



Submission by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
For the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Compilation Report –
Universal Periodic Review:

NIGERIA

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND CURRENT SITUATION

Nigeria has ratified international and regional instruments for refugee protection including the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol; as well as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Nigeria has successfully domesticated international and African refugee conventions into the National Commission for Refugees Act (NCFR Act).¹ The NCFR Act provides the legal and administrative framework for refugee management. It also sets out guidelines for application and determination of refugee status in Nigeria. Additionally, Nigeria acceded to the 1954 Convention Relating to Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness in 2011; and to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) in May 2012. Nigeria made a pledge at the Ministerial Intergovernmental Event on Refugees and Stateless Persons held in Geneva in December 2011 to ensure law reforms and domestication of these instruments. UNHCR is cooperating with various national agencies towards meeting these objectives.

Nigeria is progressively striving to attain a stable democracy with a recent civilian transition in 2011. There exists a legal and administrative framework for protection of human rights through the 1999 Constitution and the National Human Rights Commission respectively. A vibrant and active civil society continues to promote reforms in many sectors.

Overall, the security situation in the country remains a concern to the Government particularly due to recurrent ethno/religious violence in some parts of the country; and the activities of the Boko Haram sect, which has launched indiscriminate and targeted attacks against government/security structures, politicians, religious institutions, the United Nations, schools, markets and other sites since 2009.

The humanitarian situation in the country has been very challenging with the unprecedented flooding that swept across 32 out of 36 states of the Federation beginning August 2012.

¹ Chapter 21 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2001

According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the floods displaced an estimated 2.1 million persons and impacted some 7.7 million. While reports indicate that most of the IDPs had returned to their communities of origin at the end of 2012), lessons from the management of the humanitarian consequences of the floods indicate a need for better preparedness, response and post disaster management of the needs of the internally displaced persons.² Meanwhile, thousands of persons are displaced as a result of the recurrent conflicts across the country. Despite the existence of large-scale internal displacement, there is little information about the size and the conditions of the IDP population in different parts of the country.

As of December 2012, there were 3154 refugees and 1042 asylum-seekers registered in Nigeria. There was a significant reduction in the number of refugees after the cessation clause for the Liberian refugees came into effect, as it applied to about 60% of the refugee population. Other refugee nationalities include Cameroonian (living in rural communities); Congolese (DRC); Chadians, Ivoirians and Sudanese. The majority of the asylum-seekers originate from the DRC and Chad. Nigeria completed the voluntary repatriation for the Liberian refugees in 2012 and is in the process of implementing the last phase of the legal component of the local integration.

II. ACHIEVEMENTS AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

UNHCR commends the Government for its positive stance towards the promotion of the local integration of former Liberian refugees. This resulted in the issuance of national Liberian passports and ECOWAS residence permits to 184 Liberian refugees under the local integration programme. 425 Liberian passports have been issued to be followed by issuance of ECOWAS residence permits.

UNHCR also welcomes the proactive steps taken by Nigeria to further strengthen the legal and policy framework for the protection of persons of concern. In 2011 and 2012, Nigeria ratified both international Statelessness Conventions and the Kampala Convention respectively. In 2012, the draft National Policy on IDPs was reviewed through a consultative and participatory process. UNHCR has supported this process and the draft IDP Policy is now awaiting the approval of the Federal Executive Council.

In 2012, UNHCR also concluded an agreement with the National Commission for Refugees and the National Health Insurance Scheme for the enrolment of over 600 refugees on the Integrated Health Insurance Plan.

III. KEY PROTECTION ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue 1: Refugee status determination procedure

UNHCR acknowledges the continued commitment of Nigeria in the determination of refugee status and the efforts taken by NCFR to clear the asylum backlog (of over 1000 asylum applications) in 2012. UNHCR however remains concerned about the timeframe for the

² See OCHA situation report No. 2 (as of 15 November 2012) available at: <http://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/floods-situation-report-no-2-15-november-2012> However, it is worth noting that the figure of 84,000 was communicated by email as of end November 2012.

processing of claims at the first instance, which presently ranges between 6 to 9 months on average.

Recommendation:

- Allocate sufficient resources to the NCFR to enable it to fulfil its responsibility for refugee status determination, ensure that the NCFR develops and implements strategies to clear the backlog of cases and establish a more expedient and efficient asylum procedure.

Issue 2: Compliance with the principle of non-refoulement

In an attempt to respond to the challenging security situation in the country, the Government has detained and deported undocumented aliens following indications that foreign mercenaries, militants and suicide bombers are members of the Boko Haram sect. While fully acknowledging the paramount importance of keeping the security situation under control, UNHCR is concerned about the instances of indiscriminate detention of persons in need of international protection. The 1951 Refugee Convention provides that asylum-seekers shall not be penalized for their illegal entry or stay, provided they present themselves to the authorities without delay and show good cause for their illegal entry or presence.³ “*The position of asylum-seekers may differ fundamentally from that of ordinary migrants in that they may not be in a position to comply with the legal formalities for entry.*”⁴ The specific situation of asylum-seekers needs to be taken into account in determining any restrictions on freedom of movement based on illegal entry or presence.

The right to seek asylum, the non-penalization for irregular entry or stay and the rights to liberty and security of person and freedom of movement mean that the detention of asylum-seekers and refugees should normally be avoided and be a measure of last resort. Alternatives to detention should be sought and given preference, in particular for certain categories of vulnerable persons.

Newly arriving asylum-seekers who have not yet registered with UNHCR or NCFR are at a high risk of *refoulement*. In 2012, UNHCR and NCFR successfully intervened on behalf of several recognized refugees who had been detained by the Immigration officers and were to be deported.

Recommendations:

- Facilitate full and open access to asylum procedures for persons who have expressed a fear of returning to their country of origin and ensure *non-refoulement* of all persons in need of international protection;
- Ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers are not penalized for illegal entry and stay in the country, that the detention of asylum-seekers is only used as a last resort, and where necessary, for as short a period as possible and that judicial safeguards are in place to prevent arbitrary and/or indefinite detention;

³ Article 31 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

⁴ UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention, 2012, Guideline No 1, paragraph 11, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/503489533b8.html>

- Incorporate human rights and refugee protection in the curriculum of law enforcement officers' training schools.

Issue 3: Asylum-seekers and refugee children

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was implemented at the federal level in 2010. To date, 25 of the 36 states of the federation have passed States' Child Rights Bills into law. Despite concerted advocacy, high level opposition against its passage persists predominantly in the Northern states of the country on religious and/or traditional grounds. UNHCR is concerned that refugee children are not able to benefit from the national child protection scheme and are not represented in fora developed to promote the rights of the child, including the children's parliament. In that regard, UNHCR welcomes recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which urged Nigeria to take adequate measures aiming at improving the situation of asylum-seekers.⁵

Recommendations:

- Include refugee children in the national child protection system, as a matter of priority and take all measures to guarantee the protection of refugee children in line with obligations under international human rights and refugee law;
- Advocate for the passage of Child Rights bills in all states of the Federation by encouraging the Ministry of Women Affairs and the National Human Rights Commission to strengthen engagement and partnership with grassroots civil society organizations.

Issue 4: ICAO compliant Convention Travel Document (CTD)

Since April 2010, States are required to issue machine readable passports in line with Annex 9 to the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) as developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The new ICAO standards also apply to the issuance of CTDs to refugees and stateless persons. Passports issued prior to 1 April 2010, which are not compliant with the new standards, are valid until their expiration date or 24 November 2015, whichever comes first. There is a need to facilitate issuance of the new ICAO compliant CTD to avoid hindering refugees' and stateless persons' freedom of movement. While Nigeria has commenced the issuance of ICAO compliant national passports, it is yet to establish modalities for issuance of ICAO compliant CTD to refugees and stateless persons.

Recommendation:

- Encourage the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) and the Nigerian Immigration Service to work together to develop modalities, identify resources and agree on timelines to ensure issuance of ICAO compliant CTDs to refugees and stateless persons in Nigeria.

⁵ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Fifty-fourth session, 25 May-11 June 2010, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding observations: Nigeria, Paragraphs 73 and 74, available at: [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/CD_Concl_Obs_2010/CRC/54th%20session/CRC-C-NGA-CO-3-4%20\(e\).pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/CD_Concl_Obs_2010/CRC/54th%20session/CRC-C-NGA-CO-3-4%20(e).pdf)

Issue 5: Legal reform and domestication of the International Statelessness Conventions

A UNHCR Memorandum, prepared in collaboration with the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC),⁶ was submitted to the Upper House of the National Assembly on 29 June 2012. It highlights several provisions of the 1999 Constitution that increases the risk of statelessness.

Recommendations:

- Ensure (through its National Assembly) introduction of adequate safeguards in the Constitution specifically for foundlings; children who would otherwise be stateless because they are born in State territory to parents who are stateless or unable to transmit their foreign nationality to the child); as well as to avoid statelessness as a result of renunciation and deprivation of citizenship;
- Grant men and women equal rights to obtain Nigerian nationality through marriage, in light of the principle of non-discrimination contained in all international human rights treaties and particularly Article 9.1 of CEDAW;
- Fulfil the pledge made at the December 2011 Ministerial Events to ensure domestication of the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness.

Issue 6: Birth registration and preservation of identity

Birth registration helps to prevent statelessness by establishing a legal record of where a child was born and who his or her parents are. As such it serves as a key form of proof of whether a person has acquired nationality by birth or by descent. Failure to document a person's legal existence can prevent the effective enjoyment of a range of human rights, including access to education and health care.

The National Population Commission has made significant strides in improving birth registration coverage through various strategies including public awareness/sensitization and the introduction of a UNICEF supported SMS monitoring system from the local governments. Despite these positive steps however, access to birth registration remains very challenging, particularly for persons (including refugees) living in remote rural villages. Due to obstacles in access and cost of travel from villages to registration points, parents do not fully appreciate the importance of birth registration. In this context, UNHCR welcomes the recommendations of the Committee on the Right of the Child, which in its concluding observations on Nigeria in June 2010 exhorted national authorities to take a string of measures aiming at improving the situation of birth registration and preservation of identity.⁷

Recommendations:

- Carry out public awareness programs in remote rural areas on the importance and benefits of birth registration;

⁶ Copy of the Memorandum is available on file.

⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Fifty-fourth session, 25 May-11 June 2010, Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention, Concluding observations: Nigeria, Paragraphs 36 and 37, available at:

[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/CD_Concl_Obs_2010/CRC/54th%20session/CRC-C-NGA-CO-3-4%20\(e\).pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/CD_Concl_Obs_2010/CRC/54th%20session/CRC-C-NGA-CO-3-4%20(e).pdf)

- Ensure full access to birth registration points at the local levels using midwives to report to the civil registry.

Issue 7: Develop a legal and policy Framework for the Protection of IDPs

Lessons learnt from the humanitarian impact of the recent floods identified the absence of a legal and policy framework for the protection of IDPs as a key challenge in emergency management (planning, preparedness and response); protection of internally displaced persons and durable solutions. The commitment of the Government in ratifying the Kampala Convention and initiating a consultative process for review of the draft IDP Policy should be carried forward to adoption of the IDP Policy and domestication of the Convention. In this context, UNHCR welcomes the recommendation made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2010, which urged the Government of Nigeria to take all measures to guarantee the rights and well-being of internally displaced children and to “*adopt a comprehensive national policy on IDPs which, inter alia, identifies the agency responsible for the registration, monitoring and protection of IDPs (...)*.”⁸

Recommendations:

- Follow-up on its pledge made at the December 2011 Ministerial Intergovernmental Event to implement the AU Kampala Convention by adopting a federal legislation on internal displacement.
- Adopt a draft national policy on the protection and assistance of internally displaced persons, which should provide for an effective coordination mechanism to facilitate exchanges between key Government institutions at the federal and local levels.

**Human Rights Liaison Unit
Division of International Protection
UNHCR
March 2013**

⁸ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Fifty-fourth session, concluding observations: Nigeria, paragraph 76, available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcs54.htm>

ANNEX

Excerpts of Concluding Observations and Recommendations from UN Treaty Bodies

- Universal Periodic Review:

Nigeria

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts from UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies' Concluding Observations and Recommendations relating to issues of interest and persons of concern to UNHCR with regards to Nigeria.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRC/C/NGA/CO/3-4, 54th Session

11 June 2010

Allocation of resources

16. The Committee welcomes information that budget allocations to health and education have increased and that funds saved from the State party's debt relief programme will be invested in children's programmes. Furthermore, it welcomes information from the State party that a specific budget line on maternal health and the new born child has been included in the 2010 government budget. It also notes with appreciation the implementation of a comprehensive economic and anti-corruption reform programme, which includes prosecution of officials, and at the establishment of an interagency task team of anti-corruption agencies. The Committee nevertheless wishes to reiterate its earlier concern about insufficient budget allocations to children and that corruption remains endemic in the State party (CRC/C/15/Add.257, para. 21) and its adverse effects on the protection and promotion of children's rights. The Committee notes with much concern information that due to the fact that the state and local governments are not required to provide budget or expenditure reports to the federal government, the latter is unable to monitor the expenditure of funds.

17. The Committee strongly recommends the State party to undertake a budget analysis of resources allocated to children, and to mandate and sufficiently resource a government body responsible for monitoring and evaluating the appropriate use and expenditure of such resources. In this regard, taking into account the Committee's recommendations during its day of general discussion on Resources for the Rights of the Child – Responsibility of States, the State party is urged to:

...

- (e) **Define strategic budgetary lines for disadvantaged or particularly vulnerable children, especially orphans, children in street situations and internally displaced children, and for those situations that may require affirmative social measures (such as birth registration) and make sure that those budgetary lines are protected even in situations of economic crisis, natural disasters or other emergencies;**

Data collection

18. The Committee notes with appreciation the establishment of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and its fully fledged department dealing with statistics on children during the reporting period. It also welcomes the appointment of the Convention on the Rights of the

Child (CRC) Chair at the University of Lagos and the undertaking of a National Baseline Survey on child protection, including indicators, by the same. The Committee notes however that data on children deprived of a family environment, refugee and internally displaced children, children in conflict with the law, children with disabilities, as well as single-parent families still has to be collected and analyzed.

19. The Committee encourages the State party to continue to strengthen its data collection system, including by providing adequate financial and human resources and by fostering close cooperation and collaboration between relevant entities such as the Child Development Department, Child Rights Implementation Committees, the National Bureau of Statistics, the Child Right Information Bureau in the Ministry of Interior (CRC/C/15/Add.257, para. 5), academic institutions and development partners. It recommends the publication of annual reports on the state of children's rights in the State party and reminds the State party of the Committee's general comment No. 5 (2003) on general measures of implementation.

Respect for the views of the child

34. The Committee welcomes the establishment of Children's Parliaments in all thirty-six states of the Federation, in line with the Committee's recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.257, para. 35), and their active participation in international as well as national fora. Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned about the limited participation of children in matters affecting them in children's institutions of all kind, in the community, in the family and in judicial and administrative procedures. It regrets the low level of acceptance thereof, especially in rural areas, and appreciates the State party's acknowledgement of this situation.

35. In light of article 12 of the Convention, and drawing the State party's attention to general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee urges the State Party to:

- (a) Strengthen the effective functioning of the Children's Parliaments, especially the implementation of its mandate to deliberate and contribute to draft child-oriented bills, and ensure that their composition is representative of all segments of society, including orphans, children with disabilities, refugee children, and other children with special needs;**
- (b) Take effective measures to ensure that the child's right to be heard is respected and implemented in all civil and penal judicial proceedings as well as in administrative proceedings, including those concerning children in alternative care (CRC/C/GC/12, para. 97);**

...

Birth registration and preservation of identity

36. The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to improve birth registration. These include the development of an Action Plan to create permanent birth registration systems, the establishment of birth registration points in all government hospitals, the recorded increase in registration coverage from 30,2% (2006) to 47% (2008) as well as the integration of the birth registration process with routine immunization programmes. The Committee welcomes information by the State party on the introduction of biannual Maternal Newborn and Child Health Weeks where birth registrations are undertaken and the introduction in October 2009 of the midwife service scheme in rural areas. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned at the low number of birth registrations, especially in rural areas, and at the non-registration of children born outside hospital, due to lack of awareness of existing legislation, limited number of registration centres and limited financial resources,

and a lack of effective registration infrastructure. The Committee also expresses concern that the Birth, Death (Compulsory Registration) Act No. 69 of 1992 provides for prescribed fees in case of registration after 60 days and within 12 months of birth. The Committee furthermore expresses concern that the practice of tribal markings or other tattoos on the child's body as a method of identification still prevails in some parts of the country.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party continue and strengthen its efforts to ensure free and compulsory birth registration for all children. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Raise public awareness about the importance of birth registration and existing legislation;**
- (b) Allocate adequate financial, human and other resources to ensure easy access to registration by population in rural areas, including by strengthening ongoing training programs for birth registration personnel and midwives;**
- (c) Urge midwives to report administratively all births and provide midwives with training on how to undertake such reporting;**
- (c)⁹ Amend the Birth, Death (Compulsory Registration) Act No. 69 of 1992 so as to ensure free birth registration regardless of the time of registration and, in the meanwhile, extend the three-year waiver (2005-2008) for payment fees permanently;**
- (d) Ensure that monitoring bodies, in particular state committees for birth registration, operate effectively, including through adequate resources;**
- (e) Conduct awareness-raising programs, notably through the media, in rural areas on the importance and benefits of birth registration.**

Asylum-seekers and refugee children

73. The Committee notes that the State party hosts a number of refugees and asylum-seekers from countries involved in or emerging from conflicts, the majority of which are children and women. Whilst the Committee notes that refugee children have the same entitlements as nationals to all rights enshrined in the CRA, and appreciates information that some refugee children are provided with educational scholarships and that schools have been renovated to facilitate integration of refugee children, the Committee is concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on refugee and asylum-seeking children in this respect. The Committee is also seriously concerned that refugee children are not able to benefit from the national child protection scheme.

74. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Include refugee children in the national child protection system, as a matter of priority;**
- (b) Take all measures to guarantee the protection of refugee children in line with its obligations under international human rights and refugee law obligations, while taking into account the Committee's general comment No. 6 (2005) on the treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin;**
- (c) Strengthen the financial and human resources allocated to the National Commission for Refugees, with a view to ensure reliable statistics on the number, age, sex and nationality of refugee and asylum-seeking children;**

⁹ Please note that this typo appears in the original document.

- (d) Undertake the necessary legislative changes to ensure that the recruitment or use in hostilities of children constitutes a ground for the granting of refugee status and non-refoulement.**

Internally displaced children

75. The Committee notes information in the State party's written replies on measures to enhance the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs), including the amendment to the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) Act aimed at giving wider legal powers to the NCFR with respect to its presidential mandate on internal displacement and the draft amendment bill on internally displaced persons. Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned at the absence of a comprehensive legislative and policy framework on IDPs to effectively address the situation of IDP children, especially those displaced in connection to recent political and inter-communal unrest and violence, flooding and evictions, and ensure their long-term reintegration in society. The absence of a data collection system on internally displaced persons is furthermore of concern to the Committee.

76. The Committee urges the State party to take all measures to guarantee the rights and well-being of internally displaced children. In particular, the State party is urged to:

- (a) Adopt a comprehensive national policy on IDPs which, inter alia, identifies the agency responsible for the registration, monitoring and protection of IDPs, including children;**
- (b) Ensure that, until such policy is in place, the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR) and the Nigerian Red Cross are provided with the necessary resources to effectively protect and ensure the rights of internally displaced children.**

Sale, trafficking and abduction

86. The Committee welcomes the legislative, administrative and educational efforts taken by the State party to address child trafficking as outlined in its report, including the establishment of anti-trafficking units within the law enforcement agencies, including the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the increase in rescued victims of child trafficking and the investigation, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators and the adoption of a national action plan on trafficking in persons (2006). The Committee remains concerned however at the widespread character of child trafficking and that the State party remains a source, transit and destination country for trafficking of children. It notes with particular concern that the overwhelming majority of rescued victims of trafficking is girls for purposes of sexual exploitation and that successful prosecutions remain low. The Committee is also concerned that the link between human trafficking and international protection obligations are inadequate, particularly concerning children trafficked over international borders.

87. The Committee urges that the State party continues its efforts to protect children from trafficking and sale. Specifically, the State party is strongly recommended to:

- (a) Conduct media campaigns and continuous dialogue and advocacy to raise awareness on victim identification indicators and reporting mechanisms;**
- (b) Tackle the root causes and improve the situation of children at risk, especially the girl child, through economic reintegration and rehabilitation of victims;**
- (c) Strengthen training programs addressing law enforcement officers and public awareness campaign targeting, in particular, parents;**

- (d) Invite both the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking of Persons, especially in Women and Children and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography to visit the State party;
- (e) Reinforce prevention of trafficking of children abroad, including in the framework of the European Development Fund agreement 2009-2013;
- (f) Take all measures to ensure investigation, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators of child trafficking in accordance with national legislation;
- (g) Establish a referral mechanism between the asylum system and the victims of trafficking protection system, in order to ensure that child victims of trafficking have access to the asylum procedure and that child asylum-seekers who may have been victims of trafficking access and receive specialized assistance for their recovery and reintegration;
- (h) Consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Traffickers in Persons, especially Women and Children.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

CEDAW/C/NGA/CO/6, 41st Session

8 July 2008

Remaining discriminatory provisions and discriminatory laws

316. The Committee welcomes efforts undertaken by the State party in the area of legal reform, such as the publication of a study compiling all national, state and local laws, policies and practices relating to the status of women and children and the establishment of a Committee on Reform of Discriminatory Laws against Women. The Committee expresses serious concern, however, at discriminatory provisions in the Constitution, including section 26, paragraph 2, which does not allow a Nigerian woman to transmit her nationality to her foreign spouse on the same basis as a Nigerian man. The Committee also expresses serious concern at other discriminatory laws at both the federal and state levels, including those that allow wife battery as chastisement as long as grievous harm is not inflicted (section 55 of the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria), prohibit women from working at night in certain sectors of employment (section 55 of chapter 198 of the 1990 Labour Act of Nigeria), and classify sexual assault against female victims as a misdemeanour (section 360 of the Criminal Code). Further, the Committee notes that a draft bill entitled “Abolition of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Nigeria and Other Related Matters” was not approved by the National Assembly.

317. In line with its recommendation of 2004, the Committee calls upon the State party to set a concrete timetable for amending all provisions in the Constitution and in federal and state legislation that discriminate against women. The Committee urges the State party to accelerate and expand its efforts at legislative reform, including with respect to the laws identified in the above-mentioned study. It recommends that the State party repeal section 55 of the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria, section 55 of chapter 198 of the 1990 Labour Act of Nigeria and section 360 of the Criminal Code, and ensure that those responsible for the implementation of these laws and policies are made aware of their discriminatory contents. The Committee also recommends that awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns be developed and implemented, involving parliamentarians, civil society and the general public, including religious and traditional leaders, in order to enhance understanding of the provisions of the Convention and support for the principle of gender equality and the prohibition of discrimination. It calls upon the State party to ensure that the Convention and related domestic legislation are made an

integral part of legal education and the training of judicial officers, including judges, lawyers and prosecutors, so as to firmly establish in the country a legal culture supportive of women's equality and non-discrimination.

Trafficking

328. While acknowledging the measures taken by the State party to combat trafficking in women and children, including the adoption of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act of 2003, as amended in 2005, the establishment of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, and the various cooperation agreements reached with other countries, the Committee is concerned by the continuing prevalence and extent of this problem.

329. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the full implementation of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, including the prosecution and punishment of offenders. The Committee also urges the State party to give priority attention to the protection, including witness protection, counselling and rehabilitation of victims, especially girl children. The Committee calls upon the State party to enhance measures aimed at the prevention of trafficking, including economic measures to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls, as well as awareness-raising and information campaigns, in particular in communities most at risk. The Committee also calls upon the State party to intensify international, regional and bilateral cooperation with other countries of origin, transit and destination of trafficked women and girls.

Vulnerable groups of women

340. The Committee expresses concern about the situation of internally displaced women, including women with disabilities, displaced by violence and conflict, in particular in view of their precarious living conditions in camps where they are at increased risk of sexual and other forms of violence and lack access to health care, education and economic opportunities.

341. The Committee requests the State party to pay particular attention to the needs of internally displaced women, including women with disabilities, through the adoption of a national policy on displacement in line with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), and the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive plans and programmes for social reintegration, capacity-building and training of internally displaced persons. It recommends that the Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Gender and Peacekeeping pay particular attention to the situation of internally displaced women. The Committee requests the State party to ensure the protection of internally displaced women from violence and their access to immediate means of redress.