



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Item 117 (c) of the preliminary list\*

### **Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

## **Note verbale dated 12 April 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2024–2026 at the elections to be held during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission has the honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to the promotion and protection of human rights (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire would be most grateful to the Office of the President of the General Assembly if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 117 (c) of the preliminary list.

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\* [A/78/50](#).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 12 April 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

**Candidature of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to the Human Rights Council, 2024–2026**

**Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)**

1. Since its accession to national and international sovereignty, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire has shown its determination to build a State governed by the rule of law in which respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, human dignity, justice and good governance is a priority and a commitment for the Government, in accordance with the international legal instruments to which the country is a party.
2. This commitment is expressed in the preamble to the Constitution of Côte d'Ivoire of 8 November 2016 and in article 2 thereof, which reaffirm the right to respect for human dignity for all persons.
3. In addition, during its three terms on the Human Rights Council (2013–2015, 2016–2018 and 2021–2023), Côte d'Ivoire contributed to and continues to work for the promotion and protection of human rights.
4. The consistent presence of Côte d'Ivoire in this august body of the United Nations reflects the recognition by the international community of the efforts made by the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire for the promotion and protection of human rights through measures taken at the national, regional and international levels.

**I. Measures taken at the national level**

5. Côte d'Ivoire has adopted several laws and regulations to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights for people under its jurisdiction, the most recent of which are the following:
  - Act No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders. This Act, unprecedented in Africa, transposes into domestic law many of the provisions of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of 1998. It also provides for the establishment of a national protection mechanism under the responsibility of the State, with the assistance of the National Human Rights Council of Côte d'Ivoire.
  - Act No. 2015-635 of 17 September 2015 amending Act No. 1995-696 of 7 September 1995 on education. This Act makes schooling compulsory and free for children of both genders, from age 6 to 16, effectively implementing the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 16 December 1966 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989, to which the country is a party.
  - Act No. 2018-570 of 13 June 2018 on the protection of witnesses, victims, whistle-blowers, experts and other persons concerned, which aims to protect all persons who contribute to seeking the truth in judicial or extrajudicial proceedings.
  - Act No. 2018-900 of 30 November 2018 on the establishment, powers, organization and operation of the National Human Rights Council. Since 2020,

the Council has had “A” status under the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), which reflects its financial, managerial and operational autonomy, its competence and professionalism, and its good cooperation with the authorities of Côte d’Ivoire.

- Act No. 2018-975 of 27 December 2018 on the Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended by Act No. 2021-893 of 21 December 2021. It sets out the rules governing pretrial detention and alternatives to pretrial detention, including judicial review and plea bargaining.
- Act No. 2019-570 of 26 June 2019 on marriage, which helps to operationalize the principles of non-discrimination and equal rights and responsibilities of spouses in marriage, as enshrined in the Constitution. Accordingly, in addition to the legal age of marriage being set at 18 years for men and women, spouses are now jointly responsible for management of the household, women and men are on an equal footing in the calculation of the general income tax and each contributes towards the expenses of the family in proportion to their respective means.
- Act No. 2019-572 of 26 June 2019 on minors, which provides minors with greater protection and gives priority to their interests, particularly in filiation matters, in order to ensure their well-being and development.
- Act No. 2019-573 of 26 June 2019 on inheritance, which provides, among other things, for an improvement in the inheritance rights of the surviving spouse.
- Act No. 2019-574 of 26 June 2019 on the Criminal Code, as amended by Act No. 2021-893 of 21 December 2021, which criminalizes, inter alia, rape, including marital rape, moral or psychological violence, harassment and sexual harassment, forced marriage, early marriage, various forms of violations of personal privacy, incest, enslavement and exploitation of an enslaved person (especially in the case of sexual exploitation), various forms of discrimination, including with regard to access to credit, and also international crimes as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
- Act No. 2021-894 of 21 December 2021 on measures to protect victims of domestic violence, rape and sexual violence other than domestic, which aims to strengthen protection for victims of this type of violence.
- Act No. 2022-194 of 11 March 2022 on a Statute for the judiciary, which establishes rules governing, among other things, security of tenure, incompatibility with the exercise of other functions, and the protection of members of the judiciary against threats and attacks of any kind.
- Act No. 2022-193 of 11 March 2022 on the establishment, competence, organization and functioning of the Economic and Financial Crime Division. This is a court specialized in economic and financial crime that is responsible for the prosecution, investigation and adjudication of offences within its jurisdiction.
- Organic Act No. 2022-221 of 25 March 2022 on the powers, membership, organization and functioning of the Supreme Council of Justice.
- The establishment, on 6 April 2021, of the Ministry for the Promotion of Good Governance, Capacity Development and Anti-Corruption.
- The adoption of a national human rights plan by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire on 14 February 2022, in response to the recommendations of international human rights treaty bodies.

6. In addition, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has adopted two social programmes covering the periods 2019–2020 and 2022–2024, respectively.

7. The social programme for the period 2019–2020 included five strategic areas, which consisted of providing efficient health services to the population, facilitating access to education and retention of children in school, promoting access of disadvantaged populations to services such as housing, energy, drinking water and transportation, improving access to employment and well-being in rural areas, and ensuring food security.

8. The social programme for the period 2022–2024 is also based on five strategic areas, namely, countering vulnerability in the northern border areas, education and training, improving household living conditions, employment and strengthening social solidarity.

## **II. Measures taken at the national level**

9. Côte d'Ivoire has ratified several legal instruments, including the following:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, on 6 January 1992.
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, on 21 March 2003.
- African Union Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, in 2006.
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, on 18 July 2007.
- Economic Community of West African States Protocol on the Fight against Corruption, on 11 March 2022.

10. Since 2022, Côte d'Ivoire has also been coordinating human rights issues for the Group of African States in Geneva. In this capacity, it has been working to reconcile the positions of the Group of African States on various issues and represents the Group at sessions of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

## **III. Measures taken at the international level**

11. Côte d'Ivoire is a party to several international human rights conventions, including the following:

- Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified on 4 February 1991.
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified on 26 March 1992.
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified on 26 March 1992.
- Basel Convention, ratified on 1 December 1994.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified on 18 December 1995.
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, ratified on 18 December 1995.
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified on 5 March 1997.

- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159) of the International Labour Organization, ratified on 22 October 1999.
- Amendment to article 43 (2) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified on 25 September 2001.
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Côte d'Ivoire acceded on 18 December 1995, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention of 18 December 2002.
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified on 20 January 2012.
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, ratified on 15 February 2013.
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified on 10 January 2014.
- The four Geneva Conventions of 1949, acceded to on 28 December 1961, and Additional Protocols I and II.
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, acceded to on 8 December 1961, and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, acceded to on 16 February 1970.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, acceded to on 4 January 1973.
- The main conventions of the International Labour Organization, in particular conventions Nos. 11, 19, 29, 87, 98, 100, 102, 105, 111, 135, 138 and 182.
- The main conventions of the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in particular the Convention against Discrimination in Education.

12. Côte d'Ivoire has also subscribed to the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 17 Sustainable Development Goals).

13. In addition, over the past decade, Côte d'Ivoire has done the following:

- Acceded, on 19 September 2011, to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography of 25 May 2000.
- Acceded, on 12 March 2012, to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict of 25 May 2000.
- Acceded, on 3 October 2013, to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 30 August 1961.
- Signed, on 22 April 2016, the Paris Agreement on the climate.
- Acceded, on 1 March 2023, to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

## **IV. Voluntary commitments of Côte d'Ivoire**

### **A. At the national level**

14. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire is determined to continue and intensify its actions for social and occupational groups, through a series of activities consisting of the following:

- Promoting a culture of human rights by raising awareness of respect for the fundamental and universal values of life and human dignity.
- Strengthening the capacity of public and private, governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the field of human rights.
- Strengthening human rights teaching modules in the education system.
- Organizing training seminars in the field of human rights for members of the justice system and security forces.
- Supporting human rights education and awareness-raising activities, including the development and dissemination of outreach materials in the main national languages.
- Strengthening the operational capacities of the Ministry responsible the promotion of human rights.
- Supporting human rights training for local elected officials and parliamentarians responsible for drafting laws.

### **B. At the international level**

15. Côte d'Ivoire intends to continue to honour its commitment to submit periodic reports to the international human rights treaty bodies, but also to ensure the implementation of the recommendations made to it in that context as well as under the universal periodic review. To that end, on 23 February 2022 Côte d'Ivoire adopted a national human rights plan comprising over 350 activities.

16. The Government is continuing its consultations with Parliament on other international instruments not yet ratified by Côte d'Ivoire, including the following:

- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.
- Organization of African Unity Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa.

17. In view of these gains and achievements, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has decided to submit the candidature of Côte d'Ivoire for membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2024–2026. With this candidature, Côte d'Ivoire intends to continue its actions to defend and promote human rights as part of the Human Rights Council and thus contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.