



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**List of issues and questions with regard to the consideration
of periodic reports: Côte d'Ivoire**

Addendum

**Replies of Côte d'Ivoire to the list of issues to be taken up in
connection with the consideration of the combined initial and
second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/CIV/1-3)***

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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Introduction

1. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Convention) in its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979.
2. The Convention, with its focus on tackling discrimination based on sex, inaugurated a new era in the promotion and protection of women's rights.
3. By adhering to this Convention, States parties commit to taking all appropriate measures to end discrimination against women in all its forms and to ensure equality between men and women as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
4. Côte d'Ivoire joined the ranks of other countries and ratified the Convention on 18 December 1995.
5. However, it was only on 18 October 2010 that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire submitted its combined initial and second and third periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, reviewing and evaluating measures taken in implementation of the Convention. The document containing those reports was reviewed by the Committee, which issued observations in the form of the questions that are now being addressed in this supplementary report.

Context

6. The report was drafted in a context marked by:
 - The end of a post-election crisis which had brought about a grave humanitarian crisis, an increase in basic needs and the destruction of basic infrastructure
 - The formation of a new Government, which was elected in November 2010
 - The resumption of the electoral process through the organization of parliamentary, municipal and regional council elections
 - The reunification of the country and launching of the process of national reconciliation and post-crisis reconstruction
7. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire is wholly committed to pursuing its efforts to improve the de jure and de facto situation of women and welcomes the Committee's observations. The present Government also believes that this new framework will allow it both to set out its priorities in respect of women and to highlight the emergency measures that it intends to take to meet the new needs created by the grave post-election crisis.
8. In line with the State's vision and principled stance on women's issues, a participatory and inclusive approach was taken to the drafting of this supplementary report, as it was the initial report. The drafting was carried out in a number of stages: (i) pre-collection of answers to questions by the entities concerned; (ii) a workshop to prepare the preliminary draft of the report, and a report validation workshop.
9. The pre-collection exercise led to the production of a consolidated document containing all the answers collected from the relevant entities and organizations. This document served as a basis for the report drafting workshop.
10. The report drafting workshop was a residential event at which all questions and collected answers were discussed and additional information was recorded. It was attended

by 20 participants representing State institutions, women's rights organizations, and development partners.

11. The validation workshop was attended by an even larger number of persons representing institutions, relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development partners. It provided an opportunity to share, amend and validate the text produced at the report drafting workshop.

12. These stages gave the various participants and resource staff the chance to make substantial additions to the report, which provides details and further information on the following points:

- The framework for implementation and dissemination of the Convention
- Temporary special measures
- Stereotypes and harmful practices, gender-based violence, trafficking and exploitation of prostitution
- Women's participation in political and public life, education, employment and health issues
- The problems of rural women and women displaced by war
- Marriage and family

Replies to questions and issues raised

General issues

Paragraph 2 of the list of issues (CEDAW/C/CIV/Q/1-3)

2.1 Extent of consultation with non-governmental organizations

13. The initial report of Côte d'Ivoire was produced with the aid of extensive consultation with civil society organizations, which actively participated in all stages of the drafting process. Developed in close collaboration with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, the report drafting process was organized as follows:

- (a) Multi-stakeholder workshop (December 2009);
- (b) General consultation with Government departments and civil society organizations on the collection of data based on a questionnaire (January 2010);
- (c) Report drafting workshop (February 2010);
- (d) Workshop to review and consolidate the preliminary draft report (May 2010);
- (e) Report validation workshop (June 2010);
- (f) Completion and submission of the report (from June to August 2010)

14. Civil society organizations also participated in the drafting of the present supplementary report.

2.2 Submission of the report to the Ivorian National Assembly

15. In accordance with the practices and laws in effect in Côte d'Ivoire, reports on international instruments (i.e. agreements, treaties and conventions) are not submitted to the

National Assembly for adoption. However, they may be referred to it for the purposes of keeping the members and their constituencies informed.

16. Because of the adverse electoral climate at the time the report was being finalized, it was not possible to submit the report on the Convention to the National Assembly. However, the National Assembly was fully involved in the drafting process as a resource on which to draw and was even represented on the select committee responsible for drafting the present supplementary report. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs has undertaken to submit the report to the National Assembly, as soon as the latter is in place, and to all other institutions of the Republic.

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

Paragraph 3 of the list of issues

3.1 Accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention and acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention

17. Côte d'Ivoire is committed to ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention in the immediate future. It also accepts the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

3.2 Update on progress on the elimination of discriminatory legislation and harmonization of national laws with the provisions of the Convention

18. In collaboration with the ministry that deals with gender issues, the Association des Femmes Juristes et le Réseau des Femmes Africaines Ministres et Parlementaires – Côte d'Ivoire (the Association of Women Lawyers and the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians – Côte d'Ivoire) (REFAMPCI) identified discriminatory legislation. The draft amendments to the Personal and Family Code and the Criminal Code, which modify and repeal discriminatory laws, have been prepared and validated but have not yet been adopted by the Government.

4. Paragraph 4 of the list of issues

19. Pending the voting in of the new parliament by the end of 2011, the President of the Republic has ordered that action be taken to ratify those conventions that have not yet been ratified, thereby demonstrating that he has the political will to tackle discrimination against women.

20. The National Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is responsible for conducting the process of national reconciliation, includes 4 women out of a total of 11 members appointed by presidential decree.

21. Moreover, international, regional and national organizations are working on capacity-building for women with a view to promoting their participation.

- From 23 to 29 January 2011, in Addis Ababa, 10 women representing civil society organization networks received extensive training in negotiation, mediation and conflict-resolution skills, which they then passed on to other national organizations
- On 21 June 2011, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) provided Government representatives and opinion leaders with training on promoting social cohesion and national reconciliation
- On 27, 28 and 29 July 2011, the Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire (the Association of Women Lawyers of Côte d'Ivoire) (AFJCI) invited Government

representatives to an international symposium on the theme: “National dialogue on peace, reconciliation and strengthening democracy: seize this unique opportunity in the political history of Côte d’Ivoire”

Paragraph 5 of the list of issues

5.1 Mechanism to monitor the ratification and publication of international instruments

22. Pursuant to Decree No. 61-157 of 18 May 1961, concerning the ratification and publication of international instruments, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is empowered, together with the President and the Prime Minister, to sign international instruments on behalf of Côte d’Ivoire.

- Following signature, the ratification process is initiated
- The ratification instrument is then deposited with the United Nations
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs notifies the relevant ministry
- However, it does not issue conclusions or recommendations concerning implementation

23. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs has specific responsibility for the monitoring, implementation and dissemination of the Convention and the instruments on gender equality and empowerment of women.

5.2 Progress made in monitoring the implementation of international instruments

24. With regard to the Convention, the Beijing Platform for Action, the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Millennium Development Goals, Côte d’Ivoire has:

- Mainstreamed the gender perspective
- Made a commitment, in a solemn declaration by the Head of State, to work for equal opportunity, equity and gender equality
- Drafted a national policy document on gender

25. Côte d’Ivoire has furthermore developed a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security.

26. In connection with the above texts, two draft orders have been prepared: one on promoting women’s participation in Ivorian governance and politics and the other amending certain provisions of the Electoral Code.

27. The task of evaluating the implementation of the action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) is one of the priorities for action that the Government has entrusted to the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs with a view to promoting good governance. The evaluation exercise will allow for the identification of bottlenecks and help the Government to build the capacities of those responsible for implementing this instrument in the context of post-crisis reconstruction.

28. In the meantime, all programmes, plans and projects, such as the programme on assisted voluntary return, psychosocial care, social reintegration, etc., take account of the gender dimension, and specific support is offered to women involved in agricultural work and income-generating activities.

Visibility of the Convention and Optional Protocol

Paragraph 6 of the list of issues

6.1 *Measures taken to disseminate the Convention*

29. The following measures have been taken by the Government, in collaboration with NGOs, to disseminate the Convention:

- Resumption of conferences, workshops and international meetings on women's rights
- Programmes on women's rights on Ivorian television, and national and local radio stations (e.g. Women's Health Radio)
- Publication of newspapers and magazines on the promotion of women's rights
- Special women's days to develop awareness-raising activities focusing on women's rights in Côte d'Ivoire
- Training of religious and community leaders on women's rights
- Development of manuals on the subjects of protecting girl maids, female genital mutilation, and human rights, especially those of women
- Training on the Convention for women and men
- Training of journalists on the Convention
- Training of judges and defence and security officers on the Convention

6.2 *Measures envisaged by Côte d'Ivoire for an appropriate communication policy on the Convention*

30. These measures will focus on the following strategic areas:

- Information on, and public awareness of, women's rights issues
- Ratification of all international conventions on women's rights
- Political and legislative reforms to ensure that greater account is taken of women's issues
- Improvement of existing policies on maternal health, girls' education and the participation and protection of women
- Challenges to sexist comments and images in the media and sexist images on billboards
- Action to link the images of well-known personalities (especially women) from the political, artistic and sports worlds with efforts to disseminate the Convention

Access to justice

Paragraph 7 of the list of issues

7.1 *Action to improve effective access to justice for women, including victims of gender-based violence and other forms of discrimination against women*

31. Judicial reform is under way. It involves both structural and legislative measures and focuses on the following objectives:

- Making the justice process more accessible through the construction of new courts, the expansion of the judicial workforce and the establishment of legal aid services in jurisdictions throughout the country
- Making the cost of legal services affordable, especially for women
- Disseminating information about laws and judicial procedures and imposing sanctions on the perpetrators of female genital mutilation
- Opening ad hoc Government offices at the Central Abidjan Court to receive complaints from victims of acts carried out during the post-election crisis
- Enhancing the intervention capacity of the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children

32. In addition to these measures, the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs has a small budget line to assist victims in court.

33. In addition, in 2008, the State, with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the municipal authorities in Attécoubé, set up the Centre for Prevention of Sexual Violence and Assistance for Victims (PAVVIOS) in the municipality of Attécoubé in Abidjan to provide victims with holistic (psychosocial, medical, security and legal) care. This initial experience in Côte d'Ivoire has made it possible to provide care for rape victims ranging in age from 2 to 35 years. Three rapists have been prosecuted and convicted.

National machinery for the advancement of women

Paragraph 8 of the list of issues

8. Increase in the budget of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs

34. Women's issues are a cross-cutting theme addressed by various ministries, including those that deal inter alia with health and HIV/AIDS, education, social affairs and employment, and youth issues. This explains why the budget allocated to the ministry is small. However, the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs, which plays a central role in coordinating activities for women, should be seeing a substantial increase in its budget.

35. The activities of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs, like those of all other ministries, could be financed by the State under the public investments project, provided that applications are correctly submitted and substantiated.

36. Significant financial and technical support for the Ministry is provided by United Nations agencies (UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN-Women, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) and certain bilateral partners and international NGOs.

Temporary special measures

Paragraph 9 of the list of issues

9.1 Time frame for implementation of the measures introduced by Côte d'Ivoire in relation to the 30 per cent quota

37. For the most part, these measures were to be implemented at short notice in preparation for the 2008 elections. Unfortunately, Côte d'Ivoire was confronted with crises

which created other priorities. The result is that it is only now that the draft order on the application of a quota for the participation of Ivorian women in governance and political life is to be signed by the new President of the Republic.

38. The President has shown the requisite political will by giving a personal undertaking, in his electoral manifesto, “to table a bill on systematic parity between men and women in political life and positions of responsibility in government (first step: at least 30 per cent of positions)”.

9.2 *Mechanism to monitor the implementation of strategies and coordination with NGOs and to coordinate between national and international activities aimed at combating discrimination against women*

39. The Directorate of Gender Equality and Promotion of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs runs the Gender Group in conjunction with NGOs, while United Nations agencies carry out coordination and follow-up activities. (See paragraph 142 of the initial report for details on the Directorate’s functions.)

40. The Gender and Development Group, run by the Directorate, was set up to develop a common understanding and concerted action with Government departments, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations concerned with gender issues in Côte d’Ivoire.

41. The Directorate of Gender Equality and Promotion receives institutional support from UNDP, which trains its staff, builds its capacities, and assists it with carrying out projects, which it funds. Cooperation activities are organized under an annual workplan. Virtually the same arrangements exist with UNFPA, under the programme of support for the promotion of gender, human rights and culture and the programme to strengthen the fight against gender-based violence. UN-Women provides financial and technical support to the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs to help it to fulfil its mandate on gender issues.

42. With regard to the national education system, there is a partnership network for the promotion of girls’ education in Côte d’Ivoire known as the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiatives (UNGEI-CI). The network includes the relevant ministries, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations.

43. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs of Côte d’Ivoire is developing standard operating procedures in order to enhance the effectiveness of the machinery for preventing gender-based violence and the responses of stakeholders in dealing with that issue.

44. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs set up the Coordination of Ivorian Women for elections and post-crisis reconstruction (COFEM CI – REPC) group to help women to speak with one voice and to act as a pressure group to promote women’s participation.

Paragraph 10 of the list of issues

45. In addition to all the programmes to tackle poverty outlined in the initial report, Côte d’Ivoire has a poverty reduction strategy paper for 2009–2015, which has just been revised to take account of the effects of the post-election crisis. The strategy paper includes objectives 1 and 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, on poverty reduction and gender equality and the outcomes envisaged therein include that of ensuring social welfare for all, which is to be attained through the effects of the implementation of Strategic Orientation 4: “Improvement of the Accessibility and Quality of Basic Services, Protection of the Environment, Promotion of Gender Equality and Social Protection”.

46. In parallel with the development of the poverty reduction strategy paper, programmes and field projects are carried out at both the central and regional levels (NGOs, United Nations agencies, civil society) in a comprehensive attempt to combat poverty and, specifically, to reduce the poverty gap between women and men. Programmes and projects of note include those listed hereunder.

Agriculture and animal resources

47. The national anti-poverty programme for women and young people (male and female) has been led by the Ministry of Planning and Development, with support from UNDP, since 2007. Its main activities during 2008 were conducted in 24 departments across the country and involved 120 groups with a total of about 5,000 members, of whom over 85 per cent were women.

48. This programme was extended and named Support Programme for Poverty Reduction and the MDGs for 2009–2013. Component 2 of this project is entitled: Support for recovery and diversification of activities for communities, youth and women, and support for the development of local microenterprises. The implementation of these projects in regions which have not been affected by the post-election crisis has shown encouraging results.

49. Under the programme, social reintegration activities have contributed to the implementation of numerous microprojects involving a total of 11,216 people — 6,738 women (61 per cent) and 4,519 men (39 per cent) — in efforts to build up production capital and livestock (pigs and poultry) resources with a view to developing income-generating activities for vulnerable groups.

50. Under the Rural Economic Development Programme for the production of onions, rice and maize, which was piloted by the Ministry of Agriculture in the region of Denguélé and Savanes (2007–2010), funding was provided for 60 projects involving 158 women's groups in the Savanes region in 2007–2008.

Loans granted to women's associations and organizations to set up or develop income-generating activities

51. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs, through the Directorate for the Promotion of the Family, Women and Socio-economic Activities, has established a support fund for women's start-ups and women's socio-economic integration. The results of these activities are as follows:

- Support was given for a cooperative in Sakassou to set up a credit union and savings bank in December 2006
- Support was given to legally constituted women's cooperatives to obtain loans and grants
- Fifteen women's groups with a total of 1,095 members received assistance
- Loans worth 11,194,440 CFA francs (CFAF) were given to women out of a total of CFAF 67,255,410 granted in the Zanzan region in December 2006 by the Directorate of Gender Equality and Promotion of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs

52. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs piloted the Innovative Management Project for the National Women and Development Fund in the district of Abidjan. Under the project, responsibility for redistribution of resources is assigned to microfinance institutions, which charge not more than 12 per cent for loans, with no prior

savings requirement, in contrast to the usual credit conditions. This project, with a fund of CFAF 80 million, financed 452 projects in 2007.

53. A loan of CFAF 30 million was given by the national NGO Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (REFAMPCI) to the women of the Federation of Daloa Women's Associations for Peace and Reconciliation for income-generating activities.

Support for women displaced by war as a result of the military and political crisis

54. This support is reflected in:

- The implementation of a post-crisis institutional and multisectoral support project entitled "Assistance and social reintegration for women victims of violence in conflict situations in Côte d'Ivoire, 2008–2010". This project has made it possible to provide economic assistance to 1,955 displaced women who have returned to Bouaké and income-generating activities for 55 groups consisting of a total of 1,577 women in Séguéla and Mankono.

55. Action has been taken to diversify income-generating activities for displaced women and young people living in poverty and to repair basic community infrastructure in order to improve living conditions. From 2004 to 2008, over 327,159 persons, more than 70 per cent of them women, benefited from these activities, in both the Government zone and the zone still occupied by the former rebels.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

Paragraph 11 of the list of issues

11.1 Scale, impact and financing of measures to eliminate stereotypes

56. Since 2004, the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire has stepped up gender training, with an emphasis on gender stereotypes and gender-based violence.

57. Six hundred national actors (from Government departments, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies) have been trained by the Directorate of Gender Equality and Promotion of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs. These training and awareness sessions have been rolled out throughout the country by civil society organizations and Government representatives.

58. In education, the impact has been an increase in the school enrolment ratio for girls. Modern young mothers now educate their sons and daughters in the same way, and, in some places, women participate in meetings and decision-making. The crises that Côte d'Ivoire has undergone have altered the perception of the importance of the role of women in a male-dominated society. The King of Bouna in the north of Côte d'Ivoire has recognized that it is through women that his kingdom has survived the crisis and henceforth that they should be involved in decision-making.

59. Given the cross-cutting nature of gender issues, funding for measures to eliminate stereotypes is provided on a multisectoral basis. The funding is used to reduce domestic burdens by providing for the installation of water pumps, donations of grinding equipment, free schooling, donations of school kits, school canteen facilities, updating of textbooks, literacy programmes, health services, income generating activities, etc.

60. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs also has a small budget allocation to assist girls in vulnerable situations. From 2009 to July 2011, 90 girls between

7 and 10 years of age who had been abandoned by their parents received academic support from the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs, through the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children.

61. Development partners such as UNICEF make a significant contribution by donating school kits for young schoolgirls. The World Food Programme (WFP) helps support the education of girls by providing food for parents as a reward for assistance with domestic work.

11.2 Information on intermediaries, women's organizations and other NGOs called upon to implement these measures

62. Various NGOs work with women and children. They specialize in combating violence against women and the practice of female genital mutilation and in promoting women's rights. The NGOs include: the Réseau des Femmes Africaines Ministres et Parlementaires (Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians) (REFAMPCI), the (Ivorian Network of Women's Organizations) (RIOF), the Organisation des Femmes Actives de Cote d'Ivoire (Cote d'Ivoire Working Women's Organization) (OFACI), the Association des Femmes Juristes (Association of Women Lawyers of Côte d'Ivoire) (AFJCI), the Organisation Nationale pour l'Enfant et la Femme (National Organization for Women and Children) (ONEF) and the Djigui Foundation (see list of participants attached as an annex). Their activities have focused on:

- Raising community awareness of and disseminating texts and laws on violence against women
- Training and awareness-raising for religious leaders, carried out by the Djigui Foundation
- Setting up "action and vigilance" committees (454)
- Declaring the abandonment of the practice of female genital mutilation by surrendering the instruments used to perform the procedure, and retraining excisers: 300 former excisers in 2007 in Zouan-Hounien and 15 in Bondoukou in 2010
- Training of traditional leaders, guardians of tradition and charismatic opinion leaders

11.3 Prospects for a comprehensive State plan for the elimination of stereotypes

63. The Ministry for Family, Women and Children looks forward to the results of the signing of the two draft orders, one on raising women's participation in Ivorian governance and political life and the other on the amendment of certain provisions of the Electoral Code concerning the promotion of women candidates in elections.

64. The evaluation of the action plan for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) included in the list of Government priorities will identify bottlenecks and enable the Government to build capacities on gender issues, national coordination of implementation activities in the post-crisis reconstruction framework and strategies for the elimination of stereotypes.

65. It is hoped that after a number of years of outreach and awareness-raising on practices harmful to the health of mothers and children, Act No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 will be strictly applied.

66. The Personal and Family Code and the draft text amending the Criminal Code should be adopted in the near future.

Violence against women

Paragraph 12 of the list of issues

12.1 *Measures taken to provide assistance to victims of sexual violence during the conflict*

67. Over the period from the military and political crisis of 2002 to the post-election crisis, Côte d'Ivoire has taken significant steps to assist all victims, including those subjected to sexual violence. Assistance ranges from counselling to psychological support, medical care, socio-economic rehabilitation and legal assistance. In addition to all the support mechanisms listed in the initial report (paras. 275–289), a range of measures have been taken, as set out below.

68. A specific ministry for war victims was established to identify victims with a view to providing for their overall care.

69. Psychological care is provided by the Centre for Assistance and Psychological Care of the above ministry.

70. The number of counselling offices (see paragraph 276 of the initial report) has risen to 19: 11 in Abidjan and a further 8 throughout the country.

71. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the municipal council and with funding from UNDP, established the PAVVIOS Centre in the municipality of Attécoubé in Abidjan to provide holistic care for survivors. The centre operates in the same way as the centre of excellence for women from the area of Man.

72. In July 2011, the Minister for the Family, Women and Social Affairs created a special unit offering psychological care to victims under conditions that protect their anonymity. This initiative by the Minister followed a visit by Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. In the above institutions, particularly the International Criminal Court, the emphasis is on discretion and a high level of security for victims who, as well as being cared for, are provided with assistance to file complaints.

12.2 *Measures taken to combat impunity*

73. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire is determined to combat impunity and has therefore asked the International Criminal Court to investigate crimes committed during the post-election crisis. It also encourages the national courts to prosecute persons believed to have committed offences, who will be given a fair trial. On 5 September, the Head of State issued a decree establishing the Commission for Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation. Additional measures taken are outlined hereunder.

74. The counselling and psychological support offices established by the Minister for the Family, Women and Social Affairs have provided 52 clients with help that has allowed them to regain their self-confidence and to feel safe. These persons are willing to file complaints against those who have wronged and abused them.

75. An assistance and counselling unit for victims of the post-election crisis was set up by the Ministry of Justice.

76. The legal clinic run by AFJCI is a strategic partner of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs. It provides assistance and legal support to victims of violence of all kinds.

77. There are also the military courts. A military tribunal in Abidjan has heard cases of serious human rights violations, including several cases of rape, assault and battery and kidnapping of women.

78. As a result of these measures, investigations and prosecutions have been carried out in cases involving members of the United Nations armed forces accused of committing acts defined as violence against girls and women. Soldiers found guilty have been sent back to their countries to serve their sentences.

79. In keeping with the Government's priorities, the Ministry of Human Rights and Civil Liberties intends to:

- Create a framework for combating impunity
- Establish a monitoring service to combat impunity
- Establish a national human rights and civil liberties observatory in Abidjan, the capital, with a branch in the Moyen-Cavally area of the Central West region

Paragraph 13 of the list of issues

13.1 Application of Act No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998, which prohibits female genital mutilation

80. Real obstacles, such as cultural and social factors, hinder the application of the law against female genital mutilation in Côte d'Ivoire. To deal with this problem, the Government has focused on awareness-raising and dissemination of the law. Several awareness-raising projects have helped to bring about a relative reduction in the prevalence rate of female genital mutilation from 46 to 36 per cent in Côte d'Ivoire. There may be reason to doubt this level now however, as, the series of crises in the country have meant that some people left to their own devices have returned to these harmful traditional practices.

81. It should be noted, however, that several perpetrators of female genital mutilation have been arrested by the administrative authorities and the police. For example, in the north of Côte d'Ivoire, two persons who performed excisions and a village chief and his associates were arrested for performing excisions on four 10-year-old girls. In the Central West region, 4 excisers and 18 parents were incarcerated for performing excisions on 35 girls ranging in age from six months to nine years.

82. We are pleased to report that Côte d'Ivoire has decided to proceed with the rigorous enforcement of Act No. 98-757 of 23 December 1998 and with a systematic crackdown on female genital mutilation. Accordingly, in September 2011, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire took part in the international campaign for the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of a resolution to ban female genital mutilation worldwide.

13.2 Systematic action to change harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation

83. Côte d'Ivoire has just ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, in which these cruel and harmful practices are denounced and condemned and States parties are called upon to eradicate them.

84. To combat violence against women, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire issued Decree No. 2000-133 of 23 February 2000, by which it decided inter alia to establish the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children, to run counselling offices, form partnerships with law enforcement services and judges and set up monitoring committees in communities at risk.

85. To date, 454 "action and vigilance" committees dealing with female genital mutilation have been set up by partner NGOs of the Ministry for the Family, Women and

Social Affairs, which takes advantage of every opportunity to raise awareness of these harmful practices.

86. There is also very significant involvement on the part of Muslim religious organizations such as the Djigui Foundation, which trains and educates members of its own community in particular and the wider community in general.

87. All the above measures prompt practitioners to abandon these practices.

Paragraph 14 of the list of issues

14. Responses by Côte d'Ivoire to the recommendations of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on combating sexual violence

88. Before the post-election crisis, the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs oversaw the formulation of the national strategy for combating gender-based violence. The strategy has yet to be endorsed, with the inclusion of elements to take account of the effects of the post-election crisis. Meanwhile, the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children continues its action against violence and uses partnerships and networks with civil society organizations and international organizations to prevent, stop or crack down on sexual violence.

14.2 Time frame for setting up a comprehensive care system for victims of gender-based violence

89. This system is run by the Centre for the Prevention of Sexual Violence and Assistance for Victims in Attécoubé, a municipality of Abidjan as part of a pilot project that is due to be rolled out to all municipalities in Côte d'Ivoire. The Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs intends to roll out the project with financial support from its development partners. There is another centre in the west of the country, known as the Centre of Excellence of the Women of Man. The legal aid system is to be developed to ensure that victims feel confident enough to go to court.

Paragraph 15 of the list of issues

90. The State intends to cut the costs of bringing cases to court, to vigorously tackle corruption and to ensure good governance in legal proceedings. To this end, it has initiated a broad programme of legislative reform which takes account of the issue of gender-based violence. A draft bill has been prepared, amending the following articles of the Criminal Code: 138, 334, 336, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 350, 352, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 366, 367, 370, 387, 391 and 395. The new articles 344, 346, 347 and 354 of the text prescribes penalties for domestic violence and marital rape.

Paragraph 16 of the list of issues

16. Measures to combat the stigmatization of victims of sexual violence and domestic violence

91. Awareness-raising and information activities aimed at achieving behavioural change are carried out in agreement with religious leaders, local councils and traditional leaders. Various communication media are used: 5,000 posters, 3,000 cartoon strips and messages, in local languages, on national and local radio stations on the subject of gender-based violence.

92. Awareness-raising activities that the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs conducted through the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children from 2009 to 2010 were targeted at 68 schools in the district of Abidjan, 58 youth associations in communities where there were counselling offices, 48 student

associations, universities and higher education colleges, and 2,849 communities throughout the country. In addition, 229 women and three unions have benefited from capacity-building assistance and home visits have been carried out.

16.2 Measures taken to provide victims with psychological and medical care

93. These measures involve counselling and psychological care provided at the above-mentioned counselling offices, reception centres and shelters, together with programmes in which income-generating activities are used to facilitate social reintegration. A reception and transit centre in Bassam for the comprehensive care of victims is due to be opened shortly (2012).

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

Paragraph 17 of the list of issues

94. Although there are no special provisions in Ivorian law that punishing the trafficking of women and girls, articles 334–341 and 362 of the Criminal Code prohibit acts such as procuring and offences against public decency (334–341), child abuse (362) and the abduction of minors. The reform mentioned in the section of this report on paragraph 15 of the list of issues involves the introduction of provisions to crack down on trafficking and exploitation of prostitution.

Political participation and decision-making

Paragraph 18 of the list of issues

18.1 Measures taken by the State to encourage political parties to put forward more women candidates

95. The State has not yet taken any special measures in this regard. Civil society organizations have appealed to the political parties to take action on this issue.

96. In preparation for the next elections, women's NGOs are running fund-raising projects to support women candidates. These NGOs include the Coalition des Femmes Leaders de Côte d'Ivoire (Coalition of Female Leaders of Côte d'Ivoire) (CFeLCI) and the Côte d'Ivoire branch of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF-CI).

18.2 Additional measures to increase female participation in politics

97. The measures concerned involve: the draft order establishing a quota for women's participation in Ivorian governance and politics; the draft order amending and supplementing the Electoral Code; the draft evaluation of the implementation of the action plan for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo, Mozambique on 11 July 2003; and the draft order ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

Education

Paragraph 19 of the list of issues

98. The measures are as follows:

- A diagnostic study on literacy policy was conducted by the Ministry of Education and its partners in 2010 to improve the literacy promotion system
- An awareness day for the public, the authorities and partners to support literacy development was held on Thursday, 8 September 2011 on the theme “Literacy and Peace”
- The occasion of the 46th International Literacy Day on 8 September 2011 was an opportunity to raise awareness of the merits of literacy for women and men
- In December 2011, a literacy project will be launched for village groups mobilized around school canteens and food cooperatives in which the main protagonists are women

Paragraph 20 of the list of issues

99. In 2002, primary school textbooks were revised and stereotypical images showing women only doing housework were removed. The images now show both women and men doing the same jobs: engineers, doctors, salespersons, cooks, etc.

100. The circular issued by ministerial decree (1373/MEN/DESAC/SD-EPT) on 28 August 2000, on the enrolment of girls in the first year of primary school, which is still in force, is one of the sound measures taken by the Government to remove the barriers to access for boys and girls to education. One of the effects has been that there are now equal numbers of boys and girls in some classes.

- Teachers trained in gender issues change their behaviour towards girls, which leads to increased participation in by girls classes
- A review programme for curricula and teaching/learning materials is planned and included in the poverty reduction strategy paper

Paragraph 21 of the list of issues

101. Awareness and gender training for teachers and communities have helped target groups to understand the importance of girls’ education and to agree to enrol and keep girls at school.

- The number of NGOs involved in the education of girls has increased.
- Clubs for mothers of girl pupils were created before the post-election crisis to provide schooling for children, especially girls; they are very successful.
- The United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) network has also been a significant asset for girls’ education. The number of NGOs which are members of the UNGEI-CI network continues to grow: from a core group of 30 NGOs, the number of members now stands at 110.

102. As a result of all these measures, the enrolment rate for girls in areas with low enrolment scores has improved markedly.

103. See the following example.

Table 1
Touba Regional Directorate of Education (DREN)

<i>Sex</i>	<i>2009–2010</i>	<i>2010–2011</i>
Girls	3 666	6 077
Boys	8 693	9 658

In schools:

Table 2
Boningoué State Primary School

<i>Sex</i>	<i>2009–2010</i>	<i>2010–2011</i>
Girls	57	66
Boys	55	35

Table 3
Bondoukou Regional Directorate of Education (DREN)

<i>Sex</i>	<i>2009–2010</i>	<i>2010–2011</i>
Girls	55 941	57 423
Boys	66 430	70 340

Owing to the post-election crisis, there has been a drop in numbers in some schools, especially in rural areas.

Table 4
Yaokro State Primary School

<i>Sex</i>	<i>2009–2010</i>	<i>2010–2011</i>
Girls	155	120
Boys	193	125

Table 5
Ouatté State Primary School

<i>Sex</i>	<i>2009–2010</i>	<i>2010–2011</i>
Girls	205	160
Boys	245	176

Sources: DREN Touba and Bondoukou statistics.

Paragraph 22 of the list of issues

104. The Ministry of Education conducted an evaluation of 43 Islamic religious schools in July 2011 to check compliance with official teaching standards, with the aim of providing a good quality basic education to the thousands of children who attend these schools. In the light of the evaluation, a number of measures and specific steps have been taken, including the following:

- A specific support plan for Koranic schools has been developed
- Steps have been taken to motivate the founders of Islamic schools to join in the project
- The costs of accreditation for these schools have been reduced

106. All schools in the national education system in Côte d'Ivoire, whether they are co-educational or not, follow the same curriculum.

Employment

Paragraph 23 of the list of issues

107. As part of the post-crisis reconstruction effort, the Government has introduced a raft of measures, such as boosting appropriate job training through strengthened public-private partnerships.

108. In technical education this commitment is reflected in the establishment, in collaboration with the General Confederation of Côte d'Ivoire Companies, of a joint committee to provide the country with a regulatory framework offering jobs to girls and boys with vocational training.

109. Reform of technical education is under way. One of its aims is to build a partnership between businesses and training colleges in their respective areas of expertise in order to provide a long-term employment solution for graduates of these colleges, and to increase the number of places and provide more opportunities for girls and boys.

110. This ministerial department also has a branch that manages vocational training and trains girls and boys who are not attending school. As part of the post-crisis reintegration process, the branch strives to reintegrate young persons aged over 16 who do not attend school or are having learning difficulties at primary school and secondary school.

Health

Paragraph 24 of the list of issues

24.1 *Government efforts to increase the accessibility to medical services for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission*

111. The Government has taken the following action:

- The availability and accessibility of counselling and testing services have been improved
- Some 238 facilities were set up in 2009, raising the number of facilities from a total of 316 in 2008 to 554 in 2009, out of 720 health centres offering prenatal care
- Advisory/screening and treatment services have been established around the country
- Advisory/screening services have been integrated into family planning services
- Services are matched to demand

112. As a result of these efforts, 342,698 pregnant women (64.91 per cent) attending prenatal consultations have been screened with a view to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

24.2 *HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for pregnant women*

113. The quality and effectiveness of mother-to-child transmission prevention services are to be improved through:

- Routine screening, an option that is currently offered at a number of facilities
- The provision of antiretroviral treatment for women who need it
- Early screening of infants born to infected mothers

- The inclusion of measures to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS in doctors' training and in training of nurses and midwives
114. The availability and management of medication is to be improved through:
- The distribution of antiretrovirals and other strategic medication assigned to the Public Health Pharmacy
 - The organization of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) medication supply chain
115. Services are matched to demand through:
- Capacity-building and training, supervision missions and coaching to improve the skills of service providers
 - Simplification of the screening algorithm and the use of the finger prick blood collection method
116. The availability and accessibility of advice and screening services is to be improved through:
- The opening of 171 new sites
 - Mass screening, mobile screening and free screening

Paragraph 25 of the list of issues

25.1 Impact of the national programme to reduce the maternal mortality ratio

117. With regard to sexuality and reproduction, under the National Programme for Reproductive Health and Family Planning, a number of activities have been undertaken to reduce the maternal morbidity and mortality rates and to provide girls with ongoing access to services and information on health and nutrition. The impact of these activities can be seen in improvements in measures taken to lower this ratio.

118. In terms of policies and programmes:

- The road map for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rates was officially launched on 29 September 2008
- The National Development Plan, 2009–2013, was revised
- The national policy on reproductive health and the policy document on reproductive health services were developed

119. In the operational domain, the following activities were undertaken from 2003 to 2007:

- Refurbishment of maternity units and/or operating theatres in 51 health facilities providing emergency obstetric care
- Medical care for 306 women with fistulas
- Some 202 health facilities with medical supplied equipment and reproductive health products
- Establishment of regional committees to combat cancer
- Supply of contraceptives to all health facilities in the country

120. In addition to these results, the following initiatives should contribute to reducing maternal mortality.

- Free ante-natal consultations in the area covered by the project from 2006 to 2008
- Integration of 400 family planning services into 1,529 health facilities
- Completion of three phases of the tetanus vaccination campaign for pregnant women in 2009
- Free distribution of treated mosquito nets to protect against malaria
- Access to reproductive health services around the clock
- Subsidized maternity treatment
- Subsidized maternity care and delivery assistance and supply of free delivery kits in rural areas
- Priority for urgent cases in determining access to health care in order to promote and protect women's health

25.2 *The legalization of abortion*

121. Côte d'Ivoire is concerned about the issue of abortion, but has no plans as yet to legalize the practice.

Paragraph 26 of the list of issues

26.1 *The establishment of sexual and reproductive health programmes for women and girls as recommended by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

122. Côte d'Ivoire has already addressed this issue, which was raised by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. It has established a sexual and reproductive health programme for women and girls: the National Programme for Reproductive Health and Family Planning.

123. Set up in 1996, the programme is reviewed every five years. Since 2005, it has been reviewed to address more effectively new challenges such as gender-based violence, sexual violence, the basic causes of maternal mortality, problems with, and resistance to, family planning, etc.

26.2 *Consolidation of health facilities*

124. In keeping with its priorities for the period from July to December 2011, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire decided to:

- Refurbish and re-equip damaged health facilities
- Enhance the quality of services provided
- Promote hospital and community hygiene

125. The new President of the Republic is committed to building accessible basic health services facilities every 5 km.

Rural women

Paragraph 27 of the list of issues

Several programmes have been implemented, including those listed below.

126. The Water and Gender Programme is a component of the training programme on management and maintenance techniques for the improved village water systems that was

established by the Water, Sustainable Development and Peace Unit of the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs to monitor the development of these systems in villages. Positive results were scored in three pilot villages: Diatokro in Aboisso and Amébee and Tiaha in Dabou, where, between 2006 and 2008, improvements in the operation of the systems were made. In terms of decision-making, various projects involved larger numbers of women in decision-making meetings and in management of water points through development committees, which now include both women and men. At Diatokro, the committee has 22 members, including 11 women or half the number, i.e. there is now total parity.

127. There is a programme for the empowerment of women involving the distribution of grinding machines in rural areas.

128. The programme for the creation of mothers' clubs for girl pupils targets rural women. This programme is run by the Ministry of Education and gives women a chance to voice their opinions. It is women who now make the decision to enrol girls in school.

129. There is the literacy project for village groups mobilized around school canteens and food cooperatives, in which the main protagonists are women.

130. Activity and early childhood development centres have been set up, where trained facilitators care for children of from 0 to 6 years of age. They run stimulating activities in a secure environment, allowing mothers to attend to their many daily tasks. An evaluation has shown that the best eight pupils who came top of their class in primary school came from these centres (source: *DREN* Bondoukou 2010).

131. It is clear that these programmes do not address all the needs of rural women. However, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire will strive to implement other programmes to satisfy all the practical and strategic needs of women.

Internally displaced and refugee women

Paragraph 28 of the list of issues

132. Several ministries have made it a priority to take measures to encourage internally displaced persons and refugees abroad to return to their place of habitual residence.

133. The Minister for African Integration has made several trips to Ghana to reassure these persons.

134. The Minister for the Family, Women and Social Affairs undertook a mission in which she visited the affected families and the host areas in Duekoué, Man and Danané to see for herself the real needs of those living in the west of the country who endured the horrors of the post-election crisis. This mission was undertaken as part of the Government's programme for restoring social cohesion.

135. Civil society partners and international organizations (the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), etc.) are also involved in work to facilitate the return of displaced women and men.

136. Returnees are guaranteed food and non-food assistance, and homes and production units which were destroyed are reconstructed.

137. Other measures undertaken at an earlier stage should allow all stakeholders to provide better protection to internally displaced and refugee women. These measures are:

- Dissemination of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)

- The adoption by the Government of the national action plan (2008–2012) for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)
- Training programmes for army officers, central and regional administrators, civil society organizations, the media, and all law enforcement services on women's human rights and on measures to combat gender-based violence in time of conflict

Marriage and family

Paragraph 29 of the list of issues

29.1 The minimum age for marriage

138. The minimum age for marriage is 18 for women and 20 for men. Below these ages, a dispensation from the public prosecutor is required.

29.2 Action taken against early and forced marriage

139. Through the National Committee to Combat Violence against Women and Children, the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs organizes regularly awareness campaigns targeting religious and community leaders. It produces public awareness messages (posters, leaflets, comic strips, messages in local languages) on the theme of early and forced marriage and also participates in radio and television broadcasts to express its condemnation of all forms of violence against women and harmful practices.

140. Other initiatives have also been taken by NGOs to combat the practice of forced and early marriage. For example, in 2000, the Association Ivorienne des droits de la Femme (Ivorian Association for Women's Rights) (AIDF) arranged the release of Fanta Kéita, a girl aged only 16, who was convicted by a court of murdering the man that her family had forced her to marry and who had beaten her to satisfy his sexual urges.

Paragraph 30 of the list of issues

141. It is stated in paragraph 235 of the initial report that 35 per cent of married women are in polygamous marriages.

The following clarifications are provided to clear up any confusion. Polygamy is prohibited under Ivorian law. Paragraph 235 of the report is referring to:

- Legal marriages, where the husband has extramarital relationships which are generally known about and accepted by the community
- Customary and/or religious marriages; these are quite common and polygamy is tolerated in such cases

Paragraph 31 of the list of issues

31.1 Reform of the Criminal Code to discriminatory practices relating to widowhood

142. Through the draft revision of criminal laws, the State hopes to ensure better legal and judicial handling of all gender-based violence. Hence, all forms of violence or discrimination against women still practised in Côte d'Ivoire are addressed in the draft revision. The new article 347, of the draft Criminal Code prescribes penalties for discriminatory practices relating to widowhood.

31.2 *Effective application of the prohibition on dowries*

143. Various forms of resistance, such as social and cultural rigidities, impede the effective application of certain legal provisions relating to marriage. The practice of paying a dowry is an age-old custom practised in all cultures in the country. To deal with this issue, successive Governments, in conjunction with civil society organizations, have pursued awareness-raising efforts based on communication aimed at changing behaviour.

144. Various outreach programmes have produced significant results, since dowries have now become purely symbolic in almost all parts of the country. Through the Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs, the State will continue its efforts to ensure compliance with the laws in force.

Conclusion

145. On the recommendation of the United Nations committee that deals with the Convention, Côte d'Ivoire has drafted this supplementary report to provide details on the issues raised and the situation of women in the post-crisis context in general and the post-election crisis in particular.

146. The Committee doubtless understands the impact of the numerous crises with which Côte d'Ivoire has had to contend in little over a decade. These crises account for the regulatory bottlenecks and the somewhat uneven progress made with regard to the advancement of women. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has often been forced to revise its priorities.

147. The lack of recent statistics, for example, on the measurable impact of projects and programmes for women, is a gap that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire intends to fill now that it is working in a more peaceful climate.

148. It is true that this supplementary report makes frequent reference to draft orders and the revision of legal instruments that benefit women and are well advanced, but have not yet been adopted. However, one thing should be remembered: whether they are from rural or urban areas, whether they are university graduates or even illiterate, Ivorian women have a great awareness of their role and importance in this country as agents of development.

149. Consequently, women are determined to seize the opportunity offered by the post-election crisis and the process of restoration of social cohesion, national reconciliation, parliamentary and municipal elections and general consultations to take on the roles which rightfully belong to them in public and political life.

150. With the personal commitment of the President of the Republic and the Government, it is hoped that women's issues in Côte d'Ivoire will be addressed with the seriousness that they deserve.

Annexes

Participants at the workshop on validation of the supplementary report of Côte d'Ivoire on the Convention

Bassam, 6, 7 and 8 September 2011

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 - Ministry of Health
 - Ministry of Planning and Development
 - Ministry of the Economy and Finance
 - Ministry of Human Rights
 - Ministry of Justice, Minister of Justice
 - Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reform
 - Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Solidarity
- (3) NGOs**
 - AID AFRIQUE
 - ONEF
 - AFJCI
 - OFACI
- (4) Private sector**
 - Ivorian employers
- (5) Minister's Office, Ministry for the Family, Women and Social Affairs**
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- UNOCI – Gender Unit and Human Rights Division

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Abidjan, 17 September 2011

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