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High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with  
paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council  
resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council  
resolution 16/21**

## **Afghanistan**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

#### International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1983)	CRPD (2012)	ICCPR-OP 2
	ICESCR (1983)		OP-CAT
	ICCPR (1983)		ICRMW
	CEDAW (2003)		CPED
	CAT (1987)		
	CRC (1994)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2003)		
<i>Reservations, declarations and/or understandings</i>	OP-CRC-SC (2002)		
	ICERD (reservation, art. 22; declarations, arts. 17 and 18, 1983)		
	ICESCR (declaration art. 26, paras. 1 and 3, 1983)		
	ICCPR (declaration, art. 48, paras. 1 and 3, 1983)		
	CAT (declaration, art. 28, para. 1 on art. 20, and art. 30, para. 1, 1987)		
<i>Complaint procedures, inquiry and urgent action<sup>3</sup></i>	CRC (general declaration, 1990)	OP-CRPD, art. 6 (2012)	ICERD, art. 14
			OP-ICESCR
			ICCPR, art. 41
			ICCPR-OP 1
			OP-CEDAW
			CAT, arts. 20, 21 and 22
			OP-CRC-IC
			ICRMW
			CPED

**Other main relevant international instruments**

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Conventions on refugees <sup>4</sup> Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 <sup>5</sup> ILO fundamental conventions Nos. 105, 100 and 111 <sup>6</sup>	UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 <sup>7</sup> Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions <sup>8</sup>	Palermo Protocol <sup>9</sup> Conventions on stateless persons <sup>10</sup> ILO Conventions Nos. 29, 87, 98, 169 and 189 <sup>11</sup> Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions <sup>12</sup>

1. In 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) encouraged Afghanistan to ratify OP-CEDAW and accept the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention.<sup>13</sup>

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) encouraged Afghanistan to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. CRC and CEDAW recommended that Afghanistan ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.<sup>14</sup>

3. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) recommended ratifying several ILO Conventions, including No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries.<sup>15</sup>

**B. Constitutional and legislative framework**

4. CEDAW welcomed the adoption of legislation aimed at eliminating discrimination against women, particularly the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW Law).<sup>16</sup> CRC urged Afghanistan to establish a strategy to implement the Law.<sup>17</sup>

5. The High Commissioner for Human Rights (High Commissioner) called for greater steps to implement the EVAW Law and to protect women's rights, including ensuring women's inclusion in public life and all peace and reconciliation processes, and equal opportunities in education and employment.<sup>18</sup>

6. CRC was concerned that the EVAW Law did not criminalize honour killings and that article 398 of the Penal Code exempted perpetrators of honour killings from punishment for murder and that they often enjoyed impunity.<sup>19</sup>

7. CESCR remained concerned that the Covenant had not been fully incorporated into domestic law or its provisions directly enforced by domestic courts.<sup>20</sup>

8. CRC was concerned that children's rights were negatively affected by the application of codified, customary and sharia laws and that legislation that contradicted the Convention remained in force. It urged Afghanistan to bring its domestic legislation, including customary or sharia laws, into compliance with the Convention and to enact a comprehensive Child Act.<sup>21</sup>

9. CRC was concerned about the limited measures taken to date to implement the 2010 Law on the Rights and Privileges of People with Disabilities and Martyrs' Families.<sup>22</sup>

10. CEDAW recommended including provisions on equality between men and women in the Afghan Constitution and other relevant legislation,<sup>23</sup> and repealing provisions in the Civil Law that discriminated against women.<sup>24</sup>

### C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

#### Status of national human rights institutions<sup>25</sup>

<i>National human rights institution</i>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle</i> <sup>26</sup>
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)	A (2009)	A (2014)

11. The High Commissioner recommended that the Government promptly appoint commissioners to the AIHRC on the basis of a genuinely transparent, impartial process, in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).<sup>27</sup> CRC and CEDAW raised the same issue.<sup>28</sup>

12. The Working Group on mercenaries recommended that Afghanistan strengthen the investigative capacity of the AIHRC, particularly its special investigation team.<sup>29</sup>

13. CEDAW urged Afghanistan to ensure the sustainability of the Ministry of Women's Affairs by providing it with sufficient resources to fulfil its gender equality and women's rights mandate.<sup>30</sup> CRC noted with concern that little had been done to implement the National Plan of Action on Combating Child Trafficking.<sup>31</sup>

14. While welcoming the National Action Plan for Women (2008–2018),<sup>32</sup> CEDAW was concerned about several challenges impeding its full implementation.<sup>33</sup>

15. CEDAW noted the adoption of the transitional justice policy and recommended its prompt implementation;<sup>34</sup> it expressed concern about the inadequate implementation of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme.<sup>35</sup> CRC urged Afghanistan to ensure that appropriate child-specific provisions and resources were included in all peace and reconciliation negotiations and treaties.<sup>36</sup>

16. While welcoming the National Strategy for Children with Disabilities (2008), CRC was concerned about the limited measures taken to date to implement it.<sup>37</sup>

17. CRC welcomed the Afghan National Development Strategy (2008–2013)<sup>38</sup> and CESCR strongly recommended adopting a holistic human rights-based approach when implementing it.<sup>39</sup>

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies<sup>40</sup>

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	March 1997	–	–	Second report overdue since 1986
CESCR	November 1991	2007	May 2010	Fifth report due in 2014
HR Committee	July 1985	–	–	Third report overdue since 1994
CEDAW	–	2011	July 2013	Third report due in 2017
CAT	November 1992	–	–	Second to seventh reports overdue since 1993 and 2012, respectively
CRC	–	2009	February 2011	Combined second to fifth reports due in 2016. Initial OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC reports overdue since 2005 and 2004, respectively
CRPD	–	–	–	Initial report due in 2014

#### 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations</i>		
	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
HR Committee	–	–	–
CERD	–	–	–
CEDAW	2015	Achievements in women's rights and combating violence against women <sup>41</sup>	–
CAT	–	–	–

18. Notwithstanding the climate of persistent and extreme violence — particularly against women —, the ongoing political process and the security forces transition, CEDAW urged Afghanistan to implement its concluding observations promptly.<sup>42</sup>

## B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>43</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Children in armed conflict (28 June–3 July 2008) Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (4-15 May 2008) Violence against women (9-19 July 2005) Adequate housing (31 August–13 September 2003) Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (13-23 October 2002)	Mercenaries (4–9 April 2009)
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	Mercenaries	
<i>Visits requested</i>	Internally displaced persons Torture, requested in 2005 and 2007 Arbitrary detention, requested in 2005	Terrorism, requested in 2012 Violence against women, requested in 2013
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, 10 communications were sent. The Government replied to 2 communications.	
<i>Follow-up reports and missions</i>	Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions: Report <sup>44</sup>	

19. The High Commissioner recommended that the Government invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to visit the country.<sup>45</sup>

## C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

20. Afghanistan has made annual contributions to OHCHR since 2008 (USD 1,500 in 2012).<sup>46</sup>

### **III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Equality and non-discrimination**

21. CESCR was concerned about discrimination against women. It regretted the discrepancy between the legal framework and inequality in practice in work, public life, education and health. It urged Afghanistan to take more effective measures to counter inequality between the sexes and discrimination against women, implement a national public awareness campaign and take temporary special measures to redress the gender imbalance.<sup>47</sup> CRC raised similar concerns and recommendations.<sup>48</sup>

22. CEDAW was concerned that the multiple legal systems regulating marriage and family relations discriminated against women, as did civil law provisions and customary practices, such as the husband's legal right to have authority over his wife and children.<sup>49</sup>

23. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in April 2009, a new law had been about to be adopted by the Afghan parliament on the status of Shiites, undermining the right to education, the principle of gender equality and children's rights. International experts had warned the Government that the Shia Personal Status Law violated the human rights of minority Shia women and girls, breached Afghanistan's national and international obligations, and would further entrench discrimination and violence against women, girls and members of religious minorities.<sup>50</sup>

24. CEDAW urged Afghanistan to adopt the draft family code and to ensure that it provided women and men with equal rights in all matters concerning marriage and family relations.<sup>51</sup>

25. CEDAW and CESCR were concerned that some provisions of the Shia Personal Status Law discriminated against women concerning guardianship, inheritance, under-age marriage and limitations on movement, such as requiring a husband's authority for his wife to leave the home.<sup>52</sup>

#### **B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

26. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions urged the Government to impose a formal moratorium on executions and to consider abolishing the death penalty.<sup>53</sup>

27. The High Commissioner noted that violence in Afghanistan continued to affect civilians who bore the brunt of the ongoing armed conflict.<sup>54</sup> While considering civilian casualties caused collectively by anti-Government elements (AGEs), it was important to note that AGEs were ordinarily composed of diverse groups and individuals that were not all necessarily members of the Taliban and most of whom did not have a single line of command. In general, AGEs were motivated by different ideologies and goals, which ultimately posed a threat to the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms.<sup>55</sup>

28. The High Commissioner noted that AGEs continued to target civilians and launch indiscriminate attacks on civilian locations.<sup>56</sup> The population remained severely affected by the ongoing armed conflict.<sup>57</sup>

29. In 2011, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions indicated that Afghanistan had continued to experience a non-international armed conflict across the majority of its territory, with detrimental consequences for the civilian

population. All perpetrators of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions should be held accountable and all the parties in the conflict, be they Taliban, Afghan forces or international military forces, should bear responsibility for unlawful killings and for reducing the number of civilians killed in the conflict.<sup>58</sup>

30. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) concluded that torture persisted and remained a serious concern in numerous detention facilities nationwide. There was sufficiently credible evidence that 326 of the 635 detainees interviewed (over half) had experienced torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities across Afghanistan.<sup>59</sup>

31. The High Commissioner noted that incidents of violence against women remained endemic and women continued to face challenges to the full enjoyment of all their rights.<sup>60</sup>

32. The High Commissioner noted that the lack of professionalism and misconduct by members of the Afghan Local Police continued to raise concerns; they had been accused of repeatedly intimidating and harassing residents, including with threats of sexual abuse. The High Commissioner had expressed concerns over increasing incidents of violence against women and human rights abuses perpetrated by members of the Afghan National Police and the Afghan Local Police.<sup>61</sup>

33. In his 2008 mission report, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions highlighted the fact that Afghanistan needed a police force that could play both a law enforcement and paramilitary role.<sup>62</sup> He strongly recommended reforming the national police and recognized the importance of human rights training.<sup>63</sup> In 2011, the Special Rapporteur noted that assessments provided by stakeholders had indicated that the Afghan National Police continued to be poorly trained and managed, and remained notorious for corrupt and abusive practices.<sup>64</sup>

34. The Special Rapporteur shared the concern expressed by UNAMA and the AIHRC regarding law enforcement and the mandate of the Afghan Local Police with regard to its obligations and role in detention; they were not clearly defined or instructive on arbitrary detention, the handover process of detained persons, detention conditions or preventing abuse. He echoed the call UNAMA and the AIHRC had made to the Government on the need to establish rigorous oversight and monitoring of all elements of the police programme, together with accountability for abusive or criminal acts committed by members of the police, to ensure that the programme did not result in less protection for the civilian population.<sup>65</sup>

35. CESCR and CEDAW were concerned at the alarming levels of violence against women, particularly domestic violence, honour killings, rape, battery, laceration and stoning.<sup>66</sup> CRC and CEDAW urged Afghanistan to repeal article 398 of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of honour killings were not given legal concessions.<sup>67</sup>

36. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions noted that the Government had enacted the EVAW Law in August 2009. He observed that the Law had been criticized because it required a victim or her relative to file a complaint before a State institution in order for it to take action. Thus, if a victim withdrew a complaint or failed to file one owing to family pressure or fear of reprisal, the State was not required to investigate or prosecute a crime of violence against women. The Special Rapporteur further noted that women's rights activists had criticized the law for failing to criminalize honour crimes and for not defining crimes clearly. He urged the Government to take all necessary steps to repeal article 398 of the Penal Code reducing punishment for killings perpetrated in the name of "honour" and to ensure that no law within Afghanistan was contrary to international law and human rights standards.<sup>68</sup>



37. The Special Rapporteur agreed with stakeholders about the importance of raising awareness about the Law's existence and the acts it criminalized, and of ensuring its immediate implementation, particularly the provisions aimed at eradicating harmful traditional practices and bringing perpetrators to justice.<sup>69</sup>

38. CEDAW deplored the fact that victims of rape were charged with adultery and some of them forced to marry their rapists and undergo virginity tests.<sup>70</sup> CRC was concerned that the crime of rape was not clearly defined and separated from the offence of *zina* (sexual intercourse outside of wedlock/adultery).<sup>71</sup>

39. The High Commissioner noted that children continued to suffer disproportionately as a result of the ongoing armed conflict. On average, more than 20 children had been killed or injured every week across the country during 2012.<sup>72</sup>

40. CRC expressed deep concern at the death of hundreds of children as a result of attacks and air strikes by insurgent groups, international military forces and the Afghan National Army.<sup>73</sup>

41. CRC was extremely concerned at the level of violence against children and the fact that child victims of abuse and violence, especially girls, were often treated as perpetrators and sent to juvenile rehabilitation centres, while most of the perpetrators enjoyed impunity.<sup>74</sup>

42. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict highlighted ongoing reports of ill-treatment of children in detention facilities and called for children who were detained for alleged association with armed groups to be treated as victims, and if prosecuted, treated in line with international juvenile justice standards.<sup>75</sup>

43. The Special Representative also reported on the continued recruitment and use of boys, some as young as 8 years old. Concern remained about the informal recruitment of children by Afghan National Security Forces and armed groups. The Special Representative recommended that the Government end all recruitment and use of children.<sup>76</sup> CRC and CESCR raised similar concerns.<sup>77</sup>

44. CRC noted that a large proportion of child workers started working between the ages of 5 and 11.<sup>78</sup>

45. CEDAW was concerned that victims of trafficking were sometimes prosecuted for having committed *zina* and that there was a lack of protection measures for victims of trafficking who testified as witnesses.<sup>79</sup>

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

46. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions indicated that, while some progress had been made, the formal justice system continued to suffer from severe and systemic problems, including the lack of detailed strategies regarding continuing legal education; the lack of adequate judicial training facilities; limited numbers of competent judicial personnel in service; the lack of communication and coordination among institutions; rampant corruption; and the influence that money derived from narcotics and warlords exerted on the country's structures.<sup>80</sup>

47. The Working Group on mercenaries was concerned at the lack of prosecution of private security contractors suspected of having committed human rights abuses. All States were obliged to ensure that investigations were carried out promptly and efficiently and that those responsible were brought to justice in accordance with international law and sanctioned in a way that was commensurate with the gravity of the crime.<sup>81</sup> The Working

Group recommended that Afghanistan establish an independent, public and easy to access complaints mechanism through which the local population and civilian international actors could submit complaints regarding any violations committed by private military and security companies, and establish lines of cooperation between the High Coordination Board and the Ministry of Finance responsible for collecting taxes, to avoid corruption and enhance transparency.<sup>82</sup>

48. The High Commissioner noted that access to detainees was often limited for legal aid lawyers, defence counsel and local human rights organizations, raising fair trial concerns.<sup>83</sup> She recommended revising the Interim Criminal Procedure Code to guarantee the right of detainees to be brought promptly before a judge for an initial and periodic review of the lawfulness of pretrial detention, and to challenge the legality of their detention.<sup>84</sup>

49. The High Commissioner also recommended that the Government demonstrate its commitment to justice and combating impunity by ensuring that there was no amnesty for perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights in peace and reconciliation efforts.<sup>85</sup>

50. The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions indicated that women often lacked access to justice in Afghanistan.<sup>86</sup>

51. He warned that traditional *jirgas* and *shuras* (informal communal councils), which operated outside the formal justice system, reportedly disregarded the right to a fair trial and often discriminated against women. They continued to handle an estimated 80 per cent (some stakeholders estimated up to 95 per cent) of all disputes in Afghanistan, particularly in rural areas.<sup>87</sup> CEDAW and CESCR shared that concern.<sup>88</sup>

52. OHCHR reported that, rather than following required legal procedures in all cases, the Afghan National Police and prosecutor's offices continued to refer numerous cases, including serious crimes, to *jirgas* and *shuras*, which often undermined implementation of the EVAW Law and reinforced harmful practices.<sup>89</sup>

53. CRC was deeply concerned that virginity testing was imposed on girls in judicial proceedings,<sup>90</sup> and that there was no mechanism through which child victims of sexual abuse could lodge complaints and obtain protection and recovery services.<sup>91</sup>

#### **D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life**

54. CRC was concerned that the majority of children remained unregistered. It urged Afghanistan to ensure that all children, including children born out of wedlock, were registered at birth.<sup>92</sup>

55. CEDAW was concerned about the high number of women who lacked personal identity documentation.<sup>93</sup>

56. CESCR and CEDAW remained concerned at the persistence of forced and child marriages.<sup>94</sup> CRC was particularly concerned at the absence of effective measures to prevent and eliminate early and forced marriages.<sup>95</sup>

57. CRC urged Afghanistan to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18.<sup>96</sup>

58. CEDAW was concerned about unequal and limited rights for women to divorce and obtain guardianship of children under the Civil Law, and that they were deprived of their inheritance rights.<sup>97</sup>

59. CRC expressed concern that Afghanistan did not have a system that provided special protection and assistance to children deprived of a family environment.<sup>98</sup>

60. CRC was concerned at the increase in the institutionalization of children.<sup>99</sup> CESCR noted that a high number of children who had a living parent remained unnecessarily in care institutions and recommended that Afghanistan implement social protection programmes to enable the most disadvantaged families to care for their children.<sup>100</sup>

## **E. Freedom of expression and right to participate in public and political life**

61. According to UNESCO, while freedom of expression was guaranteed under article 34 of the Constitution, there was no freedom of information law in Afghanistan.<sup>101</sup>

62. UNESCO recommended that the Government continue public consultation on the draft access to information law and ensure the draft was in line with international human rights standards and documents related to the right to access information.<sup>102</sup>

63. The Director General of UNESCO noted that at least nine journalists and media workers had been killed in Afghanistan between 2008 and 2012.<sup>103</sup>

64. UNESCO recommended that the Government investigate reported cases of attacks on journalists, take all necessary action to stop violence directed at media workers, improve the safety of journalists and bring those responsible for such crimes to justice.<sup>104</sup>

65. According to the High Commissioner, during the parliamentary election campaign period, from June to September 2010, AGEs had conducted systematic and targeted assassination campaigns against election candidates and campaign workers. Between June and August, four candidates and 24 campaign workers had been killed. On election day, OHCHR/UNAMA had documented 136 civilian casualties including 33 deaths and 103 injuries. Violence had deprived many of their freedom of movement and their right to vote. Security incidents had led to the closure of at least 153 polling centres. Intimidation tactics by AGEs had contributed to reducing the participation of voters, especially women voters, in different parts of the country.<sup>105</sup>

66. CESCR remained concerned at the low level of women's representation in decision-making positions.<sup>106</sup> CEDAW was concerned about threats and targeted killings of women occupying prominent positions in the Administration and women human rights defenders, and about the low participation of women in the judiciary.<sup>107</sup>

67. CEDAW was concerned that women's participation in the peace and reconciliation process was being jeopardized, particularly by the limited number of women members of the High Peace Council.<sup>108</sup>

## **F. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

68. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a large portion of household income in Afghanistan was earned by family members working in vulnerable employment such as daily-wage labour in construction and brickmaking, agriculture wage labour, or in the urban informal economy. Those finding a job or running agriculture on a commercial scale remained few and far between. Addressing the vulnerability of those currently at work should be a priority. The exposure of migrant workers to hazards put their households at risk of losing both human capital and financial assets. There were no occupational safety and health measures at the workplace for those workers and no compensation schemes for injuries or death at work.<sup>109</sup>

69. CESCR was concerned at the lack of employment opportunities for young people, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).<sup>110</sup>

70. CESCR regretted that the Labour Code contained many deficiencies and that there was no adequate mechanism to monitor its implementation. It recommended that Afghanistan strengthen its efforts to protect workers' rights and revise the Labour Code to bring it into conformity with the Covenant.<sup>111</sup>

71. CEDAW was concerned that the vast majority of women worked in the informal sector and did not have access to social security. It was also concerned about sexual harassment in the workplace, particularly affecting women police officers. It recommended taking measures in the formal labour market to increase female participation and eliminate occupational segregation, enacting specific legislation prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace and preparing an action plan to protect women working in the informal sector.<sup>112</sup>

72. CESCR noted with concern that equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value was not guaranteed.<sup>113</sup>

## **G. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

73. CESCR regretted that the minimum wage was not sufficient to give workers an adequate standard of living.<sup>114</sup>

74. CESCR was concerned that a large proportion of Afghans lived in poverty or extreme poverty<sup>115</sup> and that many of the poorest families were excluded from various poverty reduction programmes.<sup>116</sup> It recommended integrating economic, social and cultural rights in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy.<sup>117</sup>

75. CESCR was also concerned that, as there was no basic social security system, many disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups were not entitled to any protection.<sup>118</sup>

76. CESCR was deeply concerned about the acute shortage of adequate housing, especially in urban areas where disadvantaged and marginalized groups lived in informal settlements, shelters and camps without basic infrastructure, facilities and services.<sup>119</sup>

## **H. Right to health**

77. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the right to health remained a challenge in Afghanistan; the health of women and children continued to be very poor. There was a high incidence of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis which caused a serious health problem, with an unusually higher prevalence among women. The main causes of ill-health were underdevelopment and low economic status.<sup>120</sup>

78. WHO noted that the long period of conflict had caused anxiety and depression among many Afghans; over 2 million were currently affected by mental health problems, with high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and severe anxiety, particularly among women.<sup>121</sup> CESCR, CEDAW and CRC shared that concern.<sup>122</sup> Several treaty bodies recommended addressing those health problems.<sup>123</sup>

79. CESCR remained concerned about the high maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality rates and the lack of a gender-sensitive approach in health service provision.<sup>124</sup>

80. CRC, CESCR and CEDAW were concerned that limitations on women's and girls' movements, imposed by traditional norms, and the lack of female medical staff impeded the provision of essential health care to women and girls.<sup>125</sup> CESCR urged Afghanistan to improve basic health services and recruit female medical staff, especially in rural areas.<sup>126</sup>

81. CRC recommended fully including girls and children from the most marginalized groups in all health strategies and programmes.<sup>127</sup> CEDAW urged Afghanistan to provide women with access to health-care facilities, especially in rural and remote areas, and eliminate cultural beliefs that impeded women's free access to health services and contraceptives.<sup>128</sup>

## **I. Right to education**

82. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), conflict and fragile security impeded delivery of school supplies, enrolment, monitoring, and school supervision. Those challenges were exacerbated by entrenched cultural norms that opposed the education of girls; some 60 per cent of the 4.2 million out-of-school children were girls. Moreover, early marriage often interrupted girls' education. A general shortage of teachers and an acute need for female instructors made attendance difficult for girls, particularly in rural areas.<sup>129</sup>

83. CESCR noted with concern that the right to education was not guaranteed without discrimination and was concerned about the throwing of acid to prevent girls and female teachers from going to school.<sup>130</sup>

84. UNESCO reported that, despite an increase in the number of teachers since 2001, only 24 per cent of teachers had the minimum qualifications to teach. The country lacked common and appropriate standards for certifying teachers and accrediting teacher training institutions. Consequently, the quality of education in Afghanistan was poor.<sup>131</sup>

85. UNESCO recommended that the Government strengthen its efforts to combat illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, implement measures to ensure girls and women had access to all levels of educational, and direct its efforts towards gender equality and eliminating discrimination against girls and women in education.<sup>132</sup>

86. CEDAW was concerned about the high illiteracy rate among women and the high dropout rate for girls.<sup>133</sup>

87. CRC expressed extreme concern at attacks by insurgent groups on school facilities, which had killed many schoolchildren and teachers and led to school closures, and at the use of schools as polling stations and their occupation by international and national military forces. It recommended that Afghanistan protect schools, teachers and children from attacks.<sup>134</sup> CEDAW recommended prosecuting the perpetrators of attacks on girls' schools.<sup>135</sup> The High Commissioner had similar concerns.<sup>136</sup>

## **J. Cultural rights**

88. UNESCO reported that there was no specific law to support the implementation of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.<sup>137</sup>

89. CESCR regretted the lack of adequate measures to protect Afghanistan's linguistic diversity. It recommended adopting a comprehensive national cultural policy that ensured respect for cultural and linguistic cultural heritage and diversity.<sup>138</sup>

90. CESCR noted with concern that many areas and elements of Afghanistan's cultural heritage had been illegally excavated and destroyed.<sup>139</sup>

## **K. Persons with disabilities**

91. CRC expressed serious concern at the extent of maltreatment of children with disabilities in families and institutions. It recommended ensuring that those children were

not exposed to violence or neglect and had access to education, including inclusive education.<sup>140</sup>

## **L. Minorities**

92. CRC was concerned that children from minorities, notably Hindu and Kuchi children, had limited access to education. It recommended that Afghanistan create an inclusive educational system that welcomed children from all minorities.<sup>141</sup>

93. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) warned that the lack of identity documentation for minority groups could increase the risk of statelessness due to difficulties in proving nationality. There were indications that some members of the Jat ethnicity, including the nomadic Jogi, Chori Frosh and Gorbat communities, had been denied issuance of Afghan identity cards. UNHCR recommended that Afghanistan promote access to nationality documentation for ethnic minorities.<sup>142</sup>

## **M. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

94. According to UNHCR, although Afghanistan was a State party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, no legal or institutional framework existed for the determination of refugee status and the protection of refugees. As the Government had not adopted national refugee legislation, there was no systematic approach to ensure that refugees could fully avail themselves of their rights.<sup>143</sup>

95. Refugees and asylum seekers continued to face difficulties related to integration due to the absence of social and legal frameworks to guarantee their protection and integration into Afghan society. That was further compounded by the volatile security situation in Afghanistan.<sup>144</sup>

## **N. Internally displaced persons**

96. According to UNHCR, Afghanistan had witnessed an increase in internal displacement as a result of conflict, insecurity, human rights violations and natural disasters.<sup>145</sup> The security situation continued to be volatile and obtaining humanitarian access to many areas remained impossible. The lack of security continued to be the main cause of displacement. UNHCR recommended that the Government take specific steps towards tackling the situation of IDPs in a comprehensive manner, and adopt a clear position regarding durable solutions to displacement.<sup>146</sup>

97. UNHCR also recommended that the Government adopt the National IDP Policy it had prepared and ensure its implementation at both the national and regional levels in order to address the humanitarian and protection needs of the displaced population.<sup>147</sup> CEDAW made the same recommendation.<sup>148</sup>

## **O. Right to development and environmental issues**

98. According to UNESCO, Afghanistan remained at high risk of environmental damage. Since 1978, the total area of forest in the country had been reduced by almost half. Access to safe drinking water was limited; nationwide, only 31 per cent of households had access to safe drinking water, varying significantly from only 26 per cent in rural areas to 64 per cent in urban areas. The lack of access to clean drinking water and poor sanitation contributed considerably to high mortality rates.<sup>149</sup>

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Afghanistan from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/5/AFG/2).
- <sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| ICERD      | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination                             |
| ICESCR     | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  |
| OP-ICESCR  | Optional Protocol to ICESCR   |
| ICCPR      | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights  |
| ICCPR-OP 1 | Optional Protocol to ICCPR  |
| ICCPR-OP 2 | Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty                               |
| CEDAW      | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women                                    |
| OP-CEDAW   | Optional Protocol to CEDAW  |
| CAT        | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment                      |
| OP-CAT     | Optional Protocol to CAT  |
| CRC        | Convention on the Rights of the Child   |
| OP-CRC-AC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict                                     |
| OP-CRC-SC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography                    |
| OP-CRC-IC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure  |
| ICRMW      | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| CRPD       | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities   |
| OP-CRPD    | Optional Protocol to CRPD   |
| CPED       | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance                        |
- <sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art.5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: CPED, art. 30.
- <sup>4</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.
- <sup>5</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).
- <sup>6</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation.
- <sup>7</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- <sup>8</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) and Protocol Additional to the Geneva

- Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II).
- <sup>9</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- <sup>10</sup> 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- <sup>11</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.
- <sup>12</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III).
- <sup>13</sup> Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2), para. 44.
- <sup>14</sup> Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/AFG/CO/1), paras. 63 and 73 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 27 (d).
- <sup>15</sup> Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4), para. 49.
- <sup>16</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 5. See also CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 3 (b) and 55; E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, paras. 7 and 31.
- <sup>17</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 56.
- <sup>18</sup> Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/HRC/22/37), para. 54 (i).
- <sup>19</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 55 (b) and (c). See also E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 31 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 24.
- <sup>20</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 13.
- <sup>21</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 7–8.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 49.
- <sup>23</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 13.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 43 (a). See also CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 25.
- <sup>25</sup> According to article 5 of the rules of procedure for the International Coordination Committee (ICC) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the different classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: Voting Member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles), B: Non-Voting Member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination), C: No Status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- <sup>26</sup> For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/23/28, annex.
- <sup>27</sup> A/HRC/22/37, para. 54 (k). See also A/HRC/22/37, para. 49.
- <sup>28</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 13 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 20. See also E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 44.
- <sup>29</sup> Report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/HRC/15/25/Add.2), para. 79 (c).
- <sup>30</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 19 (a).
- <sup>31</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 72.
- <sup>32</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 6.
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 18 and 19 (b).
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 16 and 17 (b).
- <sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 16.
- <sup>36</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 65 (a).
- <sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 49. See also E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 17.
- <sup>38</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 5 (b) and 11.
- <sup>39</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 14.
- <sup>40</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:



CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
HR Committee	Human Rights Committee
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CAT	Committee against Torture
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- <sup>41</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 49.
- <sup>42</sup> Ibid., para. 7.
- <sup>43</sup> For the titles of special procedures, see [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx).
- <sup>44</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/HRC/17/28/Add.6).
- <sup>45</sup> A/HRC/22/37, para. 54 (f) and (i).
- <sup>46</sup> OHCHR Report 2012, p. 117. Available from [www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2012/web\\_en/allegati/downloads/1\\_Whole\\_OHCHR\\_Report\\_2012.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2012/web_en/allegati/downloads/1_Whole_OHCHR_Report_2012.pdf).
- <sup>47</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, paras. 18 and 19.
- <sup>48</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 25 and 26 (a).
- <sup>49</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 42.
- <sup>50</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan, para. 10.
- <sup>51</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, paras. 11 (c) and 43 (b). See also CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 41.
- <sup>52</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 18 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 42.
- <sup>53</sup> A/HRC/17/28/Add.6, para. 78.
- <sup>54</sup> A/HRC/22/37, summary, p. 1.
- <sup>55</sup> Ibid., para. 12.
- <sup>56</sup> Ibid., para.18.
- <sup>57</sup> Ibid., para. 12.
- <sup>58</sup> A/HRC/17/28/Add.6, para. 83.
- <sup>59</sup> United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)/ OHCHR, “Treatment of Conflict-Related Detainees in Afghan Custody: One Year On”, January 2013, p. 2. Available from [www.unama.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VsBL0S5b37o%3d&tabid=12254&language=en-US](http://www.unama.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VsBL0S5b37o%3d&tabid=12254&language=en-US), pp. 2–3.
- <sup>60</sup> A/HRC/22/37, para. 37.
- <sup>61</sup> Ibid., para. 23.
- <sup>62</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/HRC/11/2/Add.4), para. 49.
- <sup>63</sup> Ibid., para. 82.
- <sup>64</sup> A/HRC/17/28/Add.6, para. 51.
- <sup>65</sup> Ibid., para. 54.
- <sup>66</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 31 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, paras. 22 and 24.
- <sup>67</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 56 (b) and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 25 (b).
- <sup>68</sup> A/HRC/17/28/Add.6, para. 75.
- <sup>69</sup> Ibid., para. 76.
- <sup>70</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 24. See also CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 70 (d).
- <sup>71</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 70 (b). See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 25 (b).
- <sup>72</sup> A/HRC/22/37, para.26.
- <sup>73</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 29.
- <sup>74</sup> Ibid., paras. 39, 70 and 71. See also E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 28.
- <sup>75</sup> United Nations Office the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict submission to the UPR on Afghanistan, 2013.
- <sup>76</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>77</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 64 and E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 30.
- <sup>78</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 66.
- <sup>79</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 26.
- <sup>80</sup> A/HRC/17/28/Add.6, para. 58.

- 81 A/HRC/15/25/Add.2, para. 75.
- 82 Ibid., para. 79 (e) and (f).
- 83 A/HRC/22/37, para. 31.
- 84 Ibid., para. 54 (d).
- 85 Ibid., para. 54 (j). See also CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 29.
- 86 A/HRC/17/28/Add.6, para. 69.
- 87 Ibid., para. 70.
- 88 CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, paras. 14, 15 (b)–(d) and (f) and E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 16.
- 89 A/HRC/22/37, para. 42.
- 90 CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 35 and 36. See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 24.
- 91 CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 70 (c) and 71 (d).
- 92 Ibid., paras. 33 and 34.
- 93 CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, paras. 30 and 31.
- 94 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 28 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 42.
- 95 CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 55 (a).
- 96 Ibid., para. 24. See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 43 (a).
- 97 CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 42.
- 98 CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 45.
- 99 Ibid., para. 43.
- 100 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 28.
- 101 UNESCO 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan, paras. 27 and 28.
- 102 Ibid., para. 48.
- 103 UNESCO “The Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity: Report by the Director-General, 2012. Available from <http://unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/FED/Safety%20Report%20by%20DG%202012.pdf>; and public statements by UNESCO Director-General on killings of journalists. Available from [www.unesco.org/webworld/condemnation](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/condemnation).
- 104 UNESCO 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan, para. 51.
- 105 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan and on the achievements of technical assistance in the field of human rights (A/HRC/16/67), para. 13.
- 106 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 19. See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 28.
- 107 CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 28.
- 108 Ibid., paras. 8–9 (b). See also E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 19 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 28.
- 109 International Labour Organization (ILO) “Assessment of livelihood opportunities for returnees/internally displaced persons and host communities in Afghanistan”, 2013, p. 8. Available from [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-islamabad/documents/publication/wcms\\_213661.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-islamabad/documents/publication/wcms_213661.pdf).
- 110 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 22.
- 111 Ibid., para. 25.
- 112 CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, paras. 34 and 35(a), (c) and (d).
- 113 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 24. See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 35 (a).
- 114 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 23.
- 115 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 34. See also CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 57 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 38.
- 116 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 27.
- 117 Ibid., para. 34.
- 118 Ibid., para. 26.
- 119 Ibid., para. 38.
- 120 World Health Organization “Country Cooperation Strategy: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan”. Available from [www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation\\_strategy/ccsbrief\\_afg\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccsbrief_afg_en.pdf).
- 121 Ibid.
- 122 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 42, CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 36 and CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 51 (e).
- 123 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 42, CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 52 (e) and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 37 (f).
- 124 E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 40. See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 36.

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- <sup>125</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 51 (c). See also E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 40 and CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 36.
- <sup>126</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 40. See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 37 (d).
- <sup>127</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 52 (b).
- <sup>128</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 37 (b) and (c). See also E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 41. See also CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, para. 54.
- <sup>129</sup> United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Afghanistan Country Office, Education Fact Sheet, November 2011. Available from [www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/ACO\\_Education\\_Factsheet\\_-\\_November\\_2011\\_.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/files/ACO_Education_Factsheet_-_November_2011_.pdf).
- <sup>130</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 43.
- <sup>131</sup> UNESCO 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan, para. 14.
- <sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 43–45.
- <sup>133</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 32.
- <sup>134</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 60 and 61 (i). See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, paras. 32 and 33 (d) and E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 43.
- <sup>135</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 33 (d).
- <sup>136</sup> A/HRC/22/37, para. 28.
- <sup>137</sup> UNESCO 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan, para. 38.
- <sup>138</sup> E/C.12/AFG/CO/2-4, para. 44.
- <sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 44.
- <sup>140</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 49, 50 (c) and (d) and 61 (a).
- <sup>141</sup> CRC/C/AFG/CO/1, paras. 59 and 61 (a).
- <sup>142</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan.
- <sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>145</sup> *Ibid.* See also CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 40.
- <sup>146</sup> UNHCR 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan.
- <sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>148</sup> CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2, para. 41 (a).
- <sup>149</sup> UNESCO 2013 submission to the UPR on Afghanistan, para. 32.
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