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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15(B) OF THE
ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1**

Ghana*

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The periodicity of the review for the first cycle being four years, most of the documents used as reference are dated after 1 January 2004. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have also been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

* The information and references contained in the present document have not been verified by United Nations editors prior to submission for translation.

I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of international obligations¹

<i>Core universal human rights treaties²</i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations/reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>
ICERD	8 Sept. 1966	None	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
ICESCR	7 Sept. 2000	None	-
ICCPR	7 Sept. 2000	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 41): Yes
ICCPR-OP 1	7 Sept. 2000	None	-
CEDAW	2 Jan. 1986	None	-
CAT	7 Sept. 2000	Art. 30 (1)	Inter-State complaints (art. 21): Yes Individual complaints (art. 22): Yes Inquiry procedure (art. 20): No
CRC	5 Feb. 1990	None	-
ICRMW	7 Sept. 2000	None	Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No Individual complaints (art. 77): No
<i>Core treaties to which Ghana is not a party: ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CEDAW (signature only, 2000), OP-CAT (signature only, 2006), OP-CRC-AC (signature only, 2003), OP-CRC-SC (signature only, 2003), CPD (signature only, 2007), CPD-OP (signature only, 2007), CED (signature only, 2007).</i>			
<i>Other main relevant international instruments</i>	<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>		
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Yes		
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Yes		
Palermo Protocol ³	No		
Refugees and stateless persons ⁴	Yes, except the 1954 Convention and the 1961 Convention		
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto ⁵	Yes, except Protocol III		
ILO fundamental conventions ⁶	Yes, except Convention No. 138		
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	No		

1. In 2006, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) noted with concern that OP-CEDAW has not yet been ratified, despite the fact that, in 2002, the Parliament passed a resolution approving its ratification, and called upon Ghana to ratify it as soon as possible.⁷ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) appreciated in 2003 the assurance given by Ghana that it will give serious consideration to the possibility of recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider complaints from individuals of groups of individuals under article 14 of ICERD.⁸ In 2006, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that Ghana consider ratifying the Palermo Protocol.⁹

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. Noting the task given to the National House of Chiefs to undertake an evaluation of traditional customs and practices with a view to eliminating those which are socially harmful, CERD, in 2003, wished to receive further information on the results of the activities undertaken by this institution and on the difficulties it encountered.¹⁰ CERD wished to receive detailed information on the application of customary law in the country, as well as on the balance generally achieved in practice between statutory law, common law and customary law.¹¹

3. In 2006, CEDAW noted with satisfaction the adoption of the Ghana Labour Act 2003, which provides for paid holidays, sick leave and maternity leave in all employment sectors.¹² However, it was concerned that the definition of discrimination against women contained in the 1992 Constitution is not in conformity with the Convention and that the existing legislative framework is not in compliance with all the provisions of the Convention.¹³ The Committee requested Ghana to include in its Constitution or in its gender equality law a definition of discrimination in line with the Convention.¹⁴

4. In 2006, CRC noted with appreciation the review of the Children's Act in 1998, the amendment to the Criminal Code in 1998, and the adoption of the Juvenile Justice Act in 2003 and of the Human Trafficking Act in 2005.¹⁵ UNFPA¹⁶ and UNICEF¹⁷ also took note of those Acts as well as of the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2007. However, CRC was concerned about the lack of adequate human and financial resources for an effective implementation of the Children's Act and other laws and regulations relevant for the promotion and realization of child rights, and recommended that Ghana take measures, including the provision of human and financial resources, to guarantee the implementation of all legislation.¹⁸

C. Institutional and human rights structure

5. The Ghana Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) was granted "A" accreditation status in 2001 and is due for re-accreditation in the second half of 2008.¹⁹

6. CERD in 2003 and CRC in 2006 welcomed the important role played by the CHRAJ in the protection of human rights, especially the right to be protected from racial discrimination and intolerance, in the area of juvenile justice and prevention of child neglect and female genital mutilation. CERD welcomed the decentralized set-up of the CHRAJ and its ongoing cooperation with civil society.²⁰ CRC noted with regret the abolition of a specific department dealing with child rights²¹ and recommended that Ghana reconsider establishing such a department within the CHRAJ and to allocate adequate financial and human resources for its effective functioning.²²

7. In 2006, CEDAW congratulated Ghana for the achievements in implementing the Convention, including the establishment, in 2001, of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC).²³ However, it was concerned about the insufficient financial and human resources of the MOWAC and of the women's desks in the Government ministries, departments and agencies.²⁴ CEDAW, as well as CRC, called upon Ghana to strengthen the national machinery for the advancement of women by providing it with human and financial resources.²⁵

D. Policy measures

8. In 2006, CEDAW commended Ghana for creating, in 2002, the Women's Development Fund to improve women's access to microcredit facilities. The Committee also appreciated the inclusion of gender perspectives in Ghana's Poverty Reduction Strategy, as well as the adoption of the Reproductive Health Policy and the Strategic Plan for Abortion Care.²⁶ UNICEF noted that there has been good progress in the overall policy and strategy development of the health sector, with the major efforts being directed at finalizing the new 5-Year Programme of Work for the Ministry of Health (2007-2011).²⁷

9. In 2006, CRC welcomed the information that Ghana was preparing a national programme of action (NPA), "Ghana Fit for Children" and noted that negotiations were under way for the integration of children's issues into Ghana's Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS). However, it was concerned that a comprehensive policy for the implementation of the rights enshrined in the

Convention was still lacking,²⁸ CRC recommended that Ghana expedite its efforts to adopt and effectively implement a comprehensive NPA. It further recommended that Ghana integrate the priorities identified in the NPA into the GPRS and ensure the allocation of adequate financial and human resources.²⁹ CRC welcomed the National Policy Guidelines on Orphans and Other Children made Vulnerable by HIV/AIDS but remained concerned that they were not effectively implemented.³⁰ UNICEF also noted that in September 2007, Ghana started implementing a new reform programme which, among others, focuses on universal basic completion by 2015 instead of just universal primary completion, and that by 2020, all junior secondary school graduates will be exposed to senior second cycle education or training.³¹

10. UNICEF noted that further progress has been made in strengthening the legal and institutional framework to combat human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Management Board was established with the President's approval and the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking was adopted on 5 December 2007.³²

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<i>Treaty body³³</i>	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	2002	Mar. 2003	-	Combined eighteenth and nineteenth reports overdue since 2006
CESCR	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2003
HR Committee	-	-	-	Initial and second reports overdue since 2001 and 2006 respectively
CEDAW	2005	Aug. 2006	-	Combined sixth and seventh reports due in 2011
CAT	-	-	-	Initial and second reports overdue since 2001 and 2005 respectively
CRC	2005 (overdue since 1997)	Jan. 2006	-	Combined third to fifth reports due in 2011
CRC-OP-AC	-	-	-	-
CRC-OP-SC	-	-	-	-
CMW	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2004

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<i>Standing invitation issued</i>	Yes
<i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (9 to 15 July 2007). ³⁴
<i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>	None
<i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>	Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination - requested in October 2006; reminder sent in 2007. Special Rapporteur on the right to education - requested in 2007.
<i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>	Special Rapporteur on violence against women thanked everyone for their support and cooperation in the preparation and conduct of the mission.
<i>Follow-up to visits</i>	None

<i>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</i>	Between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007, a total of five communications were sent to the Government. In addition to communications sent for particular groups, three individuals were concerned by these communications, none of whom were women. During the same period, Ghana replied to one communication (20 per cent).
<i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues</i> ³⁵	Ghana responded to 2 out of the 12 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders ³⁶ between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007, within the deadlines. ³⁷

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

11. In 2006, CEDAW expressed concern about the discrimination faced by women in employment, as reflected in the hiring process, the wage gap and occupational segregation, and urged Ghana to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in the labour market, and the full implementation of the provisions of the Ghana Labour Act 2003 in both the public and private sectors.³⁸ Furthermore, while welcoming the adoption, in 1998, of the Affirmative Action Policy, which sets a 40 per cent quota for women's representation on all government and public boards, commissions, councils, committees and official bodies, including the Cabinet and the Council of State, the Committee was concerned about its poor implementation.³⁹ CEDAW recommended that Ghana review the Affirmative Action Policy and bring it in line with the Convention and its general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures.⁴⁰

12. According to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, women are heavily underrepresented among public decision-makers. At the district level, women's representation stands at about only 10 per cent, despite the fact that a third of district assembly members are directly appointed by the President. The situation is slightly better in the executive and in the judiciary. Six out of 40 members of Cabinet (15 per cent) and about 17 per cent of judges are women.⁴¹ She also noted that the formal State institutions coexist with a customary system of traditional authorities. While they are fully bound by Ghana's international commitments to gender equality in so far as they exercise public power, traditional authorities tend to favour respect for local custom over gender equality and customary law, which is constitutionally recognized as a source of law, discriminates against women, especially in relation to questions of inheritance and property.⁴²

13. In 2006, CEDAW was also concerned about women's unequal status in marriage and family matters owing to customary and traditional attitudes.⁴³ The Committee urged Ghana to harmonize civil, religious and customary law with the Convention, and to effectively implement the Children's Act 1998 prohibiting child marriages. It also called upon it to implement measures aimed at eliminating polygamy.⁴⁴ Expressing concern about the discriminatory nature of article 7 (6) of the 1992 Constitution and Section 10 (7) of the Citizenship Act 2000, which make it more difficult for foreign spouses of Ghanaian women to acquire Ghanaian citizenship than it is for foreign spouses of Ghanaian men, CEDAW requested Ghana to bring these norms in line with the Convention.⁴⁵

14. In 2003, CERD appreciated the approach adopted by Ghana that seeks to respect the customs and traditions of various ethnic groups, while at the same time enhancing the enjoyment of human rights for all.⁴⁶ However, it was concerned that the existence of ethnic discrimination persists as an undercurrent in Ghanaian society and recommended that high priority be given to the eradication of discriminatory practices and racial prejudices, through the strengthening of education in general and of human rights education programmes in particular, and the criminalization of acts of racial discrimination and effective punishment.⁴⁷

15. CERD also noted in 2003 that out of a total of 9,265 complaints heard by the CHRAJ in 2000, the Commission only dealt with less than five complaints directly relating to alleged racial discrimination. According to Ghana, the majority of the complaints received by the CHRAJ were cases of religious discrimination which, because religion in Ghana is often related to ethnicity, could be classified, in some cases, as indirect racial discrimination.⁴⁸ In 2006, CRC expressed concern at the fact that discrimination against certain groups of children such as girls, children with disabilities, children of asylum-seekers and immigrants, children infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS as well as children living or working on the street still exists in practice.⁴⁹

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

16. In 2003, CERD was particularly concerned about the occurrence of sporadic violent ethnic conflicts in Ghana and welcomed the efforts undertaken in this regard. It noted, in particular, the role of traditional and religious leaders in the resolution of conflicts relating to land and chieftaincy or involving customary law.⁵⁰

17. In 2006, CEDAW was concerned about the lack of legislation to comprehensively address domestic violence and the insufficient support for victims of violence. It was also concerned about insufficient measures aimed at preventing violence against women and about the fact that victims of violence have to bear the costs of medical examination when giving reports to the police, and urged Ghana to ensure the speedy adoption of the domestic violence bill, which was expected to be passed in 2006.⁵¹ CEDAW was also concerned about the prevalence of a patriarchal ideology with firmly entrenched stereotypes and the persistence of deep-rooted cultural norms, customs and traditions, including widowhood rites, female genital mutilation, and “*trokosi*” (ritual servitude of girls including sexual abuse and forced labour) which constitute serious obstacles to women’s enjoyment of their human rights. It further was concerned about the fact that women accused of being witches are subjected to violence and are confined in witch camps.⁵² It urged Ghana to introduce, without delay and in conformity with the Convention, concrete measures to modify and eliminate customs and cultural and harmful traditional practices that discriminate against women.⁵³ On the same issue, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women reiterated similar concerns mainly about the practice of *trokosi*⁵⁴ even though it has been criminalized in 1998; cases of women accused of witchcraft; the situation of the girl child sexually abused in the family, subjected to early or child marriage, or exploited as a *kayeye* (porter) or domestic worker and the widespread violence against women. She also noted that many widows are subjected to violent evictions from their homes and loss of inheritance, leaving them destitute.⁵⁵

18. In 2006, CRC was concerned about cases of ill-treatment and abuse, including sexual abuse, and about the fact that there are no mandatory reporting requirements for professionals with regard to child abuse.⁵⁶ It recommended that Ghana: take the necessary measures to prevent child abuse and neglect; investigate cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse through a child-sensitive judicial procedure, and ensure that sanctions be applied to perpetrators; and raise awareness among the public of the problem of domestic violence, with a view to changing public attitudes and traditions that inhibit victims, particularly women and girls, from reporting it.⁵⁷ CRC was also concerned about the information that sexual exploitation, particularly sex tourism, is growing in the country and that many girls and boys at a very young age are engaged in commercial sexual exploitation. It recommended that Ghana effectively implement the Human Trafficking Act and provide adequate programmes of prevention, assistance, recovery and reintegration for trafficked children.⁵⁸

3. Administration of justice and the rule of law

19. In 2006, CEDAW noted that although women's access to justice is provided for by the law, their ability in practice to exercise this right and to bring cases of discrimination before the courts is limited by factors such as limited information on their rights, lack of assistance in pursuing these rights, and legal costs.⁵⁹ It requested Ghana to remove impediments women may face in gaining access to justice. It further urged Ghana to take special measures, in collaboration with the CHRAJ, to enhance women's awareness of their rights and legal literacy to claim their rights.⁶⁰

20. CEDAW and CRC, as also noted by UNICEF, welcomed the establishment of the Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DoVVSU) within the police service, which handles issues of children and women abuse and has branches in all 10 administrative regions.⁶¹ However, according to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the police, courts, social services and the health sector are not sufficiently equipped and trained to effectively protect women facing violence, and the DoVVSU is under-resourced under-equipped and inadequately trained.⁶² Large parts of rural Ghana are not adequately covered. Allegedly, many police officers attempted on-the-spot settlements between perpetrators and victims, even though the Domestic Violence Act gives such powers only to courts, subject to specific safeguards.⁶³ The Special Rapporteur also noted that some traditional chiefs may get involved in serious crimes, such as rape or defilement of minors, and broker settlements between families. This illegal usurpation of State power may result in impunity for perpetrators and neglect of victim support. Local State officials are often unwilling to challenge these chiefs, since the balance of power is often tilted against the State.⁶⁴

21. UNICEF noted that the juvenile justice administration system has been weakened by the inadequate logistical and human resource capacity of the Department of Social Welfare. The absence of separate police cells and lack of coordination between the police and the Department of Social Welfare have led to an increase in the presence of juveniles in adult police cells at specific points in time, from 289 in 2000 to 382 by mid-2003.⁶⁵

4. Freedom of expression

22. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression raised concern regarding the detention of two prominent journalists who were sentenced for contempt of court on 4 July 2005. The court condemned their newspaper to pay the police commander for damages and ordered to publish an apology in three issues of the newspaper. Reportedly, the defendants, following the publication of articles against the police commander, refused to comply with the court's order and did not appear before the Court for a new hearing.⁶⁶ He regretted the lack of reply from the Government on this issue and reiterated that States should refrain from the use of imprisonment or the imposition of fines for offences relating to the media, which are disproportionate to the gravity of the offence.⁶⁷

5. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

23. In 2006, CRC was concerned that the right to an adequate standard of living is not fully implemented for many children due to widespread poverty and severe regional disparities, and recommended that Ghana reinforce its efforts to provide support and material assistance, with particular focus on the most marginalized and disadvantaged families, and guarantee the right of children to an adequate standard of living.⁶⁸

24. Also in 2006, CEDAW expressed concern about the lack of access of women to adequate health-care services, as well as the high maternal mortality rate, particularly the number of deaths resulting from unsafe abortions, and inadequate family planning services, low rates of contraceptive use and lack of sexual education.⁶⁹ The Committee urged Ghana to ensure that rural women have access to health, education, clean water, electricity, land, and income-generating projects; and to ensure that the Women's Development Fund is made accessible to the most vulnerable women, including women of various ethnic groups.⁷⁰

25. In 2006, CEDAW and CRC were concerned about the high rate of teenage pregnancy, which constitutes a significant obstacle to girls' educational opportunities and economic empowerment, as well as the high rate of HIV/AIDS and its steady increase, especially among women in childbearing years, compounded in part by inappropriate traditional practices, stigmatization and lack of knowledge about prevention methods.⁷¹ Furthermore, CRC was concerned that more than 200,000 children are orphaned by HIV/AIDS and was alarmed at the information on the increasing number of orphanages,⁷² and the lack of mental health services for adolescents.⁷³

26. The 2006-2010 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) noted that health care remains poor, and that the national average of access to health care is just over 50 per cent. The proportion of people with access to health care is far lower in the three northern regions and some coastal areas.⁷⁴

27. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food raised concern about allegations that rivers and streams have been polluted with arsenic, iron, manganese and heavy metals from past gold mining activities. The allegations received claimed that an estimated 60 local streams in Obuasi are now contaminated and pose a significant hazard to local people who used them for drinking water, fishing and irrigation. An effluent discharge has allegedly contaminated these rivers and deprived villages and towns of their access to clean freshwater. According to the allegations, new water pollution continues to occur in a number of places. The reports also indicated that areas of land previously used for cultivation have been contaminated with mercury, zinc and arsenic from gold mining activities and by toxic water pollution. This has reportedly contributed to erode people's access to livelihoods and food. He was particularly concerned by allegations that community members in several villages had limited access to their farms which they have cultivated for many generations and to their only source of income and means to procure sufficient and adequate food, as a result of the location of a number of waste rock dumps in the area.⁷⁵

28. In its reply, the Government informed that it had conducted appropriate investigations, and assured that it was committed to fulfil not only the international human rights instruments it has ratified, but also to uphold the fundamental rights of all its citizens, as enshrined in the country's Constitution. It stated that around 80 per cent of the farmers in question have received payments. The Special Rapporteur brought to the Government's attention that the Resettlement Action Plan recognized that land-for-land replacement is an important mitigation measure to counter the project-related impacts, thus implying that cash compensation was insufficient. The failure to implement this Plan could pose a major threat to food security and to the realization of the right to food in the area. Furthermore, information received indicated that the displacement of farmers continues as the waste dump keeps growing, preventing them from accessing their land, and that fishponds have been destroyed.⁷⁶

29. UN-Habitat noted that the 1992 Constitution does not expressly protect the right to adequate housing. It nevertheless provides for the right to own property alone or in association with others, the right of non-interference with the privacy of one's home, and the protection from the deprivation of one's property, all of which can be found in Chapter 5 of the Constitution.⁷⁷

UN-Habitat also noted that to address the problems of the housing sector, the President announced in the State of the Nation Address in 2005 the commencement of a programme to build 100,000 housing units over a ten-year-period through public-private-partnerships aimed at providing decent, affordable accommodation for middle- and low-income groups.⁷⁸

6. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

30. In 2003, CERD noted that the insufficient education infrastructure, the high illiteracy rates in certain areas of the country, as well as the existence of some negative traditional practices constitute impediments to the full implementation of ICERD.⁷⁹ In this context, the 2004 Common Country Assessment (CCA) noted the following key challenges in education: shortage of school facilities; unaffordable school fees/contributions; long distances and natural impediments to access to schools; hunger of school children; disease burden of school children; weak institutional arrangements for implementation; insufficient trained teachers; and unintended exclusion of orphaned and vulnerable children.⁸⁰

31. While welcoming the important achievements in the field of education, CEDAW was concerned in 2006 about the gender gap between boys and girls in secondary and tertiary education, as well as about the high drop-out rates of girls from schools.⁸¹ CERD was also concerned about the existing educational gap between populations of certain geographic areas of the country, which has an ethnic dimension. It encouraged the State to pursue and increase the efforts already undertaken to remedy the situation, including the adoption of temporary special measures.⁸²

32. A 2006 UNESCO report noted that where attendance rates average over 85 per cent, the chances of a poor child not having attended school are at least eight times those of a child from the wealthiest group of households.⁸³ UNICEF noted that in the education sector, primary net enrolment has increased steadily since the 2005 education reforms.⁸⁴

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

33. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women noted that the Domestic Violence Act, which was adopted in 2007, marks an important step forward.⁸⁵ She also highlighted that in June 2007, for the first time in the country's history, a woman was appointed as Chief Justice.⁸⁶

34. In 2006, CRC noted that difficult socio-economic conditions, high levels of external debt and poverty place limitations upon the State's financial and human resources and hamper the achievement of effective enjoyment of the rights of the child.⁸⁷

35. UN-Habitat noted that due to the rapid population growth and increasing urbanization, shelter is one of the most critical problems currently facing the country.⁸⁸

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

A. Pledges by the State

36. In its voluntary pledge submitted in 2006 in support of its candidacy to the membership of the Human Rights Council, Ghana, inter alia, committed to continue to strengthen policies for the advancement of women and eliminate laws that continue to discriminate against women; promote the rights of the child; continue to cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and promptly submit its periodic reports.⁸⁹

B. Specific recommendations for follow-up

37. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women called upon Ghana to enact legislation to strengthen women's protection and equality; support women's social, political and economic empowerment; ensure that traditional authorities comply with national and international commitments to women's rights; sufficiently fund and implement the Domestic Violence Act and corresponding action plan; and adopt a gender-sensitive domestic violence action plan and an earmarked budget to implement the Act.⁹⁰

V. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

38. The 2006-2010 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) noted that the United Nations Country Team⁹¹ in Ghana has identified right to health, gender equity, HIV/AIDS and good governance among the strategic areas and pillars of the 2006-2010 UNDAF.⁹²

Notes

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of the instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006* (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://untreaty.un.org/>.

² The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CPD	Convention on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CPD	Optional Protocol to Convention on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities
CED	Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

⁴ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

⁵ Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html>.

- ⁶ International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- ⁷ Concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5), paras. 39 and 40.
- ⁸ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/62/CO/4), para. 8.
- ⁹ Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/GHA/CO/2), para. 70.
- ¹⁰ CERD/C/62/CO/4, para. 14.
- ¹¹ Ibid., para. 13.
- ¹² CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, para. 7.
- ¹³ Ibid., para. 13.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., para. 14.
- ¹⁵ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 4.
- ¹⁶ UNFPA submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 1, available at http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session2/GH/UNFPA_GHA_UPR_S2_2008_UnitedNationsPopulationFund_uprsubmission.pdf.
- ¹⁷ UNICEF submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 5, available at http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session2/GH/UNICEF_GHA_UPR_S2_2008_UnitedNationsChildrensFund_uprsubmission.pdf.
- ¹⁸ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, paras. 9 and 10.
- ¹⁹ For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/7/69, annex VIII, and A/HRC/7/70, annex I.
- ²⁰ CERD/C/62/CO/4, para. 6.
- ²¹ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 15.
- ²² Ibid., para. 16.
- ²³ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, para. 6.
- ²⁴ Ibid., para. 17.
- ²⁵ Ibid., para. 18; CRC, CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 13.
- ²⁶ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, paras. 9 and 10.
- ²⁷ UNICEF submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 3.
- ²⁸ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 11.
- ²⁹ Ibid., para. 12.
- ³⁰ Ibid., para. 40.
- ³¹ UNICEF submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 4.
- ³² Op. cit.
- ³³ The following abbreviations have been used in this document:

CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
HR Committee	Human Rights Committee
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CAT	Committee against Torture
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CMW	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

³⁴ A/HRC/7/6/Add.3 (Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Mission to Ghana).

³⁵ The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder.

³⁶ See (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006;

(ii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants sent in September 2006;

(iii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons, sent in July 2006;

(iv) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders (E/CN.4/2006/95 and Add.5), questionnaire on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms sent in June 2005;

(v) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/HRC/6/15), questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous peoples sent in August 2007;

(vi) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July 2005;

(vii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (E/CN.4/2006/45), questionnaire on the right to education for girls sent in 2005;

(viii) report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/61/341), questionnaire concerning its mandate and activities sent in November 2005;

(ix) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children's organs sent in July 2006;

(x) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2005/78), questionnaire on child pornography on the Internet sent in July 2004;

(xi) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2004/9), questionnaire on the prevention of child sexual exploitation sent in July 2003;

(xii) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprise (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices.

³⁷ The questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons (A/HRC/4/23), para. 14, and the questionnaire on mercenaries (A/61/341), para. 47.

³⁸ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, paras. 29 and 30.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, paras. 8 and 19.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 20.

⁴¹ A/HRC/7/6/Add.3, paras. 32-33..

⁴² *Ibid.*, second paragraph of the summary, p. 2.

⁴³ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, para. 35.

- ⁴⁴ Ibid., para. 36.
- ⁴⁵ Ibid., paras. 25 and 26.
- ⁴⁶ CERD/C/62/CO/4, para. 5.
- ⁴⁷ Ibid., para. 9.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., para. 16.
- ⁴⁹ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 25.
- ⁵⁰ CERD/C/62/CO/4, para. 10.
- ⁵¹ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5 paras. 23 and 24.
- ⁵² Ibid., para. 21.
- ⁵³ Ibid., para. 22.
- ⁵⁴ A/HRC/7/6/Add.3, para. 47.
- ⁵⁵ Ibid., third paragraph of the summary, p. 2.
- ⁵⁶ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 44.
- ⁵⁷ Ibid., para. 45.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid., paras. 67 and 70.
- ⁵⁹ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, para. 15.
- ⁶⁰ Ibid., para. 16.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., para. 11; CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 44; UNICEF submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 4.
- ⁶² A/HRC/7/6/Add.3, fourth paragraph of the summary, p. 2..
- ⁶³ Ibid., paras. 80-82..
- ⁶⁴ Ibid., para. 10.
- ⁶⁵ UNICEF submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 3.
- ⁶⁶ E/CN.4/2006/55/Add.1, para. 365.
- ⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 366.
- ⁶⁸ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, paras. 57 and 58.
- ⁶⁹ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, para. 31.
- ⁷⁰ Ibid., para. 34.
- ⁷¹ Ibid., para. 31; CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 51.
- ⁷² CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 40.
- ⁷³ Ibid., para. 51.
- ⁷⁴ See United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Ghana, 2006-2010, p. 6 available at http://www.undp-gha.org/Ghana_UNDAF__2006-2010_.pdf.
- ⁷⁵ A/HRC/7/5/Add.1, paras. 49-50.
- ⁷⁶ Ibid., see paras. 49-52.
- ⁷⁷ UN-Habitat submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 1, available at http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session2/GH/UNHABITAT_GHA_UPR_S2_2008_UnitedNationsHABITAT_uprsubmission.pdf.
- ⁷⁸ Op. cit., p. 2.
- ⁷⁹ CERD/C/62/CO/4, para.3.
- ⁸⁰ Common Country Assessment (CCA) Ghana, 2004, pp. 14-15.

⁸¹ CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/5, para. 27.

⁸² CERD/C/62/CO/4, para. 19.

⁸³ UNESCO, EFA Global Monitoring Report 2007, Paris, 2006, p. 33.

⁸⁴ UNICEF submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 2.

⁸⁵ A/HRC/7/6/Add.3, fifth paragraph of the summary, p. 2.

⁸⁶ Ibid., paras. 33-34.

⁸⁷ CRC/C/GHA/CO/2, para. 6.

⁸⁸ UN-Habitat submission to UPR on Ghana, p. 3.

⁸⁹ Information relating to other relevant international human rights instruments, including regional instruments, may be found in the pledges and commitments undertaken by Ghana before the Human Rights Council, as contained in the aide-mémoire dated 24 April 2006 sent by the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, available at <http://www.un.org/ga/60/elect/hrc/ghana.pdf>.

⁹⁰ A/HRC/7/6/Add.3, seventh paragraph of the summary, p. 2 and para. 89.

⁹¹ Signatories of the UNDAF 2006-2010 are the following: WHO, UNHCR, FAO, UNIC, IMF, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNIDO, UNDP, UNU, UNESCO, World Bank, UNFPA, WFP.

⁹² See United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Ghana, 2006-2010, pp. 9-10 at http://www.undp-gha.org/Ghana_UNDAF__2006-2010_.pdf (accessed on 5 March 2008).
