

NIGERIA

Nigeria 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



Nigeria 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, Nigeria 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 Nigeria to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the Commission found that Nigeria's exploitation of oil reserves without regard for its environmental impact or the health of the Ogoni people violated various rights protected by the African Charter. See ACommHPR, *Social and Economic Rights Action Center (SERAC) and Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) v. Nigeria*, Communication No. 155/96, 30th Ordinary Session, 27 October 2001. The Court found it lacked jurisdiction to decide an application submitted directly by an individual because Nigeria has not accepted the Court's jurisdiction to hear individual complaints against it. See AfCHPR, *Ekollo Moundi Alexandre v. Cameroon and Nigeria*, App. No. 008/2011, Judgment of 23 September 2011.

Nigeria has submitted its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several missions to Nigeria including a promotional mission in [1997](#), a promotion mission in [2009](#), and a mission on the rights of women in [2001](#).

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

Nigeria 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)
- Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- 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)

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

Nigeria has ratified the **optional protocols** allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the 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. Nigeria has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, CEDAW, and CRPD.

On October 25, 2013, Nigeria extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Nigeria. For example, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment conducted a mission to Nigeria in March 2007, and published a [report](#) in November 2007.

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

Last updated: September 15, 2017