



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Adoption of UPR Outcomes

#HRC58 • 24 March 2025

Cote d'Ivoire



STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of **Cote d'Ivoire** conveys its convey my warm thanks of Cote d'Ivoire to the members of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, in particular the Troika, consisting of the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Lithuania, as well as to the Secretariat for their valuable support within this exercise. In addition, the distinguished representatives of government and all other stakeholders are thanked for their valuable contribution to the review of the human rights situation in my country.

During its fourth UPR, 273 recommendations were made to Cote d'Ivoire which decided to reserve its position and to carry out **consultations with the various national stakeholders**. It held a workshop to that effect, with participation by representatives of the Government, the various ministerial departments, the National Assembly, Senate, Judiciary, the National Human Rights Council, the Bar Association and other civil society organisations, where these recommendations were scrutinised.

Following that, Cote d'Ivoire decided to **support 226 recommendations, noted 37 and partially supported 10**. The recommendations supported cover a large range of basic rights recognised in Cote d'Ivoire and relate in particular to international commitments on human rights, to strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights, respect for gender equality, improvement of the prison situation, strengthening of the protection of human rights, strengthening of the efficiency of the judiciary and democracy and exclusion of the presumption of consent within the definition of marital rape. On the recommendations that were not supported, these were noted either because they were no longer relevant, because they had been implemented already or because they were not sufficiently precise and could not have been verifiably implemented, as for example those suggesting the ratification of international legal instruments which had not yet been ratified.



More specifically, on the recommendations to [address a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures](#), Cote d'Ivoire is already working closely with the Special Procedures and regularly, indeed systematically, accedes to requests for visits from mandate holders. There have been visits in recent months, including the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, the Working Group on the question of the use of mercenaries, and in the next few days the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

On the recommendation to adopt a [law on gender equality](#), Cote d'Ivoire notes that citizen representation of the public and private sectors is based on competitive and egalitarian processes. Furthermore, adjusting gender equality requires certain procedures to be put in place on which the Government is actively working, and this does not at this stage require the adoption of a specific law. . On the adoption of a global law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of [gender-based violence](#), Cote d'Ivoire has opted for codification which regroups as far as possible all of the texts that are relevant into an equally accessible instrument. The adoption of the Criminal Code clearly has the purpose of avoiding scattering dispositions in different texts. Turning to the recommendations to [legalise abortion](#) in all circumstances, Cote d'Ivoire recalls that it is not compatible with the constitution of Cote d'Ivoire, nor indeed with the Maputo Protocol.

Regarding the recommendations to [end abusive prosecutions of journalists](#), this does not reflect any reality in Cote d'Ivoire. Civil society organisations have been involved in drawing up the legislative framework on their activities, even if they do not approve of all of the provisions therein.

With regard to the recommendations on the [rights of certain categories of persons](#), these were noted because the law protects all persons under state jurisdiction without discrimination. This is the case for competing violence or discrimination for access to education, health or employment. However, on the issues relating to [gender identity](#), these were not accepted because gender is not optional in Cote d'Ivoire.

Following the adoption of the outcome document by the UNHRC, the Government will proceed to [disseminating the recommendations supported](#) among public and private stakeholders, parliament and other national institutions, ministries, social and professional groups and civil society organisations. Then there will be an update of the National Human Rights Plan to incorporate the new recommendations arising from the UPR and recent reports before the treaty bodies. Within a participatory process, the actions and activities required for implementation of the various recommendations will be clearly identified.

Furthermore, the [implementation](#) of these recommendations will be regularly monitored, taking into account the impact on the human rights situation. All concerned administrations, including the UNHRC, will be actively involved in the monitoring. Cote d'Ivoire also commits to providing a [mid-term report](#) on the implementation of the recommendations supported. Since the interactive dialogue of 4 November 2024, certain recommendations made have already been implemented. Indeed, Cote d'Ivoire has already joined the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries on 2 January 2025.



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

The **National Human Rights Council of Cote d'Ivoire** commends the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for the efforts made to strengthen human rights in the country. Since the last review in 2019, Cote d'Ivoire has ratified a number of relevant instruments. However, the National Council encourages the Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and complete ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also calls on the Government to submit outstanding reports to treaty bodies, including the CERD and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It encourages the Government to adopt the National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights and advocates for strengthening of mechanisms to protect human rights defenders and involve at least one representative of civil society organisations. It further calls on the Government to finalise and adopt the plan to improve the detention conditions in Cote d'Ivoire, suggesting the drafting and implementation in the short term of a strategy to reduce overcrowding in prisons, seeking to benefit pre-trial detainees who respect conditions for alternative measures. The National Council advocates for the adoption of the Law on Sexual and Reproductive Health in order to ensure accessibility and relevancy of services and strengthening of capacities among service providers.

UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES

Zambia thanks the delegation for the update and welcomes the significant developments in legal and institutional frameworks to strengthen the protection of human rights. It commends Cote d'Ivoire for its constructive engagement in the UPR process and welcomes its positive response towards the recommendations received during its fourth cycle of the UPR. It expresses appreciation to Cote d'Ivoire for supporting the majority of recommendations made during its review, including two made by Zambia encompassing access to education and enhanced protection of children's rights. It wishes Cote d'Ivoire success in implementing the supported recommendations from the UPR session and respectfully requests the Council to adopt Cote d'Ivoire's UPR outcome.

Algeria welcomes the efforts to improve the human rights situation, including the adoption of the National Human Rights Plan and the implementation of a strategy. It thanks Cote d'Ivoire for supporting the majority of the recommendations made, in particular our recommendation on continuing efforts to revise the Criminal Code and strengthen alternative measures, as well as on drugs and young people. It encourages the Council to adopt the outcome of the review and wishes the country every success in implementing the recommendations.

Botswana notes with appreciation the additional information provided and further welcomes the acceptance of its recommendation, which was to raise awareness on the importance of women's equal participation in public and political life, particularly in decision-making positions. It notes that one of its recommendations on adopting a comprehensive legislative framework to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence against women is only noted due to being catered for in the already existing legislative framework. Botswana supports the adoption of Cote d'Ivoire's UPR outcome and wishes success in the implementation of their accepted recommendations.



Burkina Faso commends the acceptance by Cote d'Ivoire of 226 out of 273 recommendations made during the review and in particular welcomes the acceptance of the two recommendations made by Burkina Faso. While commending once more Cote d'Ivoire's cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, Burkina encourages it to continue its efforts to protect and promote human rights throughout its territory. In conclusion, Burkina Faso calls for adoption of the report of Cote d'Ivoire by consensus and encourages the delegation to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations supported.

Cameroon commends the acceptance by Cote d'Ivoire of the vast majority of the recommendations, namely 226 fully and 10 partially, including all of those made by Cameroon. It supports the adoption of the outcome document of the UPR of Cote d'Ivoire and wishes every success in implementing the recommendations supported.

Chad commend the acceptance of the recommendations from the UPR and notes the additional information presented by Cote d'Ivoire prior to the adoption of the outcome document. It congratulates the Government on its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, demonstrated by a significant development of its normative and institutional frameworks and public policies for the strengthening of human rights. Chad encourages Cote d'Ivoire to step up its efforts to implement the recommendations supported and calls on the international community to provide it with the necessary support. Chad calls on the Council to adopt by consensus the outcome document.

China appreciates Cote d'Ivoire's constructive participation in the fourth cycle of the UPR. It welcomes its formulation of national policy plans such as the 2021-2025 National Development Plan, the Social Security Plan, the Human Rights Action Plan, Maternal and Child Health Strategy and Children's Rights Protection Policies. It has also made remarkable achievements in poverty reduction, social economic development and improvements in social security, employment, education, public safety, health care and environmental protection. China appreciates Cote d'Ivoire's acceptance of China's recommendations and hopes that it will continue to improve policies for protecting the rights and interests of specific groups such as women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, accelerate inclusive economic development, further eliminate poverty and the wealth gap, as well as improve people's living standards. China supports the UNHRC's endorsement of Cote d'Ivoire's UPR report.

Cuba recognises the country's commitment to the UPR process and to the promotion and protection of human rights. Cuba notes the country's determination to continue making progress in its normative framework to strengthen the national institutions and the rule of law. It notes with satisfaction that the three recommendations by Cuba have been supported and that Cote d'Ivoire can continue making progress on access to ensure that it has a quality judicial system, that children are adequately protected and that food security is guaranteed. Cuba notes that 226 recommendations have been supported, which shows the political will of Cote d'Ivoire to continue making progress on human rights. It wishes Cote d'Ivoire every success in implementing the recommendations supported and calls for the adoption of the report.

Cyprus welcomes the delegation of Cote d'Ivoire and is grateful for the update on the progress made since its review in November 2024. It commends Cote d'Ivoire for the number of supported recommendations. Cyprus is pleased to note that its recommendations on strengthening the



national institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, on ensuring the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women, as well as on continuing and implementing policies and legislation that ensure good governance and the fight against corruption have been supported. Cyprus recommends the adoption of the UPR Working Group report on Cote d'Ivoire by consensus and wishes the Government every success in the implementation of all the supported recommendations.

Djibouti welcomes the delegation of Cote d'Ivoire and thanks it for the additional information which focusses on the efforts and commitments to promote and protect human rights at this adoption of its report. Djibouti congratulates Cote d'Ivoire on accepting a large part of the recommendations received during the fourth cycle of the EPR and in particular welcomes the acceptance by Cote d'Ivoire of the three recommendations made by Djibouti. Djibouti wishes Cote d'Ivoire every success in implementing the recommendations supported and recommends that the Council adopt the report on the fourth cycle of the UPR of Cote d'Ivoire.

Egypt commends the Government's cooperation with different mechanisms of the UNHRC and its commitment to the UPR mechanism. Egypt praises the efforts to harmonise the national legislation with the national commitments in the field of human rights as well as the efforts undertaken by the state to draw up a national human rights action plan and to renew the inter-ministerial committee to monitor the implementation of international human rights instruments. In addition to launching a number of national programmes to programme and protect human rights in different domains, especially development, social security, child protection and gender equality. Egypt expresses its appreciation for the acceptance by Cote d'Ivoire of the recommendations made by Egypt. Egypt wishes Cote d'Ivoire continued progress and success and recommends the adoption of the national report.

Eritrea notes the progress made by Cote d'Ivoire in strengthening its human rights framework, particularly in areas such as access to justice, the promotion of women's and children's rights and efforts to combat human trafficking. These advancements reflect the Government's dedication to upholding its international obligations and fostering sustainable development rooted in human rights principles. Eritrea reiterates the constructive and non-polarised approach to human rights remains key to ensuring tangible progress and fostering an environment of mutual respect and dialogue. The UPR remains a vital mechanism for ensuring genuine dialogue and cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights and we recognise Cote d'Ivoire's commitment to this process. Finally, Eritrea supports the adoption of Cote d'Ivoire UPR outcome document and extends its best wishes for the successful, effective implementation of the recommendations that have been accepted.

Ethiopia commends the constructive and proactive engagement demonstrated by Cote d'Ivoire throughout the UPR process. It acknowledges with appreciation Cote d'Ivoire's acceptance of numerous recommendations from Member States, including two key recommendations from Ethiopia which aimed at encouraging the Government of Cote d'Ivoire to continue strengthening institutional and legal frameworks and to sustain and identify its efforts in poverty reduction. Ethiopia encourages Cote d'Ivoire to take all necessary measures to fully implement the accepted recommendations with the aim of advancing human rights and improving the well-being of its citizens. In conclusion, Ethiopia fully supports the adoption of the UPR outcome of



Cote d'Ivoire and wishes the Government continued success in the implementation of these important recommendations.

Gabon welcomes the Delegation of Cote d'Ivoire and thanks it for the additional information which once more illustrates its commitment to ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights. Under actions undertaken, Gabon could point to combating trafficking, exploitation and work labelled by children, as well as reforms in the judicial and penitentiary areas in order to improve access to justice, combat torture and manage custody and detention under strict conditions. Gabon welcomes Cote d'Ivoire's dynamism in promoting and protecting human rights. It calls on the Council to adopt the outcome document on Cote d'Ivoire and wishes the country every success in implementing the recommendations ensuing from its most recent UPR.

Ghana commends Cote d'Ivoire for successfully completing its review under the fourth UPR cycle. It notes with satisfaction Cote d'Ivoire's constructive engagement during the review and for showcasing a strong commitment to cooperate fully with the UPR mechanism. Ghana is delighted that the Government of Cote d'Ivoire has committed to implement a total of 226 out of the 273 recommendations it received. This includes our two recommendations on the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the strengthening of the prevention mechanisms to address drug use through community programmes for young addicts. Ghana fully supports the adoption of the UPR report of Cote d'Ivoire and wishes the Government success in implementing the accepted recommendations.

Guinea welcomes Cote d'Ivoire's efforts to promote and protect human rights. Guinea encourages the complete implementation of the recommendations within the area of economic and social rights. It encourages the country to completely implement these recommendations to step up the protection of economic and social justice. To conclude, Guinea recommends the adoption of the UPR outcome document and supports Cote d'Ivoire in its future measures to improve human rights.

India welcomes the Delegation of Cote d'Ivoire for the adoption of the report of the UPR Working Group on its fourth cycle of the UPR. The review saw substantive participation with 98 delegations taking the floor and making a total of 273 recommendations. India appreciates the constructive engagement of the delegation during the entire review, which reflects its commitment to the UPR process. India appreciates that as many as 226 recommendations have been supported, including two recommendations made by India. While recommending the adoption of the UPR report, India congratulates the delegation on a successful review and wishes success in their efforts towards implementing the supported recommendations.

The **Lao PDR** congratulates Cote d'Ivoire on the successful participation and the constructive dialogue of its fourth UPR cycle and commends the significant efforts made by Cote d'Ivoire to promote and protect fundamental human rights, in particular by advancing social and economic rights. It also welcomes the improvement of access to public health care, including the adoption and implementation of its strategy plan for maternal and child health, by providing a health insurance scheme for its citizens. The Lao PDR is pleased to note that Cote d'Ivoire has accepted the majority of recommendations received during the constructive dialogue, including the two recommendations made by Lao. It wishes Cote d'Ivoire every success in implementing the accepted recommendations and recommends the adoption of the report.



OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The **International Federation of ACAT (FIACAT)** pays tribute to the commitments entered into, particularly regarding setting up a national mechanism to prevent torture and improving conditions of detention. FIACAT recalls their support to Cote d'Ivoire to prevent torture in places of deprivation and liberty, combating prison overcrowding and improving detention conditions by setting up programmes to combat abusive pre-trial detention. However, ACAT and FIACAT are concerned about difficulties faced by civil society organisations to have access to penitentiary establishments and meeting detainees despite Article 126 of Degree 5, April 2023, which provides for this. The absence of these visits means there is no independent follow-up of conditions of detention, depriving detainees of additional protection against torture and cruelty and degrading treats. ACAT and FIACAT would call on the authorities of Cote d'Ivoire to facilitate access to places of deprivation and torture and liberty for those stakeholders that defend human rights, so that they can continue cooperation with the commitments entered into by the authorities during this review.

International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) and the UPR Monitoring Committee congratulate Cote d'Ivoire for the acceptance of most of the recommendations made regarding protecting the rights of human rights defenders. Also Ordinance 2024-368, which has to do with the organisation of civil society and strengthening the existing protection mechanism. Indeed, in March 2022, Cote d'Ivoire set up a national mechanism to protect human rights defenders. Following on from the adoption on 20 June 2014 of the law promoting and protecting human rights defenders, making our country the first in Africa to adopt such a piece of legislation. However, the make-up of the mechanism does not yet include the human rights defenders themselves and IHSR expects close cooperation with them. It also notes the desire of the Government to monitor civil society organisations. There is an Ordinance in the past regarding the organisation of civil society which is now ready for ratification. These provisions can affect freedom of association and the principle of the independence of civil society organisations, particularly those regarding the dissolution of civil society organisations, criminalisation of the people responsible for the organisations and other restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Hence, it calls on the State to ensure that there is a legal framework where freedom of assembly is protected in line with the law regarding protection of human rights defenders and the international obligations of Cote d'Ivoire regarding human rights and that it should set up a standing and inclusive national body made up of different stakeholders in order to facilitate the following implementation of the UPR recommendations and those stemming from the treaty bodies.

CIVICUS, the Ivorian Coalition of Human Rights Defenders and the West African Human Rights Defenders Network note the commitment of Cote d'Ivoire's Government in the UPR process regarding the institutional reforms already engaged. Normatively, Cote d'Ivoire adopted law 2022-978 of 20 December 2022 and amending law 2017-867 of 2017 regarding the press to guarantee free exercise of this for journalists. However, certain articles such as 369-372 of the Criminal Code of June 2019, articles 214 and 225 of Law 2024-352 of 6 June 2024 considerably limits those areas of progress. It notes Ordinance 2024-368 of 12 June 2024 regarding the organisation of civil society passed by the President of the Republic which has now gone to the plenary of the Parliament for ratification in March 2025, repealing law 1960 on these associations which, to some extent, clamps down on civil society organisations. There are measures that restrict



freedom of association, particularly the competence given to the Cabinet regarding dissolution of these bodies in certain circumstances. However, it notes that freedom of assembly is still a challenge because of restrictions on public freedoms. This is happening more and more often because there have been bans on demonstrations and mass arrests sometimes. Hence, it asks the Government to create an enabling environment for civil society and for human rights defenders.

Interfaith International would like to pay tribute to the progress made in the area of human rights, strengthening the legal framework against gender-based violence as well as promoting women's rights, adopting the law on the creation of a national observatory on detention, cooperation with Special Procedures, respect for freedom of religion as well as updating reports at the treaty body level. However, Interfaith International expresses its deep concern on freedom of expression, harassment, intimidation of journalists and human rights defenders despite the setting up of a national mechanism to protect human rights defenders. It is concerned at the recurrent political tensions which threaten the stability of our country and the rule of law. There are challenges regarding transitional justice and national reconciliation that need to be a more inclusive and transparent approach. Many stakeholders in civil society denounce the lack of independence of the judiciary and skewed procedures which undermine trust in our institutions. It is vital to ensure that there are fair trials which lend to selective trials which undermine national cohesion. By way of conclusion, Interfaith International would call on the authorities to ensure that there is a free civic space protecting journalists, human rights defenders from any form of repression or reprisals, that they step up and strengthen judicial independence to ensure fair trials and put an end to arbitrary detention, speed up your combating of impunity, bringing military and civilians who are responsible for serious violations of human rights as well as international humanitarian law during the post-electoral period of 2020.

RADDHO congratulates the country for the progress made, the implementation of most of the recommendations made in the third cycle. It pays tribute to the efforts deployed in area of health, education, the return of growth after a long period of crisis and recovery of the economy. It also recognizes the important contribution Côte d'Ivoire has made during the two years that it coordinated the Afro-Norwegian Group in the UNHRC. However, RADDHO expresses its serious concern regarding the political climate reigning currently in the country by the threats and attempt to exclude candidacies from several party leaders in the presidential elections this year. Given the prevailing situation, RADDHO would urge the Government to open up the civic and civilian space for inclusive national dialogue to ensure that the country does not fall back into a new cycle of violence. RADDHO would invite Côte d'Ivoire to take additional measures to combat human trafficking, child exploitation in cocoa plantations, prison overpopulation, lack of health and hygiene in foodie prisons, conjugal violence as well as impunity when there is excessive use of force used against demonstrators by law enforcement officials. It urges Côte d'Ivoire to encourage more women in the security sector so that there is parity in this area. To conclude, RADDHO would encourage the country to ensure that there are the right conditions for the organisation of free, transparent, inclusive and peaceful elections.

The **Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE)** appreciates the commitment of Côte d'Ivoire in the UPR process, particularly regarding recommendations regarding children such as the recommendation by Luxembourg requesting to encourage judges to hand down certain



sentences including for minors which are not constituting deprivation of liberty and that of Algeria, namely to continue efforts against prison overcrowding and revise the criminal code to again consider alternatives to prison. It is very important to step up efforts to develop alternatives to deprivation of liberty. BICE addresses to Cote d'Ivoire three recommendations. First, immediately submit the UPR outcome document and recommendations supported to the Cabinet, setting out the implementation plan. Secondly, submit the recommendations to the National Assembly. Thirdly, submit a mid-term report on the implementation of these recommendations.

FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

273 Recommendations Received

226 Recommendations Supported

10 Recommendations Partially Supported

37 Recommendations Noted

FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

18 State Delegations

1 National Human Rights Institution

6 Non-Governmental Organizations