United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/15/FRA/2



Distr.: General 9 November 2012

English

Original: English/French

Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Fifteenth session Geneva, 21 January–1 February 2013

> Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21

France

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations¹

Universal human rights treaties 2

	Status during previous cycle	Action after review	Not ratified/not accepted	
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1971) ICESCR (1980) ICCPR (1980) ICCPR-OP2 (2007) CEDAW (1983) CAT (1986) CRC (1990) OP-CRC-AC (2003) OP-CRC-SC (2003)	OP-CAT (2008) CRPD (2010) CPED (2008)	ICRMW	
Reservations, declarations and/or understandings	ICERD (Declaration, arts. 4, 6, 15, 1971) ICESCR (General Declaration and Declarations, arts. 6, 8, 9, 11 and 13, 1980) ICCPR (General Declaration and Declarations, arts. 19, 21, 22 and 27; Reservation, arts 4.1, 9 and 14; Interpretative declaration, art. 13, 14.5 and 20.1, 1980; Withdrawal of reservation, art. 19, 1988) ICCPR-OP1 (Declarations, arts. 1 and 7/Reservation, art. 5.2 (a), 1984) CEDAW (Declaration, preamble and arts. 9 and 5.b/Reservations, arts. 5b, 7, 14.2.(c) (h), 15.2, 15.3, 16.1.(c) (d) (g) (h) and 29.1, 1983; Withdrawal of Reservations, arts. 5.b, 7, 15.2, 15.3 and 16.1 (c) (d) (h), 1984, 1986 and 2003) CAT (Reservation, art. 30.1,1986) CRC (Declarations, arts. 6, 30 and 40.2 (b) (v), 1990) OP-CRC-AC (General declaration on age of recruitment, 2003)	ICCPR (Partial withdrawal of reservation, art. 14.5, 2012) OP-CAT (Declarations, arts. 15 and 21, 2008) CRPD (Declarations, arts. 15 and 29, 2010)		
Complaint procedures, inquiry and urgent action ³	ICERD, art. 14 (1982) ICCPR-OP1 (1984) OP-CEDAW, art. 8 (2000) CAT, arts. 20, 21 and 22 (1988)	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2010) CPED, arts. 31 and 32 (2008)	OP-ICESCR ICCPR, art. 41 OP-CRC-IC ICRMW	

Other main relevant international instruments

	Status during previous cycle	Action after review	Not ratified	
Ratification, accession or succession	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions ⁸	1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	
	Conventions on refugees and stateless persons ⁴		ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 ⁹	
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II thereto ⁵			
	Palermo Protocol ⁶			
	ILO fundamental conventions ⁷			
	UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education			

- 1. The Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD),¹⁰ in 2010, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC),¹¹ in 2009, and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR),¹² in 2008, recommended that France ratify ICRMW. CRC also recommended the ratification of OP-ICESCR and¹³ CERD of ILO Convention No. 169.¹⁴
- 2. In 2008, the Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) recommended that France review its reservations and declarations to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. ¹⁵ CRC reiterated its recommendation that France review its position with respect to children belonging to minority groups and consider withdrawing its reservation to article 30 of the Convention, and its declarations to articles 6 and 40. ¹⁶
- 3. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reiterated its recommendation that France ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.¹⁷

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

- 4. CERD welcomed the 2008 constitutional amendment which gave every person the right to apply to the Constitutional Council for a ruling on the constitutionality of a law. 18
- 5. In 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography recommended that France gather all legislation concerning child protection into a single practical guide in order to facilitate the understanding and implementation of the texts.¹⁹

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

Status of national human rights institutions²⁰

National human rights institution	Status during previous cycle	Status during present cycle ²¹
France: Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l'Homme	A status (October 2007)	A status (October 2007) Re-accreditation scheduled for November 2012

6. In 2010, CAT was concerned about the consequences of establishing a "Defender of Rights" (*Défenseur des droits*) combining the mandates of the Ombudsman of the Republic, the Children's Ombudsman and the National Commission on Security Ethics. The Committee invited France to take all necessary measures to ensure the effective and

uninterrupted functioning of the aforementioned independent bodies which, in addition to their mediating role, had an essential part to play in monitoring rights, thereby ensuring the implementation of the Convention, each in their particular field of expertise. ²² CERD made similar comments. ²³

- 7. CERD took note that France was preparing a national plan to combat racism.²⁴
- 8. With regard to the rights of the child, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography noted, following a visit in 2011, that the task of coordination was hampered by the complexity of the child protection system, the proliferation of actors involved and awkward linkage between the administrative and judicial frameworks. Coordination efforts would be made easier if the areas of authority and responsibilities of those in charge of child protection were more clearly defined. The Special Rapporteur encouraged the Government to adopt a mainstreaming approach to children's rights with the aim of establishing a national child protection strategy.²⁵ To achieve this, she recommended in particular: drawing up a map of all programmes and actors dealing with child protection;²⁶ delimiting the areas of authority and responsibilities of all those involved;²⁷ and setting up a centralized, standardized and reliable data collection and processing system.²⁸

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

9. France submitted a mid-term review regarding the follow-up to the recommendations put forward during its universal periodic review held in 2008.²⁹

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies³⁰

1. Reporting status

Treaty body	Concluding observations included in previous review	Latest report submitted since previous review	Latest concluding observations	Reporting status
CERD	March 2005	2009	August 2010	Twentieth and twenty-first report overdue since August 2012
CESCR	November 2001	2007	May 2008	Fourth report overdue since 2011
HR Committee	July 1997	2007	July 2008	Fifth report pending consideration
CEDAW	January 2008	_	_	Seventh and eighth report due 2013
CAT	November 2005	2008	May 2010	Seventh report due 2014
CRC	June 2004/ October 2007	2007	June 2009	Fifth report overdue since September 2012
CRPD	-	_	-	Initial report overdue since March 2012
CED	-	_	_	Initial report due 2013

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations				
Treaty body	Due in	Subject matter	Submitted in	
CAT	2011	Non-refoulement, ill-treatment b enforcement officers, prison con- criminal policy, body searches, u conducted energy devices during and human trafficking. ³¹	litions and se of	
HR Committee	2009	Statistical data on equal opportund detention of undocumented migrasylum seekers, non-refoulement	ants and ongoing. ³⁵	
CERD	2011	National plan to combat racism, racist violence against the Roma faced by travellers. ³⁶	2 2 2	
Views				
Treaty body		Number of views Status		
HR Committee		3 ³⁹ Follow-up dial	Follow-up dialogue ongoing. 40	

B. Cooperation with special procedures⁴¹

	Status during previous cycle	Current status
Standing invitation	Yes	Yes
Visits undertaken	Sale of children (2002)	Indigenous peoples (2011)
	Freedom of religion or belief (2005)	Sale of children (2012)
	Minority issues (2007)	
Visits agreed to in principle		Toxic waste
Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals	During the period under review, 13 communications were sent. The Government replied to 6 of these communications.	

C. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

10. France has continuously contributed financially to OHCHR, including to humanitarian funds between 2008 and 2011.42

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations

A. Equality and non-discrimination

11. While welcoming the statement by France that the lack of official recognition of minorities within French territory did not prevent the adoption of appropriate policies aimed at preserving and promoting cultural diversity, HR Committee remained unable to share the view of France that the abstract principle of equality before the law and the prohibition of discrimination represented sufficient guarantees for the equal and effective

enjoyment by persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities of the rights protected by the Covenant.⁴³

- 12. CERD was concerned by discriminatory political speeches and the increase in racist and xenophobic acts and manifestations. It recommended that the Government make clear, in discourse and action, its political will to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship between nations and racial and ethnic groups.⁴⁴
- 13. CERD noted with regret that persons of immigrant origin or from ethnic groups were the target of stereotyping and discrimination of all kinds, impeding their integration and advancement at all levels of society.⁴⁵
- 14. CESCR noted with concern the widespread de facto discrimination against persons belonging to racial, ethnic and national minorities especially those coming from the Maghreb and black Africa despite measures to combat discrimination in the field of employment. HR Committee recommended reinforcing the legislative framework and institutional mechanisms to exclude all discriminatory practices that prevent equal access to employment for persons belonging to ethnic, national or religious minorities. HT
- 15. HR Committee was aware of continued reports of anti-Semitic violence, directed at persons wearing visible symbols of the Jewish faith in public places, or known to be members of the Jewish community.⁴⁸
- 16. CESCR recommended that France combat all forms of discrimination against women belonging to racial, ethnic and national minorities who live in "sensitive urban zones". 49
- 17. CRC expressed concern at persistent discrimination with respect to children residing in the Overseas Departments and Territories, asylum seeking and refugee children, and children of minority groups such as Roma, travellers and religious minorities.⁵⁰
- 18. CERD was concerned about measures regarding citizenship that would lead to discrimination on the basis of national origin, recommending that France ensure that such measures should not lead to the stigmatization of any particular nationality.⁵¹

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

- 19. CAT remained concerned about persistent allegations of ill-treatment of detainees by law enforcement officers and urged France to ensure that such allegations be promptly investigated through transparent and independent inquiries.⁵² HR Committee expressed specific concerns regarding the treatment of foreign nationals, including some asylum seekers.⁵³
- 20. CAT received documented allegations regarding the return of persons to countries where they risked being subjected to acts of torture, and from persons sent back to their country of origin who reported being arrested and subjected to ill-treatment on arrival.⁵⁴ En février 2012, quatre In February 2012, four Special Rapporteurs expressed concern regarding allegations of a credible risk of the extradtion of a foreign member of an opposition movement and exectuive director of a human rights organization, and the consequent risk of torture or ill-treatment.⁵⁵
- 21. CRC was concerned at allegations of ill-treatment of children in places of detention and at the high number of reported incidences of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against children.⁵⁶
- 22. While acknowledging the establishment of a *Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté*, ⁵⁷ HR Committee remained concerned about overcrowding and other

poor conditions in prisons.⁵⁸ CAT recommended that France aim for wider use of non-custodial measures as an alternative to prison sentences.⁵⁹

- 23. CAT recommended that France prevent suicide in custody and ensure, under the supervision of the Public Prosecutor, that solitary confinement remains an exceptional measure of limited duration.⁶⁰
- 24. CAT also recommended that methods used for body search procedures be the least intrusive and most respectful of physical integrity. It recommended the implementation of the electronic detection methods announced by France, and the elimination of body searches altogether.⁶¹
- 25. CAT was concerned that the Prison Act of 24 November 2009 appeared to give prison authorities broad discretion to place prisoners under different regimes on the basis of subjective criteria such as a prisoner's personality or the danger he might represent. It encouraged supervision over the discretionary element of the powers vested in the prison authorities. Such supervision should be exercised through regular visits by existing independent supervisory mechanisms, which should in turn immediately report to the competent judicial authorities any irregularity or practice that could be considered an arbitrary measure, particularly when the measure in question involves solitary confinement.⁶²
- 26. CAT was particularly concerned by France's decision to test conducted energy devices (tasers) in places of detention.⁶³
- 27. HR Committee welcomed the 2006 legislation on the punishment of domestic violence that, inter alia, extends aggravating circumstances to include abuse between partners in civil solidarity pacts and former partners, and consolidated the jurisprudence on marital rape.⁶⁴
- 28. Following a visit in late 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography noted that there was no centralized information system that could furnish reliable data on child prostitution. During her visit, she received confirmation that there had been an alarming increase in child prostitution. The Special Rapporteur also reported a growing stream and consumption of Internet images on child pornography, an increasing portrayal of violence in the images and younger and younger victims.
- 29. The Special Rapporteur reported that the persons in charge found it increasingly difficult to release children from the networks exploiting them, due to the fact that the children felt bound by fear or duty to their exploiters. She had been told that the children often escaped from the children's homes and that the lack of alternatives for those minors, who were forced to turn to prostitution, made their resettlement more difficult.⁶⁷
- 30. CRC expressed concern at the high number of children subjected to exploitation, including trafficking, and who entered or travelled through France for the purposes of theft, begging and prostitution.⁶⁸ CAT recommended a national plan to combat trafficking of women and children.⁶⁹
- 31. CRC reiterated its concern about widespread corporal punishment, in particular in the home and schools, especially in the Overseas Departments and Territories. It stressed that a specific provision to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment against children was still missing.⁷⁰

C. Administration of justice and the rule of law

- 32. CAT was concerned about the Léger Report of 1 September 2009, whose findings could lead to the abolition of investigating judges, which would mean that all investigations would be directed by the Public Prosecutor's Office, with direct consequences for the independence of investigations.⁷¹
- 33. HR Committee was concerned by the claim of authority by France under Act No. 2008/174 to place criminal defendants under renewable one-year terms of civil preventive detention because of "dangerousness", even after they had completed their original prison sentences.⁷²
- 34. CRC was concerned at the lack of comprehensive national policy on the prevention of delinquency; lack of financial and human resources allocated to the juvenile justice system; and about legislation and practice which tended to favour repressive over educational measures. TRC urged France to ensure that juvenile justice standards are fully implemented.

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

- 35. HR Committee was concerned at the proliferation of different databases and that the gathering, storage and use of sensitive personal data contained in databases such as EDVIGE (*exploitation documentaire et valorisation de l'information générale*) and STIC (*système de traitement des infractions constatées*) posed concerns regarding article 17 of the Covenant.⁷⁵
- 36. HR Committee appreciated that France applies the same minimum age of 18 years for marriage to both genders.⁷⁶
- 37. CRC recommended that France: avoid the placement of children in alternative care as a result of low parental income; take into account the views of children, and provide them with child-accessible complaint mechanisms.⁷⁷

E. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

- 38. HR Committee was concerned that school students were barred by Act No. 2004/228 from attending public schools if they were wearing "conspicuous" religious symbols. Thus, observant Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh students may be excluded from attending school. ⁷⁸ CRC made similar observations. ⁷⁹
- 39. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted the adoption of Act No. 2010-1192 prohibiting the concealment of the face in public areas. Noting that the implementation of this Act may have a discriminatory effect in relation to women of Muslim religion wearing a full veil in terms of their opportunities to find and engage in employment, the Committee requested the Government to provide information on the number of women affected by Act No. 2010-1192 and on its application in practice in relation to employment and occupation.⁸⁰
- 40. CRC was concerned at the restriction imposed on the freedom of association of children by the use of high frequency ultra-sound devices, particularly painful for children, and flash ball devices and taser guns. The Committee recommended that the State reconsider or ban the use of high frequency ultra-sound and flash ball devices and other harmful devices as they may violate the rights of children to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, the enjoyment of which was essential for the children's development.⁸¹

- 41. HR Committee remained concerned that, despite measures promoting gender equality, women were underrepresented in high-level and managerial positions in the State, territorial, and hospital civil service, and in the private sector.⁸²
- 42. HR Committee noted with concern that persons belonging to racial, ethnic or national minorities were rarely selected for representative bodies, including the National Assembly.⁸³

F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

- 43. In 2011, the ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to promote equality between men and women in the public service and to encourage the internal professional development of women, particularly access to executive positions. ⁸⁴ CESCR remained concerned about high unemployment rates among women, especially among racial, ethnic and national minorities; and wage differentials between men and women. ⁸⁵
- 44. The ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to examine the possibility of amending the definition of sexual harassment in the Labour Code so that the labour legislation would cover not only quid pro quo sexual harassment, but also sexual harassment through a hostile working environment.⁸⁶
- 45. CESCR noted the extensive use of fixed-term, temporary and part-time employment contracts by which a large number of employed persons especially young people, single parents and persons without professional qualification did not have job security and were paid the minimum wage. 87

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

- 46. CESCR remained concerned about the extent of poverty in France and the high number of persons living exclusively on social cash transfers. RCRC noted the high number of children living in poverty, noting the significant higher rate among children from immigrant backgrounds. 99
- 47. CESCR noted that there were still a large number of individuals and families living in sub-standard housing characterized by unsafe, unhealthy or unhygienic conditions and recommended that France strengthen the implementation of its legal and regulatory framework to combat sub-standard housing.⁹⁰
- 48. CESCR noted with concern the persistent de facto discrimination that Gypsies and Travellers experienced in the field of housing.⁹¹

H. Right to health

- 49. CESCR noted with concern that persons belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, such as asylum seekers and undocumented migrant workers and their families, encountered difficulties in gaining access to health-care facilities, goods and services. 92
- 50. CESCR remained deeply concerned about the high suicide rate in France, especially among persons aged between 15 and 44, despite plans and strategies to combat this.⁹³

I. Right to education

- 51. CRC recommended that France strengthen its efforts to reduce the effects of children's social background on their achievement in school and to decrease dropout and repetition rates; expand vocational education and training for children who had left school without certificates; use the disciplinary measure of permanent or temporary exclusion as a means of last resort only; and include social workers and educational psychologists in school to help children in conflict with school.⁹⁴
- 52. CESCR noted continued significant disparities in terms of school performance and dropout rates between French pupils and pupils belonging to racial, ethnic or national minorities.⁹⁵

J. Cultural rights

53. CESCR remained concerned about the lack of official recognition of minorities within the territory of France. It noted with concern that some cultural rights were not respected – such as the right to use a minority language. CESCR noted that the State had not made sufficient efforts in the field of preservation and promotion of regional and minority languages and cultural heritage. The Committee also notes that the absence of formal recognition of regional and minority languages had contributed to the constant decline in the number of speakers of such languages.⁹⁶

K. Persons with disabilities

- 54. CRC was concerned at the high number of children with disabilities who attended school only a few hours per week. It recommended that France ensure that legislation providing access to education and programmes and specialized assistance for children with disabilities are effectively implemented.⁹⁷
- 55. CESCR noted with concern that the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities was still three times higher than the average unemployment rate.⁹⁸

L. Minorities and indigenous peoples

- 56. In August 2012, the Special Rapporteurs on minority issues, migrants, housing and racism urged the Government to ensure that its policies and practices regarding the dismantling of Roma settlements and the expulsion of migrant Roma conformed in all respects to European and international human rights law. They recalled that similar actions against the Roma (evictions and expulsions) undertaken in August 2010 had met with widespread criticism. They also expressed concern over a practice of financial incentives for Roma to return to their countries of origin, which could allow the Government to claim that Roma were returning voluntarily and protect it from legal challenges regarding forced expulsion.⁹⁹
- 57. CERD referred to reports that groups of Roma had been returned to their country of origin without their free, full and informed consent. It recommended ensuring that all policies concerning Roma are consistent with the Convention; avoiding collective repatriations; and finding lasting solutions to issues related to Roma, with full respect for their human rights. CERD was also concerned at the increase in racism and racist violence against Roma. ¹⁰⁰

- 58. CERD was concerned at the difficulties faced by members of the Roma community regarding the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights.¹⁰¹
- 59. CERD remained very concerned at the difficulties faced by travellers, particularly regarding their freedom of movement, the right to vote and access to education and decent housing. 102
- 60. CERD was concerned that the current system did not allow recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples, particularly the ancestral right to land. It was also concerned at the increasing difficulties faced by some inhabitants of overseas territories in gaining access, without discrimination, to education, employment, housing and public health. It recommended that France recognize the collective rights of indigenous peoples, particularly regarding property; and ensure equal access to education, work, housing and public health in overseas territories.¹⁰³

M. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- 61. UNHCR recalled that France was the number one industrialized destination country for asylum seekers in Europe and number two in the world¹⁰⁴ and pointed out that the funding of the refugee sector had not been reduced on account of the economic crisis. UNHCR also noted the recent judicial and regulatory changes regarding the detention of families and offences against the legislation concerning foreigners.¹⁰⁵
- 62. However, UNHCR shared the concern of the National Human Rights Advisory Council (CNCDH) regarding the loss of asylum seekers' rights due to the rationalization of the national asylum seeker reception facilities, even though not all applicants received the same treatment in practice. UNHCR considered that such unequal treatment, which depended in particular on the place of asylum application, undoubtedly posed a problem. In that respect, UNHCR noted that since 2009 only one third of asylum seekers had been placed in an asylum seeker reception centre (CADA). ¹⁰⁶
- 63. UNHCR considered that one of its major concerns was the growing use of priority procedures not accompanied by suspensive appeals. UNHCR recommended that suspensive appeals be introduced in the legislative and regulatory framework in order to make such appeals effective also for priority procedures. It also suggested restricting the field of application of the priority procedure. 108
- 64. With regard to the summary priority procedure applied to asylum applications in situations of administrative detention, UNHCR found that the exercise of the right to apply for asylum could not be considered to be effective and that available procedures could not guarantee respect for the principle of non-refoulement in practice. 109
- 65. In 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants expressed concern to the Government regarding those persons who either did not fulfil the necessary conditions for entering French territory, or wished to travel on to another country, or had applied for entry to France on the grounds of asylum, and who were placed in "holding areas". Although all foreigners retained in a holding area should enjoy the rights listed in the Code on the Entry and Residence of Aliens and the Right of Asylum (CESEDA), the Special Rapporteur noted that those rights were not always brought to the attention of applicants and that cases of police violence had apparently occurred. It had been reported that on several occasions minors had been returned to their country of origin.¹¹⁰
- 66. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography judged that the treatment of unaccompanied foreign minors was inadequate and tended to vary from one department to another. In response, the Government had set up a working group consisting of representatives of the Government and the *conseils généraux*

with the task of finding ways of distributing the youngsters more evenly across the country. 111 The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government should not allow its restrictive migration policy to detract from the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors, who were most vulnerable to all forms of abuse and exploitation. Similarly, unaccompanied foreign minors engaged in an educational or vocational programme should not be expelled on reaching their majority. 112

67. CRC was concerned at the situation of unaccompanied children placed in waiting zones of French airports; that the decision of placement could not be challenged; and that children were often returned to countries where they faced risk of exploitation. 113

N. Human rights and counter-terrorism

- 68. While noting the threat to life posed by acts of terrorism, HR Committee was concerned that Act No. 2006/64 of 23 January 2006 permitted the initial detention of persons suspected of terrorism for four days, with extensions up to six days, in police custody (*garde à vue*), before they were brought before a judge to be placed under judicial investigation or released without charge. HR Committee also noted that terrorism suspects in police custody were guaranteed access to a lawyer only after 72 hours, and that access to counsel could be further delayed till the fifth day when custody was extended by a judge. 114
- 69. HR Committee remained concerned about the use of long-term pretrial detention in cases of terrorism and organized crime, extending for periods up to four years and eight months.¹¹⁵

O. Situation in, or in relation to, specific regions or territories

- After a visit to New Caledonia in 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples noted that the Nouméa Accord affirmed an important level of recognition of Kanak participation in national decision-making, in particular through the establishment and functioning of the Customary Senate and the participation of Kanak people in the Congress of New Caledonia. However, more needed to be done to enhance the Kanak participation in decision-making at the territorial level. The Special Rapporteur recommended that consideration be given to providing the Customary Senate greater influence and sufficient funding to effectively exercise its functions. The ability of Kanak people to participate in decision-making at the national level was hampered by the shortage of Kanak individuals in mid- and high-level civil service positions within the Government. France and the Government of New Caledonia should redouble efforts to prepare the Kanak people for leadership positions, through programmes like the "400 cadres" programme referred to in the Nouméa Accord. Efforts should be made to increase Kanak participation in voting and to remove any existing obstacles to this participation. Special attention should be given to ensure Kanak registration for participation in future referenda on the status of New Caledonia. 116
- 71. The Special Rapporteur acknowledged the important role played by women in Kanak society and in the building of New Caledonia's future. However, he noted that Kanak women suffered from discrimination in various ways. Greater efforts should be employed to assist Kanak women in their efforts to eradicate this discrimination.¹¹⁷
- 72. The Special Rapporteur noted that available health statistics raised serious concerns that, despite relatively high levels of health available in New Caledonia, Kanaks were not receiving the standard of health services received by other groups. He recommended that the competent authorities continue their efforts to improve the delivery of health services to Kanak people and to enhance Kanak participation in the formation of health policy and

delivery of services, including with a view to better incorporating traditional Kanak health practices. ¹¹⁸

- 73. The Special Rapporteur was concerned that a number of Kanak languages were threatened and in danger of disappearing. He recommended that greater attention be given to preserving and developing Kanak languages, particularly in the educational setting, and immediate action should be taken to counter the threat of future loss. ¹¹⁹
- 74. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the responsible governmental authorities redouble efforts to clean up the harmful environmental effects of past and current mining activities. He noted that the environmental recovery initiatives of the Société Le Nickel, in partnership with local Kanak authorities, and the agreed mechanisms for environmental monitoring of the Goro-Nickel mine and processing plant in South Province, offered positive models in this regard. ¹²⁰
- 75. CRC took note of the enactment of the Law No. 2006-911 of 2006 with regard to Mayotte, which stipulated that all births must be registered. It further acknowledged the constraints with regard to the accessibility of children living along the Maroni and Oyapock rivers in French Guyana. It recommended ensuring birth registration for all children on French territory. It further reiterated its previous recommendation urging France to increase its efforts to ensure birth registration for all children in French Guyana. 121
- 76. CRC expressed concern at the deficiencies of child healthcare in French Guyana to address serious health problems, such as malnutrition, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and at the lack of access to health care for children who were not affiliated to the Social Security System in Mayotte.¹²²

Notes

Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on France from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/2/FRA/2).

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

OP-ICESCR Optional Protocol to ICESCR

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

OP-CRC-IC Optional Protocol to CRC on Communications

ICRMW International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and

Members of Their Families

CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

OP-CRPD Optional Protocol to CRPD

CPED International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced

Disappearance.

- ³ Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art.5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31; Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art.33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13; Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12; Urgent action: CPED, art. 30.
- ⁴ 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
- 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); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva 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). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.
- ⁶ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- 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 Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise 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.
- Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III).
- ⁹ ILO Conventions Nos. 169 (1989) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12100:0::NO::P12100_ INSTRUMENT_ID:312314 and 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_ INSTRUMENT_ID:2551460:NO.
- $^{10}\;$ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 21.
- 11 CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 104.
- ¹² E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, para. 53.
- ¹³ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 104.
- ¹⁴ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 18.
- ¹⁵ CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 10.
- ¹⁶ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.l, para. 9, and Corr.1.
- ¹⁷ Soumission du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés pour la compilation établie par le Haut-Commissariat aux droits de l'Homme : Examen périodique universel (UNHCR), p. 1.
- ¹⁸ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 6.
- ¹⁹ A/HRC/19/63/Add.2, para. 108 (a).
- According to article 5 of the rules of procedure for the International Coordination Committee (ICC) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the different classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: Voting Member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles), B: Non-Voting Member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); C: No Status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- ²¹ For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/20/10, annex.
- ²² CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 34. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning Discrimination (Employment and

Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) — adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012) — available at: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_ COMMENT_ID:2699366.

- ²³ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 19.
- ²⁴ Ibid., para. 9.
- ²⁵ A/HRC/19/63/Add.2, para. 109.
- ²⁶ Ibid., para. 109 (a).
- ²⁷ Ibid., para. 109 (b).
- ²⁸ Ibid., para. 109 (c).
- See http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx.
- The following abbreviations have been used for 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

CRPD Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CED Committee on Enforced Disappearance.

- 31 CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 42.
- 32 CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6/Add.1.
- 33 CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 28.
- ³⁴ CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4/Add.1, CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4/Add.2, and CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4/Add.3.
- Letter dated 24 April 2012 from HR Committee to the Permanent Mission of France in Geneva, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/followup/FranceFUApril2012.pdf.
- ³⁶ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 24.
- ³⁷ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19/Add.1.
- Letter dated 9 March 2012 from CERD to the Permanent Mission of France in Geneva, available at http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/docs/followup/CERD_France_ProcedureDeSuivi_ Mars2012.pdf.
- ³⁹ CCPR/C/102/D/1876/2009, CCPR/C/101/D/1620/2007/Rev.2, CCPR/C/100/D/1760/2008/Rev.1.
- 40 Ibid
- Abbreviations used follow those contained in the communications report of special procedures (A/HRC/18/51 and Corr.1). For the titles of special procedures, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx and www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx.
- ⁴² See OHCHR 2008 Report on Activities and Results, pp. 174, 179, 181, 183, 185 and 192; OHCHR 2009 Report on Activities and Results, pp. 190, 195, 197, 199 and 205; OHCHR 2010 Report on Activities and Results, pp. 79, 83, 84, 87 and 101; OHCHR 2011 Report on Activities and Results, pp. 125, 129, 131, 136, 148, 152 and 167.
- ⁴³ CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 11. See also CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 101 and 102.
- ⁴⁴ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 10.
- ⁴⁵ Ibid., para. 13. See also E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, para. 21.
- E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, , paras. 16 and 36. See also Ibid., para. 21, and ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation concerning the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100: P13100_COMMENT_ID:269936.
- 47 CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 25.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid., para. 24.
- ⁴⁹ E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 13 and 33.
- ⁵⁰ Paras. 30 and 31.
- ⁵¹ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 11.
- ⁵² CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 21.
- 53 CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 19.
- ⁵⁴ CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 18. See also CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 20.
- ⁵⁵ A/HRC/20/30, p. 50.

- ⁵⁶ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 54.
- ⁵⁷ CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 5.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid., para. 17.
- ⁵⁹ CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 24.
- ⁶⁰ Ibid., para. 26.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., para. 28.
- ⁶² Ibid., para. 27.
- 63 Ibid., para. 30.
- ⁶⁴ CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 8. See also E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 19 and 39.
- 65 A/HRC/19/63/Add.2, para. 13.
- ⁶⁶ Ibid., para. 15.
- ⁶⁷ Ibid., para. 74.
- ⁶⁸ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 92 and 93.
- ⁶⁹ CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 36. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0:NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:2698124.
- ⁷⁰ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 57.
- ⁷¹ CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 32.
- ⁷² CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 16.
- ⁷³ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 94.
- ⁷⁴ Ibid., paras. 96 and 97.
- ⁷⁵ CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 22. See also CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 51.
- ⁷⁶ Ibid., para. 9.
- ⁷⁷ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 62.
- ⁷⁸ CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 23.
- ⁷⁹ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 45 and 46.
- ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p= 1000:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_LANG_CODE:2699366,en:NO.
- 81 CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 47, 48 and 49.
- 82 CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 13.
- 83 Ibid., para. 26.
- ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p =1000:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_LANG_CODE:2699366,en:NO.
- ⁸⁵ E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 14 and 34.
- ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p= 1000:13100:0::NO::P13100 COMMENT ID.P13100 LANG CODE:2699366,en:NO.
- E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 17 and 37. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation concerning the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_LANG_CODE:2699365,en:NO.
- $^{88}\;$ E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 20 and 40.
- 89 CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 78 and 79.
- ⁹⁰ E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 22 and 42.
- ⁹¹ Ibid., paras. 24 and 44.
- ⁹² Ibid., paras. 26 and 46.
- 93 Ibid., paras. 27 and 48.
- 94 CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 80 and 81.
- 95 E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 28 and 49.

- ⁹⁶ Ibid., paras. 29 and 30.
- ⁹⁷ CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 69 and 70.
- ⁹⁸ E/C.12/FRA/CO/3, paras. 18 and 38.
- Press release Roma evictions / expulsions: "France must comply with international non-discrimination standards", 29 August 2012, available at http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12466&LangID=E.
- ¹⁰⁰ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 14.
- ¹⁰¹ Ibid., para. 15. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation concerning the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:269890.
- CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 16. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request concerning the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), available from: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/es/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_LANG_CODE:2699366,en:NO.
- ¹⁰³ CERD/C/FRA/CO/17-19, para. 18.
- ¹⁰⁴ UNHCR, p. 2.
- ¹⁰⁵ Ibid., p. 2.
- ¹⁰⁶ Ibid., p. 7.
- ¹⁰⁷ Ibid., p. 3.
- ¹⁰⁸ Ibid., p. 4. See also CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, paras. 14 and 16.
- ¹⁰⁹ Ibid., p. 3–4.
- ¹¹⁰ A/HRC/18/51 and Corr.1, p. 66. See also CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 25.
- ¹¹¹ A/HRC/19/63/Add.2, para. 73.
- ¹¹² Ibid., para. 108 (d).
- 113 CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 84, 85 and 86. See also CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 18.
- 114 CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 14. See also CAT/C/FRA/CO/4-6, para. 22.
- 115 CCPR/C/FRA/CO/4, para. 15.
- ¹¹⁶ A/HRC/18/35/Add.6, paras 72–76.
- ¹¹⁷ Ibid., para. 90.
- ¹¹⁸ Ibid. para. 87.
- ¹¹⁹ Ibid., para. 82.
- ¹²⁰ Ibid., para. 80.
- 121 CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, paras. 41 and 42.
- ¹²² Ibid., para. 72.