

Namibia

Namibia 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



Namibia 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. Namibia 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 Namibia through the [African human rights system](#). For example, the Commission addressed claims that the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States, which includes Namibia, had violated the complainants' rights to a fair trial because the SADC Tribunal had failed to implement its decision, leading to continued suffering on the part of the complainants. The Commission found that Namibia did not have an obligation to ensure that the SADC Tribunal respected the complainants' rights. See ACommHPR, [Luke Munyandu Tembani and Benjamin John Freeth v. Angola and Thirteen Others](#), Communication No. 409/12, 54th Ordinary Session, 5 November 2013.

Additionally, the Commission has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Namibia.

Namibia has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several missions to Namibia, including a promotional mission in [1996](#) and a mission on prisons and conditions of detention in [2001](#).

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

Namibia 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)

Namibia has also ratified 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. Namibia has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Namibia has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Namibia has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Namibia has ratified the [optional protocols](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, 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. Namibia has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CEDAW, and CRPD.

Namibia has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Namibia to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples visited Namibia in September 2012, and published a [report](#) in June 2013.

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

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