

Gabon

Gabon 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



Gabon 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, Gabon 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 Gabon to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR received a complaint concerning the deportation of a citizen of Mali, but the case was found inadmissible because domestic remedies had not been exhausted. See ACommHPR, *Mohammed Lamin Diakité v. Gabon*, Communication No. 73/92, 27th Ordinary Session, 11 May 2000. The African Court received a complaint alleging violation of trade union rights, but found it lacked jurisdiction because Gabon had not authorized individuals or non-governmental organizations to bring complaints to the Court. See AfCHPR, *National Convention of Teachers Trade Union (CONASYSED) v. Gabon*, App. No. 012/11, Judgment of 15 December 2011.

Gabon has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted two missions to Gabon, a promotion mission in [2014](#) and a mission on indigenous populations in [2007](#).

Gabon 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, Gabon 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, Gabon's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of three treaty bodies.

Gabon 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 for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Gabon has ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT; the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty; and optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Gabon has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Gabon has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Gabon has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

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

On October 29, 2012, Gabon extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Gabon. For example, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children conducted a mission to Gabon in May 2012 and published a [report](#) on that visit in May 2013.

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

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