

# Togo

Togo 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



Togo 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, Togo 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 Togo through the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Seyoum Ayele v. Togo*, the Commission addressed the State's denial of nationality to an individual, deciding that the allegation was vague and declaring the communication inadmissible. See ACommHPR, *Seyoum Ayele v. Togo*, Communication No. 35/89, 5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, 27 April 1994. Additionally, the Commission has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Togo.

Togo has submitted [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR conducted a promotion mission to Togo on [2012](#).

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

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

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

Togo has ratified [optional protocols](#) and made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CAT, CERD, 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. Togo has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT, CED, and CRPD.

Togo has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Togo to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders went on a mission in October 2013, and published a [report](#) in February 2014.

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

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