



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Adoption of UPR Outcomes

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Equatorial Guinea



STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of **Equatorial Guinea**, on behalf of its Government and President, conveys warm greetings of peace, harmony and solidarity for the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. The delegation is honoured to report on the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea and efforts undertaken by our democratic institutions who take their basis on human rights, which is a top priority in the country.

The delegation reaffirms the firm willingness of the Government of Equatorial Guinea to promote, guarantee, protect and every day further consolidate human rights in our country. Similarly, it expresses its **willingness to maintain close cooperation with the UN system** in this field to achieve a world ever more respectful and ever more committed to sustainable development based on the principles of equality, justice and peace.

Equatorial Guinea is a party to numerous international human rights conventions and treaties. The Government is going to great lengths to implement its obligations and actions that stem from those international instruments through provisions at an internal level, whose evolution the country has achieved by incorporating into the internal legal order of the nation with the goal of improving the quality of life and material wellbeing of our people. The delegation reiterates once more its commitment to the international human rights systems and its **openness to the scrutiny** of the international community.

As important achievements when it comes to bolstering the commitment for the respect of human rights, the delegation highlights the following. First of all, **total abolition of the death penalty** with the ratification of the treaty acceding to the CPLP with the Timor-Leste Declaration and the review of the Penal Code in 2022. Equatorial Guinea has completely eradicated the death penalty from the legal order of the country. Secondly, **bolstering women's integration policy**.



Women occupy 35% of seats in the House of Deputies and in the Senate. Thirdly, substantial improvements and strengthening of police investigation proceedings through the **creation of the Scientific Police** under the wing of the Judiciary Police. The Scientific Police is the general directorate for cybernetic laboratory affairs. There is a general inspectorate responsible for narcotics and criminalistics, as well as a general service inspection responsible for laboratories and database. This includes a criminal database, a fingerprint laboratory, two microbus vehicles equipped for taking evidence at a crime scene, some 13 full investigation kits for manually taking fingerprints, spec to alter and mobile edit forensic apparatuses, as well as legal, criminological, criminalist advisors, cybersecurity specialists and criminological science specialists.

Other actions to highlight are the **Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking**, the launching of a Parliament for Children, ratification of the Merida Convention against corruption, free of charge preschool primary education, effective implementation of the Mandela Rules, improvements to penitentiary services, and the total abolition of child labour.

The Government of Equatorial Guinea has reached numerous agreements on the promotion of human rights in the country through **UNDP, UNICEF** and the Human Rights and Democracy Centre for Central Africa, whose plans of action and programmes are being implemented and financed with funds from government and from international cooperation. It seeks to give its people the best conditions and opportunities for well-being and enjoyment of all human rights interdependently in an international context where we wish neither political or economic instability. Equatorial Guinea wants to ban terrorism and the practise of mercenaryism.

Equatorial Guinea's fourth UPR took place on 11 November 2024 whereby a total of 75 delegations made statements, resulting in **218 recommendations received, 163 were supported, and 55 noted**. Equatorial Guinea stresses that the openness to the international community should be met with an objective analysis and assessments that reflect reality. Therefore, it is troubled by the different standards that are used to measure and assess acts and processes. Its Government has assumed a commitment to forge a firm, stable democracy in which its ensure the independence of the judiciary, scrupulous respect of the constitution, and the promotion of all values and rights proclaimed in the Universal Human Rights Declaration and in Articles 13 and 14 of our fundamental law.

The delegation believes that the review process in the UNHRC should lead the country to consolidating healthy coexistence in the context of universality, objectivity and impartiality. It sets great store by consolidating the UPR as the main achievement of the UNHRC. Through its experience, this mechanism has paved the way for a new and more constructive interaction among states, since the Council and its mechanism have created a space for all states to set forth their achievements and challenges openly and transparently in their periodic reports to the UPR mechanism.

The delegation is grateful for the action of the Troika and of the UPR Secretariat for their work and asks them to maintain their support to its institutions and Equatorial Guinea's society in its struggle to live up to the commitments assumed as a sovereign, democratic and human rights-based state. It trusts that the work of this session will take place in an atmosphere of mutual cordiality, understanding and will be concluded with success, making Equatorial Guinea which is ever better.



UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES

Venezuela takes note of the country's cooperation with the UPR, while reiterating that it is voluntary mechanisms, not imposed ones, which yield the best results for human rights. It welcomes the acceptance of the two recommendations made by Venezuela during the interactive dialogue related to implementation and strengthening of programmes on training and awareness-raising in the field of human rights, as well as implementation of national programmes for older persons and persons with disabilities. Similarly, Venezuela highlights the creation and bolstering of national institutions responsible for promoting and protecting the human rights of its people. It wishes every success to Equatorial Guinea in implementing the recommendations accepted during the fourth UPR and recommends adoption of the report.

Viet Nam congratulates Equatorial Guinea on the successful outcome of its UPR session. As of November 11, 2024, it commends Equatorial Guinea for its constructive engagement in the UPR process and welcome its positive response towards a high number of recommendations received during its fourth cycle of the UPR. It further expresses its appreciation to Equatorial Guinea for accepting Vietnam's recommendations on realising goals set out in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment by strengthening programmes to fight against gender-based violence and enhance women's economic autonomy. Viet Nam encourages Equatorial Guinea to improve healthcare and access to education with a focus on reducing disparities and ensuring non-discrimination. It wishes Equatorial Guinea success in implementing the recommendations from the UPR sessions and urges the Council to adopt Equatorial Guinea's UPR outcome by consensus.

Zambia welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to the adoption of the UPR outcome. It acknowledges its commitment in the promotion of the socio-economic rights of their people and commends Equatorial Guinea for the legal reforms resulting in the abolishment of the death penalty. It notes with appreciation that Equatorial Guinea accepted most of the recommendations made during its review, including two of Zambia's recommendations, which were to adopt a law prohibiting violence against women and girls and to intensify efforts to combat corruption. In conclusion, Zambia recommends the adoption of Equatorial Guinea's UPR outcome and wishes her success in implementing the accepted recommendations

Belgium welcomes the commitment of Equatorial Guinea to its UPR and commends the acceptance of our recommendations to repeal the ministerial decree of 2017 prohibiting pregnant pupils from going to school and to guarantee their right to education. Belgium wonders what measures have been taken or envisaged by Equatorial Guinea since its review. It regrets the decision of authorities to only take note of Belgium's recommendation to eliminate all restrictions imposed on independent media, including by repealing Law No. 6 of 1997 and taking all necessary measures to ensure that journalists, civil society and human rights defenders can practise their right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. It also regrets that its recommendation on ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR was rejected. Belgium reaffirms its opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances, regardless of the crime committed. Its abolition contributes to bolstering human dignity and full respect for human rights. For these reasons, Belgium urges the authorities to reconsider their position.



Botswana appreciates the update provided today and notes with appreciation that Equatorial Guinea supported both its recommendations which were with respect to reviewing its domestic legislation and policy to remove prohibitions that perpetuate discrimination against women and traditional gender stereotypes on the perspective of roles of women and men in the family and expedite the formulation of legislation on gender-based violence. In conclusion, Botswana supports the adoption of Equatorial Guinea UPR outcome and wishes success in implementing the accepted recommendations.

Burkina Faso wishes a warm welcome to the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and we thank them for the additional information provided to the Council. It commends the acceptance by Equatorial Guinea of 163 of 218 recommendations made during its review, including one of the two recommendations made by Burkina Faso. The latter reiterates its congratulations to the government for its ongoing commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and encourages it to pursue irreversibly along those lines. In conclusion, Burkina Faso calls for the adoption of the Equatorial Guinea report by consensus and encourages the delegation to effectively implement the recommendations accepted.

Cameroon welcomes the delegation and notes with satisfaction the acceptance by Equatorial Guinea of the majority of recommendations arising from its UPR of 11 November 2024, 163 of the 218 recommendations made, including all those formulated by Cameroon. In conclusion, it supports the adoption of the outcome document of the UPR of the Equatorial Guinea delegation and wishes great success in implementing the recommendations accepted.

Chad congratulates the delegation for the recommendations accepted at the end of its UPR. Chad is pleased with the commitment of the government in the context of promoting and protecting human rights and its willingness to establish constructive cooperation with the UNHRC mechanisms. Chad welcomes the determination of Equatorial Guinea to work to enhance and protect human rights. That commitment is reflected inter alia by the adoption of several laws, including modifications to the Penal Code in line with Article 13.1 of the Constitution to abolish the death penalty in the country, Law 1 of 10 May 2021 on the prevention and struggle against corruption. Chad recommends to the Council adoption of the outcome report of Equatorial Guinea and wishes the Government every success in implementing the recommendations supported.

China commends the constructive participation of Equatorial Guinea in this UPR and its major efforts to implement the national economic, social and cultural level. It welcomes its achievements made in preventing and addressing infectious diseases such as malaria, AIDS, leprosy, as well as achievements in protecting the environment. China appreciates the acceptance by the country of our recommendations and trusts that this will help. The country will implement its actions to protect women, children and persons with disabilities to combat human trafficking and further promote human rights. It therefore supports adoption of the Equatorial Guinea report.

Cuba recognises Guinea's commitment to the UPR and is pleased the country has accepted 163 of the 218 recommendations received, which highlights the political will of keeping as a national priority the promotion and protection of human rights. Cuba is also pleased that Guinea has supported the three recommendations made by Cuba in a constructive, respectful spirit. Cuba



urges the country to continue implementing its national action plan for the prevention and combating human trafficking, focused on a specialised attention to the victims of trafficking, as well as to those persons who are in situations of highest vulnerability. It welcomes with satisfaction the actions planned to protect biodiversity and protected areas and others with a view to ensuring a healthier environment for the population. Cuba wishes every success to Equatorial Guinea in implementing the recommendations supported and supports the adoption of the report.

The **DPRK** warmly welcomes the delegation of the Equatorial Guinea and appreciates for its active participation in the four-cycle UPR process. The interactive dialogue with the delegation of the Equatorial Guinea during the 47th session of the UPR Working Group was a useful opportunity to better understand policy and achievements made by the Government of Equatorial Guinea for the promotion and protection of human rights. The DPRK welcomes the acceptance of many of the recommendations as a full demonstration of its will to make further efforts in the field of human rights. It wishes Equatorial Guinea all the best in its future endeavour for the promotion and protection of human rights and supports the adoption of the UPR outcome.

Egypt commends the Government's cooperation with the different HRC mechanisms and their commitment to submit their reports to the UPR mechanism. Egypt particularly values the efforts undertaken by the Government of Equatorial Guinea to fight poverty and corruption and to confront the crime of human trafficking as well as the efforts to empower women and to achieve gender equality in addition to their efforts in the fields of education and health care. It also commends the efforts to find impunity and improve the situation of penitentiary institutions as well as harmonising their national legislation with international law. Egypt also thanks for the acceptance of two recommendations it offered. In conclusion, it wishes all the success and recommends the adoption of the report.

Gabon extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and we thank them for the presentation of the outcome report. It applauds Equatorial Guinea for progress achieved in promoting and protecting human rights, especially when it comes to gender equality and empowerment of women. It commends the ratification of a number of international legal instruments such as the CRPD. Finally, Gabon congratulates Equatorial Guinea for the follow-up and implementation of recommendations accepted during its recent UPR and recommends the adoption of the report.

Ghana welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and commends it for their continued engagement with the UPR mechanism. It notes Equatorial Guinea's significant progress to leverage all UN support mechanisms to improve the socio-economic conditions and livelihoods of its citizens. Ghana commends Equatorial Guinea for accepting 163 out of the 218 recommendations it received during its fourth cycle review. It acknowledges Equatorial Guinea's constructive engagement during the review process and acknowledge that two of our three recommendations were also accepted. Ghana is confident in the institutions of Equatorial Guinea to uphold and advance human rights both domestically and internationally. In conclusion, Ghana supports the adoption of the UPR on Equatorial Guinea and wishes success in implementing the supported recommendations.



The **Lao PDR** warmly welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to this session to adopt its UPR outcome and commends its constructive engagement during the UPR process. The Lao PDR commends Equatorial Guinea for the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights of its citizens, including vulnerable, without discrimination. It also welcomes efforts made to promote sustainable development through the national strategy. It appreciates the Government of Equatorial Guinea for accepting most of the recommendations received during the constructive dialogue, including the two recommendations made by the Lao PDR. It wishes Equatorial Guinea every success in the implementation of all accepted recommendations of the fourth UPR cycle and supports the adoption of the UPR outcome of Equatorial Guinea by consensus.

Lesotho extends a sincere welcome to the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to the adoption of the fourth UPR cycle. It welcomes Equatorial Guinea's meaningful engagement throughout the cycle and recognise the acceptance of a considerable number of recommendations, among them all three of the recommendations offered by Lesotho. Equatorial Guinea's commitment to promoting free compulsory education as part of the General Education Act, which has resulted in a 95% literacy rate, is positively acknowledged. Similarly, we applaud Equatorial Guinea for achieving significant improvements in the gender parity index at all levels of education. Regarding women's rights, Lesotho appreciates the government's efforts to empower women, such as by countering gender-based violence, creating social worker positions to support victims of violence, and encouraging women's representation in decision-making roles. In line with this goal, we celebrate the appointment of the country's first female Prime Minister in 2023. In closing, Lesotho wishes Equatorial Guinea every success with implementing the accepted recommendations. It recommends that the Council adopts this fourth cycle of the report.

Malawi congratulates the Equatorial Guinea for undergoing this review and commends the country for taking significant steps in the promotion and protection of human rights. It urges Equatorial Guinea to make all efforts in ensuring effective implementation of the supported recommendations. It wishes Equatorial Guinea all the best at this review and recommend the adoption of the report.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UN AGENCIES

UNFPA commends the Government of Equatorial Guinea for its participation in the UPR and its commitment to gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, health and sexual reproductive rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. UNFPA recognises the important steps taken by the Government, including the abolition of the death penalty and efforts to improve access to education and healthcare. UNFPA notes the satisfaction and ratification by Equatorial Guinea of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This is an important step towards full inclusion and protection of persons with disabilities. UNFPA notes the satisfaction and progress achieved in improving gender equality in education, guaranteeing access to healthcare and reducing maternal mortality. UNFPA is committed to supporting implementation of the recommendations from the fourth UPR cycle, focussing on the struggle against GBV and promoting healthcare and sexual reproductive rights, including bodily autonomy of women and girls and reducing maternal mortality. In addressing all forms of discrimination, including those based on age, gender, ethnicity, disability, progress in gender equality and sexual reproductive



healthcare and rights will be key elements for the full achievement of the SDGs to ensure no one is left behind.

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The **African Association of Education for Development** regrets that the Government has not fulfilled the recommendations of the UNHRC. The death penalty is still in force in the Military Justice Code and it is used to judge civilians. There are arbitrary migrant detentions. Activists and LGBTQ individuals are also detained arbitrarily. The Association is concerned by the situation of tens of politicians that were detained during the 2022 elections. It is also concerned by the situation in the prison of Owens Azam, where lawyers and relatives are not allowed to enter. In 2023, hundreds of young people were indiscriminately detained in an operation against a youth crime. Two young people that had been acquitted died as a result of alleged ill-treatment. And 50 other acquitted young people are still in jail. 85% of women have suffered some type of violence. Pregnant girls are not allowed in school. Forced pregnancies and rape are tools of alleged cure for lesbians. Corruption is still a scourge in Equatorial Guinea and it leads to the lack of basic services. 37 persons from the Annobonese minority ethnic group have been detained and accused of rebellion after a simple environmental demonstration in 2024. The Association recommends that the freedom of association, demonstration and expression be guaranteed. That activists, politicians and young people be freed and that a political dialogue be opened.

Istituto Maria Ausiliatrice (IMA) thanks Equatorial Guinea for its fourth UPR and welcomes the acceptance of recommendations 175, 145, 146, 149, 150, 152 and 211, alongside the efforts made by Equatorial Guinea in the area of education so that there can be quality education for all. IMA is worried, however, about access to education for persons with disabilities and pregnant girls who are still discriminated. With regard to access to health care, IMA welcomes the acceptance of recommendations 117 and 132 on HIV/AIDS treatment. IMA believes that mortality rates in children should be reduced and data should be compiled on the number of people vaccinated. There is violence against boys, girls and adolescents. Therefore, initiatives need to be taken to eradicate that violence. For this reason, IMA welcomes the acceptance of recommendations 117.65, 199, 205, 206 and 207. IMA urges Equatorial Guinea to immediately apply the UPR recommendations on the issues that we just mentioned.

The **Centre for Global Non-Killing (CGNK)** congratulates Equatorial Guinea for the abolition of the death penalty, a magnificent move from individual killing to collective killing. It also congratulates Equatorial Guinea for accepting the recommendations made by Armenia to ratify the Genocide Convention. The Penal Code has been changed in the period under review to include the crime of genocide, so all that is left needed is a political decision. May this ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide by Equatorial Guinea be its next magnificent move.

Amnesty International welcomes Equatorial Guinea's acceptance of 163 recommendations from the 218 issued. It particularly welcomes the acceptance of those urging investigation of all allegations of torture and ill-treatment with a view to ensuring full accountability and preventing recurrence. Amnesty hopes that the implementation of this recommendation will lead to a full and independent investigation into the death in custody of Julia O.M. from the Movement for the Liberation of the 3rd Equatorial Guinea, who died in January 2023 in prison. It also welcomes the



acceptance of a recommendation calling for the removal of all provisions on the death penalty from the Military Code. Equatorial Guinea's support for recommendations aimed at defence and protection of human rights defenders, such as the release of those unjustly detained for their activism, is an important and welcome step forward. Amnesty hopes that the implementation of this recommendation will translate into the immediate release of the human rights defenders Yuki Nelon and Anseleto Mika, who remain arbitrarily detained. Amnesty welcomes the acceptance of recommendations to end discrimination against women, including the elimination of all discriminatory provisions against women from domestic legislation. It deeply regrets the rejection of all recommendations to extend limitations to the Special Procedures of the UNHRC and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, a recommendation made by at least nine countries. Amnesty urges the Government to fully implement the accepted recommendations, including by enacting necessary legislation. Amnesty encourages Equatorial Guinea Government to continue to work with civil society organisations in this regard.

Interfaith International commends Equatorial Guinea for accepting most recommendations since its last review. Interfaith has seen reforms to improve human rights in the country. There have been judicial reforms, reforms in the fight against corruption, investment in access to drinking water, health and education, and the abolition of the death penalty. However, the death penalty in the military justice code should be permanently repealed so that it can be in line with international commitments. There have been positive changes, but there are still challenges. Interfaith is alarmed by the restrictions imposed on journalists, the media, political opponents, and human rights defenders. It is also worried by harassment, restriction of freedom of expression and association, and intimidation towards journalists. Interfaith International would like the authorities to free all the conscience prisoners. The situation of children requires a more appropriate policy. It calls on Equatorial Guinea to guarantee the protection of children against all forms of violence, including sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking. Interfaith encourages Equatorial Guinea to enhance its international commitments in the area of human rights by ratifying fundamental instruments, such as the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture, the Second Optional Protocol on the ICCPR, and the International Convention for the Protection of All People Against Enforced Disappearance. It further invites Equatorial Guinea to comply with the Paris Principles.

RADDHO congratulates the country for cooperating with the UNHRC and for the efforts made to comply with the recommendations of previous reports. RADDHO believes that the country will bring together the means to re-examine the recommendations which have been rejected. There are encouraging signs, such as the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention against Corruption and a new Penal Code. But RADDHO is concerned by conditions in prisons, overcrowding, and reports on torture. It is also worried by repression, political persecution, and drastic restrictions on freedom of expression. RADDHO would ask Equatorial Guinea to start a political and inclusive dialogue with all the opposition in order to consolidate the rule of law, democracy, and the well-being of the population. RADDHO would invite authorities to take measures to put an end to arbitrary detentions and sexual and sexist violence.



REFORMAF welcomes the efforts made by Equatorial Guinea since the last review, particularly the reform of the Penal Code which abolished the death penalty. It also welcomes the investments in education and health care. However, EFORMAF is very worried by the restriction of political and civil freedom in the country. There are reports of restrictions to the liberty of expression and association, including intimidation against human rights defenders and journalists. It calls on the Government to guarantee a safe environment that is conducive to exercising fundamental freedoms in accordance with international commitments. It also denounces the persistence of torture and extrajudicial killings in spite of the commitments taken by Equatorial Guinea to combat these practises. There have been cases that have not led to accountability. REFORMAF urges the authorities to conduct independent investigations and to try the perpetrators while at the same time reinforcing the mechanisms to protect human rights. It encourages Equatorial Guinea to ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture and to guarantee the independence of the judiciary, which is key for equitable and transparent justice.

United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation explains that Equatorial Guinea is facing challenges in the area of health care, particularly with women and children. Only 6% of the budget is allocated to health, well under the 15% of the Abuja Declaration. There is a lack of qualified medical staff, and in spite of some progress, maternal and child death rates are worrying. Gender-based violence threatens the fundamental rights of women and girls. It is therefore imperative to strengthen health infrastructure, to invest in health care and to raise awareness in communities to promote access to health care. Access to quality health care is a fundamental right. The Agency calls on the international community to increase its support to help Guinea overcome these challenges and build a more equitable and healthy future for all.

Maloca Internationale greets Equatorial Guinea, a Spanish-speaking country, which is rich in resources and that has one of the longest governments in the world. The country has been governed for over four decades by Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Under his government, fundamental freedoms have been violated, as has been seen in spite of numerous international reports that denounce torture, arbitrary detention and systemic corruption. The United States of America continues to support this Government because of a key interest, oil. Equatorial Guinea is one of the main crude oil producers in Africa, and its energetic wealth has helped its government have a cast-iron impunity. We need more peaceful ways to find energy.

CIVICUS explains that the NGO legislation has not been amended as committed in the last UPR cycle. Independent organisations such as the Commission of Jurists or the LGBT Rights Organisation are still awaiting their registration or have been suspended in processes without guarantees. In fact, new tax legislation is worsening the ability of NGOs to work freely in the country. The new Penal Code provides penalty of up to \$76,000 for publishing information affecting the dignity of the authorities. New proposed legislation includes even higher penalties and up to 25-year prison sanctions for similar offences. According to the National Statistics Institute data, 20% of those who died in 2022 were under 5 years old. Prevalence of HIV AIDS is at around 8% according to UNAIDS. While the government has taken positive steps for eliminating female genital mutilation, this is not a common practise in our country. Menstrual poverty, however, affects around 75% of women and girls in rural areas and 45% in urban areas. Finally, in 2021, hundreds of migrants were expelled and denounced mistreatment by police and long



detention periods, a practise that was already raised in the last cycle. Its recommendations include amending the legislation against NGOs, eliminating any new legislation affecting freedom of expression, register pending NGOs and reinstate SEIDHE, invest funding that allows free health and free education, provide sanitary kits in schools around the country and protect the rights of the migrants in Equatorial Guinea and extend a standing invitation to UNHRC Special Procedures.

FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

218 Recommendations Received

163 Recommendations Supported

55 Recommendations Noted

FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

17 State Delegations

1 UN Agency

10 Non-Governmental Organizations