

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Democratic Republic of the 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



Democratic Republic of the 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. Democratic Republic of the Congo has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Democratic Republic of the Congo to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR found the State had violated the African Charter by replacing the country's

Common Law courts with military tribunals that failed to provide accused civilians and soldiers the right to appeal or seek review of their cases. See ACommHPR, *Marcel Wetsch'okondo Koso et al. v. DRC*, Communication No. 281/03, 44th Ordinary Session, 27 May 2009.

Democratic Republic of the Congo has caught up in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR conducted a visit to Democratic Republic of the Congo, regarding the situation of indigenous populations, in [2009](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Democratic Republic of the 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, Democratic Republic of the Congo's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies.

Democratic Republic of the 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 the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

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

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions conducted a visit in October 2009 and published a [report](#) on the visit in June 2010.

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

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