

# Congo

Congo is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: African System



Congo has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Additionally, Congo has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Congo to the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Antonie Bissangou v. Congo*, the ACHPR found that the State violated provisions of the African Charter through the destruction of property by the Congolese National Police Force during civil unrest in 1993, and requested the State pay compensation. See ACommHPR, [Antonie Bissangou v. Congo](#), Communication No. 253/02, 40<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, 29 November 2006.

Congo has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted two missions in Congo regarding the situation of indigenous populations, in [2005](#) and [2010](#).

Congo has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Congo is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Congo's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Congo has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Congo has submitted a reservation that modifies its obligations under the [ICCPR](#).

Congo has ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Congo has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties Congo has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis and describe the steps Congo has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Congo has also ratified the [optional protocols](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR and CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Congo has accepted the inquiry procedure of the CAT.

Congo has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Congo to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances conducted a mission to Congo in September and October of 2011 and published a [report](#) on that visit in January 2012.

For more information on Congo's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/CGIndex.aspx>

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