

Swaziland

Swaziland 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



Swaziland 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. Swaziland 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 Swaziland through the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Lawyers of Human Rights v. Swaziland*, the Commission addressed a proclamation made by the King that all State power was vested in him and that led to the loss of constitutional protections, such as freedom of association, resulting in violations of the African Charter. See ACommHPR, [Lawyers of Human Rights v. Swaziland](#), Communication No. 251/02, 37th Ordinary Session, 2 July 2005.

Swaziland has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted one promotional mission to Swaziland in [2006](#).

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

Swaziland 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)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

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

Swaziland has ratified the Optional Protocol allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of 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. Swaziland has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT and CRPD.

Swaziland has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Swaziland to conduct a visit within the State.

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

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