act No. 2022-30 of 23 June 2022 abolished prison sentences and replaced them with fines for certain offences. In 2024, by Order No. 2024-28 of 7 June 2024, for reasons of national security and social cohesion, prison sentences were reinstated for defamation, insults and the dissemination of information that disrupts public order.

62. The definition of terrorism has been further clarified in the new Criminal Code, to narrow its scope and bring it into line with international instruments.

Bring national legislation into line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (122.51)

63. Act No. 2019-62 of 10 December 2019, establishing the fundamental principles for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and its implementing decree were adopted to this end.

Bring national legislation into line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (122.51)

64. Alignment is an ongoing process. The Niger has begun identifying national laws that are inconsistent with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with a view to amending them. It has enshrined the principle of non-discrimination in national legislation and taken specific measures to ensure women's political participation, to combat female genital mutilation and other forms of gender-based violence and to promote girls' education, women's empowerment and so on.

Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (122.23–122.28, 122.207, 122.233)

65. These reservations have not yet been withdrawn. However, discussions are ongoing regarding their careful and gradual withdrawal.

Ensuring transparency in the selection of national candidates for treaty body elections (122.31)

66. All the applications received are widely circulated, and a selection committee is formed to evaluate candidates based on objective, merit-based criteria.

Accelerate the adoption of the bill on the protection of human rights defenders (122.43)

67. This bill was enacted with the adoption of Act No. 2022-27 of 20 June 2022 establishing the rights and duties of human rights defenders.

Maintain the moratorium on the death penalty (122.83, 122.92)

68. No executions have taken place since 1976, even though, as of December 2025, there were 15 people, including 1 woman, on death row. Between 2021 and 2025, 17 death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.

Formally abolish the death penalty (122.84, 122.91)

69. The process toward complete abolition is proceeding as planned.

Respect human rights and international humanitarian law in combating terrorism and transnational organized crime (122.46, 122.79)

70. In addition to their initial training curricula, the defence and security forces and other law enforcement officers regularly receive refresher and advanced training on respecting human rights and international humanitarian law in the course of their duties.

71. In the light of the heightened terrorist threat, measures are being taken to temporarily restrict certain freedoms. The Niger seeks to strike a balance between the fight against terrorism and the protection of fundamental rights, to ensure that security imperatives do not unduly restrict civic space.

Strengthen measures to counter terrorism and extremist activity (122.95)

72. The Niger has adopted a National Strategy for the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism 2021–2025, which is aimed at preventing radicalization before it escalates into violence, by addressing its social, economic and cultural causes, while strengthening community resilience and trust in the State.

73. With regard to security operations, substantial, targeted resources have been made available to the defence and security forces in all affected areas. There has also been an increase in patrols and intelligence activities in the areas bordering Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria, as well as cross-border coordination and intelligence sharing to counter the movements of armed groups. The Joint Force of the Confederation of Sahel States, comprising the Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, has been operational since December 2025, with a headquarters based in Niamey and coordinated operations already under way.

74. Several measures are being taken to rehabilitate and deradicalize terrorists. The rehabilitation centres in Goudoumaria and Hamdallaye, in the Diffa and Tillabéri regions, are a cornerstone of the strategy for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. Since its establishment, the Goudoumaria Centre has trained more than 600 former combatants, between 2017 and 2025. In October 2025, it officially released the seventh cohort, comprising 91 disengaged combatants, following their completion of a training and social reintegration programme; the sixth cohort, comprising 124 disengaged combatants, had been released in January 2025. The Hamdallaye Centre has trained more than 300 former combatants since its establishment in May 2022. Each new cohort of disengaged combatants helps to weaken the ranks of terrorist groups and move the country towards lasting stability.

75. Since their establishment in 2017, the Transit and Orientation Centres have taken in several hundred minors, mainly children suspected of being associated with armed groups, particularly Boko Haram, or migrant minors in transit. Their numbers vary by time period and cohort, but available reports indicate that between 2017 and 2025, 461 minors passed through these facilities.

Prosecute those responsible for all deaths caused by drones (in 2015) and compensate the victims or their families... (122.108)

76. On 17 February 2015, the village of Abadam in the region of Diffa was attacked by an aircraft. This airstrike, carried out as part of operations against Boko Haram, struck civilians of the Niger, killing 37 and wounding 34. The Niger has called for a transparent investigation and compensation for civilian victims of the Niger. The Nigerian military, which was implicated, has not acknowledged responsibility. To date, some families have received a one-off benefit, but many are still waiting for fair and transparent compensation.

Carry out impartial and independent investigations into alleged attacks on schools by State forces and non-State armed groups (122.109)

77. The defence and security forces have never carried out attacks against schools, unlike the terrorists who target schools in the Tillabéri region and the Lake Chad Basin, resulting in the killings of teachers, kidnappings and the widespread closure of schools. The terrorists' objectives are to deprive communities of essential services, to spread their ideology through extremist religious indoctrination and to terrorize the population.

78. In an unconventional war, it is virtually impossible to conduct an impartial and independent investigation. However, the Government is taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety of teachers, students and school facilities. This includes increasing the number of security personnel in sensitive areas, introducing community protection measures and working with regional partners.

Separate women from men and minors from adults (122.86)

79. Prisons have separate wards for women, men and minors, in accordance with international standards regarding the treatment of detainees.

Improve the quality of training for judges, lawyers and prosecutors (122.111)

80. The Judicial Training College of the Niger, established in 2015, provides initial and continuing training for judges. Specific modules on human rights, counterterrorism, ethics and professional conduct have been introduced. The College's curriculum is currently being revised to improve the quality of training and the qualifications of instructors.

81. For lawyers, a professional training centre was established in accordance with regulation No. 02/2019 of the West African Economic and Monetary Union. It opened its doors on 31 January 2022, with 27 students enrolled.

Guarantee, in law and in practice, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in civic space and online, in particular of journalists and human rights defenders (122.116, 122.122, 122.124)

82. Act No. 2019-33 of 3 July 2019 on cybercrime was amended by Act No. 2022-30 of 23 June 2022, which replaced prison sentences with fines for offences of insult and defamation committed electronically. However, in view of the unprecedented proliferation of insults, defamation, the dissemination of false information, and statements expressing hate or favouring one region or ethnicity over another, or statements likely to pit citizens against one another, the Government repealed the 2022 amendment to restore the status quo. This reversal by the authorities is part of a strategy to restore social calm and strengthen national cohesion.

Release detained human rights defenders and journalists and take measures to protect civic space (122.127)

83. This recommendation was fulfilled with the release of all human rights defenders and journalists who were in detention at that time (2021).

Specifically criminalize the practice of *wahaya*, with the same penalties as other forms of slavery (122.134)

84. The practice of *wahaya* has been defined explicitly in the new Criminal Code and established as a separate crime.

Continue efforts to eliminate inequalities between men and women in all spheres of life, including in the area of customary inheritance law (122.55, 122.57)

85. Despite the reservations formulated at the time of the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the gender equality index rose slightly, from 0.320 in 2019 to 0.352 in 2023. Several courses of action are being considered, such as harmonizing laws with international standards and raising awareness among the courts to ensure that they do not apply customary rules that are discriminatory or contrary to public order, public morals, international conventions or written laws.

86. Training and awareness-raising efforts targeting traditional and religious leaders have been stepped up, and women victims are being encouraged to seek justice more readily. Rural and urban communities are also being educated about women's rights regarding inheritance and property.

87. Finally, the Government and its partners are continuing their efforts to empower women by facilitating their access to credit, land and economic opportunities in order to reduce their dependence.

Participation of women in peace processes and conflict prevention (122.203)

88. The Charter of the Refoundation and national laws guarantee gender equality and women's participation in public life. A national action plan for the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda has been adopted to promote women's involvement in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. Drawing on lessons learned from the assessment of previous plans, this third action plan was developed in November 2025 and is currently being validated. In 2021, the Niger ranked 152nd out of 170 countries in the Global Women, Peace, and Security Index.

Adopt a Family Code (122.222)

89. The draft Family Code, covering all family rights in line with international standards, is still under development. The Government is continuing outreach efforts to build consensus on all the issues that are currently holding up progress, namely, certain customary practices and religious beliefs.

Increase the representation of women in decision-making positions, particularly in legislative, executive and judicial institutions (122.234)

90. When it was dissolved in 2023, the National Assembly comprised 53 women (31%) out of 171 members, compared with 29 women (17%) in 2016. Provisions designed to encourage women to run for office in local and national elections have been added to the Electoral Code, which now requires political parties to include at least 25% of candidates of each gender on their lists of candidates. The current Government has appointed 5 female ministers out of 26; in 2021, women accounted for 7 of 33 ministers. Women account for 38 of the 194 members of the Advisory Council for the Refoundation, which was established in May 2025. There are five women ambassadors and one female consul among the 33 diplomatic and consular representatives of the Niger. As of January 2025, there were 41 women out of a total of 501 judges.

91. As for women in the defence and security forces, according to the statistics available:

- In the National Gendarmerie, women held 418 posts in 2022, compared to 316 in 2014
- In the National Guard, women held 478 posts in 2022, compared to 300 in 2014
- In the National Police, women held 787 posts in 2022, compared to 131 in 2014

92. In 2022, the Niger ranked 152nd out of 170 countries in the Global Women, Peace, and Security Index, with a score of 0.611 on a scale where a score of 1 indicates full gender parity.

Adopt a law on the protection of older persons (122.38)

93. A law on the protection of older persons was adopted on 29 May 2024, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2024-20, concerning the fundamental principles of social protection for older persons.

Bring to justice the perpetrators of sexual assault, rape and domestic violence (122.102, 122.112)

94. The Niger has an adequate legal and institutional framework for investigating gender-based violence and bringing perpetrators to justice. Specialized units, juvenile courts and partnerships with United Nations agencies and civil society organizations support this framework. However, the underreporting of cases and sociocultural barriers remain major challenges.

95. Victims and witnesses may report cases of violence to counselling centres; a toll-free hotline (33) is also being set up for this purpose. Local child protection committees identify cases and refer them to the appropriate authorities.

96. A total of 203 rape cases were filed in 2021, compared to 126 in 2019.

Fight against child labour (122.239, 122.240, 122.248, 122.251)

97. The Labour Code prohibits child labour for those under the legal working age and penalizes the exploitation of minors. The National Committee for the Elimination of Child Labour coordinates government initiatives and follows up on commitments undertaken. A national action plan on the prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labour is in the process of being adopted. In the meantime, the Government is stepping up its awareness-raising campaigns to more effectively combat child labour.

Protect all children from the risk of statelessness (122.245)

98. Act No. 2019-29 of 1 July 2019 on the civil status regime in the Niger provides for the registration of every child born or found in the Niger. It is currently being revised to address certain shortcomings identified in its implementation, including the continued existence of some cases presenting a risk of statelessness.

99. As of December 2025, there were 14,042 civil registration centres in the Niger, and the national birth registration rate had risen considerably:

- 56% in 2021
- 61% in 2022
- 63% in 2023
- 68.61% in 2024
- 73% in 2025, with some areas achieving a registration rate of 90% to 100%

100. In 2024, the “Hakin Yara” mobilization campaign, which was rolled out to all 266 municipalities in the Niger, resulted in the registration of more than 850,000 children under the age of 1 year, for a completion rate of 85%.

Intensify efforts to make all public services, including health and education, accessible to persons with disabilities (122.253)

101. A new National Strategy for Inclusive Education was developed in 2024. It is aimed at better integrating children with disabilities into the mainstream school system. A new decree establishing the procedures for the assessment of persons with disabilities in school examinations and competitive examinations was issued on 26 May 2025. During the period 2023–2025, there were 16,985 students with disabilities enrolled from preschool through high school; this number rose to 20,776 in the 2024/25 school year.

102. School buildings, including older ones, are currently being equipped with ramps and accessible restrooms in accordance with urban planning regulations and the rights of persons with disabilities.

103. To promote inclusion, adaptive materials and assistive devices (such as Braille-formatted materials, hearing aids and wheelchairs) have been distributed and educational and social assistance grants have been awarded to families of children with disabilities.

104. In the area of healthcare, free medical treatment is provided to persons with disabilities in public institutions, where accessible infrastructure is being gradually introduced. The Government, with the support of international partners and civil society organizations, conducts training programmes for medical staff to improve care for individuals with physical, sensory and mental impairments.

105. In the Agadez region, 4,642 persons with disabilities received care in the course of health training programmes in 2023. REALISAS DROITS ECONOMIQUES, SOCIAUX ET RELS.

Carry out effective measures to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates (122.247)

106. In 2022, 74.93% of prenatal care services were covered by the State. A high proportion of rural women have received prenatal care (90%), but the consistency of monitoring during pregnancy is not optimal, as only 45% of rural women have attended the four or more visits recommended by the World Health Organization.

107. In order to rapidly reduce maternal mortality, the measures outlined in the Health and Social Development Plan 2022–2026 focus on improving the quality and coverage of high-impact interventions such as emergency obstetric and neonatal care.

108. The expected changes in impact indicators following the implementation of the Health and Social Development Plan are:

- A maternal mortality rate of 520 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015; 410 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2019; and 400 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2026
- An infant and child mortality rate of 126 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015; 118.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019; and 100 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2026
- Neonatal mortality rate: from 24% in 2015 to 18% in 2026

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and expansion of health insurance (122.173, 122.176)

109. Overall, the percentage of people who rely on water from an improved water source was 61.7% in 2020 (Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Sector Programme surveys, 2020). With regard to sanitation, only 11% of households (4.3% in rural areas) use improved sanitation facilities, while more than 70% practice open defecation, which is a source of unsanitary conditions. Improving access to essential social services requires the implementation of the Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Sector Programme 2016–2030.

110. The following statistics are worth noting:

- The rate of household access to optimal drinking water services in 2022 was 10.6%, compared with 10.2% in 2021
- The rate of household access to basic drinking water services in 2022 was 43.7%, compared with 48.4% in 2021
- The theoretical access rate for 2022 was 49.26%, compared with 49.93% in 2023

111. To monitor water quality, all regional water management agencies have laboratories that conduct physical-chemical and bacteriological analyses; where necessary, these analyses are reviewed by the National Laboratory for Public Health and Assessment (LANSPEX) or the Water Regulation Authority (ARSeau).

112. With a view to establishing universal health insurance, including a non-contributory scheme for vulnerable sectors of the population, legislative and regulatory measures have been adopted, namely:

- Act No. 2022-34 of 11 July 2022 establishing the fundamental principles of public health and hygiene
- Decree No. 2021-583/PRN/M SP/P/AS of 23 July 2021, regarding the National Strategy for Universal Health Coverage 2021–2030
- Decree No. 2021-786/PRN/MSP/P/AS of 23 September 2021 establishing the National Institute for Medical Assistance
- Decree No. 2023-078/PRN/MSP/P/AS of 19 January 2023 on the establishment, duties and operation of the steering bodies to oversee the introduction of universal health coverage

Increase the proportion of women and girls in schools (122.206)

113. Between 2023 and 2025, 43,010 girls from 2,218 schools received scholarships. The Government established a science high school for girls in Niamey in 2023, a French-Arabic science high school for girls in Tahoua in 2023 and a science middle school for girls in Niamey in 2024. There are plans to establish five additional science middle schools for girls in Niamey, Zinder, Madaoua, Diffa and Tahoua. All of these schools are boarding schools.

114. With the support of its partners, the Government has also built eight middle schools near rural communities, including four in Tahoua, two in Zinder, and two in Diffa.

Women's access to the formal labour market and social protection (122.216)

115. In 2022, women and men represented 91.3% and 54.1%, respectively, of workers in the informal economy. A new national employment policy is being developed; it will promote women's access to the formal labour market and better social protection for all women. It will be aimed at encouraging small businesses and self-employed women to work in the formal sector through tax and administrative incentives. Mentoring and women's entrepreneurship programmes have been introduced to facilitate access to financing and markets. Several awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted to promote women's participation in traditionally male-dominated sectors.

116. The National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women, revised in 2025, includes measures to promote women's entrepreneurship.

Tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their families and ensure their access to health services (122.183)

117. In 2024, 322 new cases of leprosy were reported nationwide; 15 of these cases involved women, and 48% of the total involved women. The National Master Plan for the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases 2022–2026 identifies leprosy as a priority. It aims to reduce stigma and discrimination, ensure access to free, high-quality care for all those affected, and integrate leprosy care into primary healthcare services to ensure equitable access.

118. As a result, community awareness-raising campaigns are being conducted in the hardest-hit regions to explain that leprosy is not a curse, but a curable disease. It is also worth noting the active involvement of religious and community leaders in promoting inclusion and respect for patients' rights, and in demonstrating that reintegration is possible.

Improve school enrolment and completion rates and ensure a safe and protective environment for students (122.197, 122.199)

119. The trends in primary school enrolment rates are as follows:

- Gross enrolment ratio: 68.3% in 2022/23, 65.76% in 2023/24 and 64.6% in 2024/25;
- Net enrolment ratio: 62.03% in 2022/23, 60.61% in 2023/24 and 59.1% in 2024/25.

120. The primary school completion rate was 47.90% for the 2022/23 school year, 42.31% for the 2023/24 school year and 42.31% for the 2024/25 school year.

121. Despite security challenges, the government has taken a number of initiatives to increase enrolment and completion rates, such as the distribution of school supplies and financial assistance to low-income families, and campaigns to convince families of the importance of education, including for girls, and its benefits to society, the construction of boarding schools and the implementation of remedial programmes for married or pregnant girls so they can continue their studies.

Take the necessary measures to facilitate the access of low-income populations to decent housing (122.175)

122. The Government and its partners continue to build social housing. Between 2021 and 2025, the Niger introduced several social housing programmes, primarily in Niamey, where more than 1,200 social housing units are under construction or have been completed.

123. Amendment of the Lease Code (Ordinance No. 96-016 of 18 April 1996) is under way to regulate rents, ensure that the legislation is relevant and guarantee public access to decent housing at affordable prices.

Seek international support and assistance in mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change (122.73)

124. The Niger, which is highly vulnerable to droughts, floods, desertification and food insecurity, is committed to using its own resources to foster development before turning to external support, in order to strengthen its resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change. It is only after exhausting its domestic capabilities that the Niger seeks international support, on the basis of complementarity and in the spirit of partnership, to accelerate the achievement of its sustainable development goals and address global challenges such as climate change and food security.

B. Challenges and difficulties in the implementation of the recommendations

125. The Niger has faced major challenges in implementing the recommendations made during the third cycle of the universal periodic review. First and foremost were the following:

- The alarming security situation, with recurring terrorist attacks that make it difficult to guarantee human rights in the affected areas, and a shift in budgetary priorities toward defence and security, at the expense of basic social services
- Insufficient financial and human resources, combined with institutional weaknesses and a lack of ownership of the recommendations by local stakeholders
- The delicate nature of certain recommendations which have faced cultural and social resistance

V. Priorities, initiatives and commitments to improve the human rights situation

A. Priorities

126. The priorities of the Niger for improving the human rights situation are: restoring security and peace, strengthening the rule of law, protecting vulnerable groups and promoting gender equality.

B. Initiatives

127. Initiatives include legal reforms, awareness-raising campaigns and improved institutional coordination; the commitments involved must be backed by strong political will and the mobilization of resources.

C. Commitments

128. The Government has demonstrated strong political will, involving a clear commitment to human rights. The resources necessary to finance initiatives will be secured. Citizens, non-governmental organizations and local communities will be involved in the development and follow-up of policies. The Government will continue to submit its periodic reports to international bodies on a regular basis to demonstrate the progress made and to implement the recommendations to the greatest extent possible.
