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

Note verbale dated 12 March 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to inform it that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has decided to submit the candidacy of Côte d'Ivoire to the Human Rights Council for the period 2021–2023 in the elections to be held in 2020 during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

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

The Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire would be grateful if the Office of the President of the General Assembly could issue the present note verbale and the annex thereto as documents of the General Assembly under preliminary agenda item 119 (c) of the seventy-fifth session.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 12 March 2020 from the
Permanent Mission of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

**Candidature of Côte d'Ivoire to the Human Rights Council for the
period 2021–2023**

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

I. General human rights policy

1. Since achieving international recognition of its national sovereignty, Côte d'Ivoire has shown its determination to build a State governed by the rule of law that upholds human rights, public freedoms, human dignity, justice and good governance, as defined in the international legal instruments to which it is a party.
2. That commitment is enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution of 8 November 2016 and in its article 2, in which the sanctity of the human person is reaffirmed.
3. In addition, Côte d'Ivoire has used its two consecutive mandates as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council (2013–2015 and 2016–2018) to defend and promote human rights through a variety of legal instruments at the national, regional and international levels.

A. Measures taken at the national level

4. In recent years, Côte d'Ivoire has adopted several pieces of legislation that reflect its desire to consolidate the promotion and protection of human rights.
5. These are, in particular:
 - Act No. 2014-388 of 20 June 2014 on promotion and protection of human rights defenders, which outlines the commitment of Côte d'Ivoire to human rights, is unprecedented in Africa.
 - Act No. 2015-635 of 17 September 2015 amending Act No. 1995-696 of 7 September 1995 on education, which makes schooling compulsory and free of charge for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 16 and effectively implements the Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989, to which Côte d'Ivoire is a party, and related texts.
 - Act No. 2019-570 of 26 June 2019 on marriage, which contributes to putting into practice the principles, enshrined in the Constitution, of non-discrimination between spouses and of their equal rights and responsibilities. Spouses are required to manage the household jointly, their income tax is assessed on an equal basis for both the wife and the husband, and each is required to contribute to the family budget according to his or her abilities.
 - Act No. 2019-572 of 26 June 2019 on minors, which enhances the protection of minors and favours their interests, particularly with regard to filiation, thereby ensuring their well-being and development.
 - Act No. 2019-573 of 26 June 2019 on inheritance, which, in particular, enhances the rights of the surviving spouse.

- Act No. 2019-574 of 26 June 2019 on the Criminal Code, by which national legislation has been aligned with international legal instruments, in particular the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948.
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 10 December 1984; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 21 December 1965; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 17 July 1998, to which Côte d’Ivoire remains committed.

6. In addition, the Government has adopted a social programme for the period 2019–2020, which is built around five strategic areas: more efficient public health care; better access to schools and pupil retention; better access to services such as housing, energy, drinking water and transport for disadvantaged groups; better access to employment; and greater well-being and food security in rural areas.

B. Measures taken at the regional level

7. Côte d’Ivoire has ratified a number of legal instruments, in particular:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights adopted on 26 June 1981 in Nairobi and ratified by Côte d’Ivoire on 6 January 1992
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child adopted in July 1990 in Addis Ababa and ratified on 18 July 1992
- African Union Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, ratified in 2006
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, signed on 8 June 1998 at Ouagadougou and ratified on 21 March 2003.

C. Measures taken at the international level

8. Côte d’Ivoire is a party to several international human rights conventions, in particular:

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, ratified on 18 December 1995
- 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
- Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified on 5 March 1997
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which the country acceded on 18 December 1995
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified on 18 December 1995
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified on 20 January 2012

- Amendment to article 43 (2) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified on 25 September 2001
 - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, ratified on 4 January 1973
 - Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified on 4 February 1991
 - Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols I and II thereto of 1977
 - Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, succession on 8 December 1961, and the Protocol thereto, ratified on 16 February 1970
 - Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, ratified on 1 December 1994
 - The main conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), in particular Nos. 11, 19, 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 135, 138 and 182
 - The main conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in particular the Convention against Discrimination in Education
 - ILO Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No.159), ratified on 22 October 1999
 - 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.
9. Côte d’Ivoire also endorses the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, held in 2000, as well as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (the 17 Sustainable Development Goals).
10. In addition, during the last decade, Côte d’Ivoire has:
- 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.

II. The voluntary pledges of Côte d’Ivoire

A. At the national level

11. The Government of Côte d’Ivoire is firmly committed to continuing and stepping up its efforts directed at all social and occupational groups, in particular by:
- Promoting a culture of human rights by raising awareness of the fundamental and universal values of life and human dignity
 - Building capacity among public and private, governmental and non-governmental entities working in the field of human rights
 - Strengthening human rights teaching modules in the education system

- Holding training seminars on human rights for those working in the justice system and the security forces
- Supporting education and awareness-raising activities in the field of human rights, in particular the development and dissemination of outreach materials in the country’s main languages
- Strengthening the operational capacity of the ministry responsible for the promotion of human rights
- Supporting human rights training for local elected officials and members of Parliament responsible for preparing legislation.

B. At the international level

12. Côte d’Ivoire will continue to comply with its commitment to submit periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies.
 13. The Government is continuing its consultations with Parliament regarding international instruments not yet ratified by Côte d’Ivoire, in particular:
 - International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
 - 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.
 14. Côte d’Ivoire submits its candidacy for the period 2021–2023 to further pursue its efforts to defend and promote human rights and, by extension, consolidate the country’s peace process, as well as to share with the international community its experience in human rights management in a post-crisis context.
 15. By requesting this new mandate from the Human Rights Council, the Government of Côte d’Ivoire reaffirms its continued commitment to one of its priorities, the protection and promotion of human rights.
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