



Country visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery to Côte d'Ivoire

END OF MISSION STATEMENT

Introduction

The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Tomoya Obokata, conducted an official visit to Côte d'Ivoire between 6th and 17th of November. He would like to express his sincere gratitude to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for extending its courtesy, for the excellent cooperation and for engaging in an open and frank dialogue.

During his visit, the Special Rapporteur met with a wide variety of stakeholders; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; Ministry of the Interior and Security ; Ministry of Mines, Energy and Petroleum; Ministry of Planning and Development; Ministry of Education and Literacy; Ministry for Youth Promotion, Professional Integration and Civic Service; Ministry of Solidarity and the Fight against Poverty; Ministry for Women, the Family and Children; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Production; Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, including the Labor Inspectorate; the Coffee and Cocoa Council; the National Committee for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons; the National Monitoring Committee for Action to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labor and the Inter-ministerial Committee to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labor; the Prefect of San Pedro; civil society organisations, trade unions, human rights defenders and researchers; legal professionals, victims of labour and sexual exploitation including children; workers; employers and businesses; members of the diplomatic community; UN agencies and other international organisations,

In addition to Abidjan, the Special Rapporteur visited Grand-Bassam, San Pédro, Méagui, Soubre and Sokoura.

Progress made by Côte d'Ivoire to Tackle Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Actions against Child Labour

The Special Rapporteur wishes to commend Côte d'Ivoire for the significant progress it has been making to eradicate child labour¹ in the country. In relation to legislative frameworks, law n°2019-574 of 26 June 2019 on the Penal Code, amended by law n°2021-893 of 21 December 2021, and more specifically article 439 of the said Code prohibits forced labour of both adults and children with 5 years' imprisonment. The ambit of child labour was expanded to include

¹ Child labour is to be understood as work performed by those under 18 that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and/or interferes with their schooling.

the worst forms of child labour by Law No. 2010-272 on Prohibition of Child Trafficking and the Worst Forms of Child Labour. This covers child trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom and forced labour and the use of children in armed conflict and illegal activities such as drug trafficking. The law is therefore in line with the ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. The penalties have also been significantly increased to 10 to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 to 50,000,000.

Aside from criminal law, the Labour Code as amended is designed to protect the rights of workers. There are over 60 decrees and regulations which elaborate on various aspects of the Code. Article 22.3 sets the general minimum age for work as 16, although light work can be performed for those between 13 and 16 (as per Order No. 2017-016 MEPS). The Government also created a list of hazardous activities which are prohibited for children under the age of 18 (Decree No. 017MEPS/CAB of 2 June 2017) in the areas of agriculture and forestry; farming; mining, fishery; commerce and services as well as crafts and industry. In addition, Act No. 2015-635 amending Act No. 1995-696 makes education compulsory and free for children, from age 6 to 16.

Côte d'Ivoire has been enhancing its institutional frameworks to identify and address instances of child labour. In this regard, the Government established the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labor (CIM) which develops guidelines and policies on child trafficking and labour and coordinates the Government's actions against these practices with proactive monitoring and valuation.

Under the leadership of ^the First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire, the National Surveillance Committee to Monitor the Actions to Combat Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Labour (CNS) was established 2011. It consists of various entities, such as UNICEF, ILO, civil society organisations, the business sector, Cacao-Cafe Council, and trade unions. The Special Rapporteur welcomes this multi-stakeholder approach as it brings together experience and expertise of various entities to enhance actions against child labour, including protection and reintegration of child victims, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the Government's actions.

In addition, the National Committee for the Fight against Human Trafficking (CNLTP) was established in 2016, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. This Committee covers human trafficking generally and works with non-governmental stakeholders to address trafficking in persons. It has regional cells at a decentral level, and the Special Rapporteur had a chance to meet members of such a regional cell in San Pédro. While these Committee seem to overlap with regard to their mandates, the Special Rapporteur was assured that this was not the case in practice as these bodies communicate and coordinate closely with each other in order to avoid duplication of work.

The role of the Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CHDH), Côte d'Ivoire's National Human Rights Institution, also addresses contemporary forms of slavery through various lines of action. It engages in advocacy and awareness raising on issues surrounding child labour and child marriage among the general public at local, regional and national levels. Upon receipt of complaints with regard to contemporary forms of slavery, the CNDH can also investigate individual cases and refer them to appropriate authorities such as the Police and Social Centers for further law enforcement actions and assistance of victims. As an example, a total of 88 complaints relating to child labour and marriage have been investigated between 2022 and 2023 according to the CNDH.

The Special Rapporteur wishes to acknowledge promising developments arising from these ongoing efforts to eradicate child labour. In 2013, the Government launched the Child Labour Observation and Monitoring System (SOSTECI). This serves as a mechanism for monitoring

and early warning with regards to child labour in the country. A multi-stakeholder approach is taken as national authorities work closely with local village chiefs and authorities, cooperatives, as well as civil society organisations such as the International Cocoa Initiative in order to identify instances of child labour and take remedial actions to protect and reintegrate victims. The Special Rapporteur was informed by various stakeholders that the system is gradually being rolled out across the country. This, coupled with regular sensitisation campaigns targeting employers and workers, seem to contribute to the gradual reduction of child labour. The Special Rapporteur visited one cacao farm in Sokoura, where child labour has reportedly been reduced thanks to the multi-stakeholder cooperation and he was informed that the number of such farms is increasing.

It is also worth highlighting that certain cooperatives and private chocolate companies sourcing from Côte d'Ivoire only purchase cocoa certified by FairTrade or Rainforest Alliance. This certification provides an added layer of protection of workers' rights as producers have to promote fair working conditions for all workers. In return, producers receive a premium bonus which can be used for purposes such as community and social development.

The Special Rapporteur was encouraged to learn that a number of primary and secondary schools have been built in recent years, making education more accessible. This has also been an important measure to address child labour. The Government is intensifying its efforts in this regard, particularly through the designation of 2023 as "Year of Youth" by the President of Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, private companies contribute to the creation of educational institutions through social and community development projects. These businesses also implement other initiatives such as additional payments to encourage parents to send their children to school and the facilitation of registration of children without birth certificates. Further, a number of companies in the cacao industry are trying to set up a common platform to promote living wages for workers.

The efforts by non-governmental organisations should also be highlighted in eradicating child labour. The Special Rapporteur had the opportunity to interact with the International Cocoa Initiative, a multi-stakeholder network consisting of companies, civil society organisations, Rainforest Alliance, FairTrade and farmers' organisations, during his field trips to Méagui and Sokoura. It works with national and local governments, village/farm leadership, cooperatives, businesses, and workers by raising awareness, building capacity through training, enhancing access to education for children and improving working conditions. It also introduced its own identification and monitoring mechanism, the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (SSRTE) within the industry, which has been instrumental in identifying and recording instances of child labour, allowing them to implement remediation measures in a timely and effective manner.

Equally important is the role of trade unions and workers' associations in advocating for the rights of workers. They have a strong presence in the country and continue to empower and support workers in claiming labour rights. There are unions representing different sectors, such as agriculture and domestic work. Others also represent the interest of migrant workers and other vulnerable populations. The Special Rapporteur was informed that trade unions were behind the recent increase of the national minimum wage from 65,000 CFA to 75,000 CFA.

Other Forms of Exploitation and Contemporary Forms of Slavery

In addition to child labour, Côte d'Ivoire continues to address other forms of exploitation. Title 1 (Rights, Freedoms and Duties) of the country's new Constitution adopted in 2016 prohibits, among others, slavery, forced labour and human trafficking under Article 5. This provision was

strengthened by law n°2019-574 of June 26, 2019 on the Penal Code, amended by law n°2021-893 of 21 December 2021 which criminalises a range of offences such as forced/child marriage, and enslavement. Law No. 2016-111 on the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons additionally addresses sex and labour trafficking for both adults and children with punishment of up to 10 years' imprisonment for adult victims and 30 years' imprisonment for child victims. Aside from criminal law provisions, the Marriage Act 2019 now designates the age of consent for marriage as 18 for men and women in order to prevent early or child marriage in the country.

In relation to law enforcement, in addition to the Committees mentioned above, the police and Gendarmerie have dedicated units addressing contemporary forms of slavery, and the Special Rapporteur was informed that law enforcement officials regularly received training with a view to enhancing investigation and prosecution. It also has a labour inspectorate which has increased proactive inspections in recent times.

The Special Rapporteur was also encouraged to learn that the identification and protection of victims of contemporary forms of slavery are improving. In this regard, the Government has set up reporting mechanisms, including a hotline, whereby victims and others who suspect instances of contemporary forms of slavery can report to public authorities such as the police and social centers which in turn initiate an investigation or a protection needs assessment. These reporting mechanisms are regularly reviewed by the CNLTP. Assistance is also given during criminal proceedings to ensure that victims who act as witnesses are not intimidated by perpetrators.

Protection measures are also accessible to migrants who have been exploited in the country, regardless of whether they wish to cooperate with law enforcement authorities. Immediate protection such as shelter, food and medical assistance are often given by civil society organisations. The Special Rapporteur had an opportunity to visit Abel Center in Grand Bassam and BICE (*Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance*) in Abidjan. They provide safe houses, education and skills training for a limited number of victims of trafficking and labour/sexual exploitation, including those from foreign countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. He also met *Association Pour La Reinsertion des Migrants de Retour en Côte d'Ivoire* which provides a variety of services for Ivorian nationals who have been trafficked and exploited abroad and returned to Côte d'Ivoire, doing important awareness raising work about the risks of irregular migration. For migrant victims, the Special Rapporteur was assured by the Government that return to their countries of origin only takes place with their explicit consent, and those who want to stay can do so without a time limit. In case of the latter, the Government provides to some extent additional support such as access to public services and employment with the support of other stakeholders.

International Obligations and Commitments

Internationally, Côte d'Ivoire is a party to a number of international human rights and labour laws including the Slavery Convention 1926, the Forced Labour Convention 1930, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery 1956, the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons 2000. The Special Rapporteur was also informed that the Government has recently ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families 1990.

Côte d'Ivoire also joined Alliance 8.7, a global multi stakeholder partnership aiming to implement Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as a “Pathfinder country” and currently it serves as the co-chair.

Remaining Challenges

Although Côte d'Ivoire has been taking proactive steps to address contemporary forms of slavery, it is the fact that these practices continue to exist in the country. In relation to child labour, many are still working during school hours and/or performing tasks which are physically and mentally detrimental to their wellbeing, which may amount to the worst forms of child labour. The Special Rapporteur also met with a civil society organisation protecting the rights of children with disabilities. According to information received, children with both intellectual and physical disabilities suffer intersecting forms of discrimination, violence, labour and sexual exploitation. Such treatment of persons with disabilities is reportedly based on cultural beliefs which may justify rape and other forms of violence of persons with disabilities, including children.

In Côte d'Ivoire, many children work in the agricultural sector and most of them work in small-scale family farming plantations. Cocoa production is predominantly carried out on family-owned land, significantly contributes to this issue. The Special Rapporteur found that despite the important steps taken by the Government and by businesses, child labour persists in the country. In 2001, the chocolate and cacao industries adopted the so-called “Harkin Engel Protocol” which aimed to reduce child labour in the sector by 70% by 2020, but it is clear that this has not been achieved in practice. The Special Rapporteur was also informed that some farmers are regularly suspended from the certification of cacao due to, among others, the existence of child labour or the incompliance with other standards.

According to reports received, there is increasingly a shift from child labour in cocoa production to artisanal mining, as there is less or no oversight in this sector. Hence, child labour is gradually moving to this economic sector, including to geographically remote areas and children engage in more dangerous activities with the incentive of receiving imminent and higher payments. In addition to formal mining sites regulated by the Government, Côte d'Ivoire reportedly also has a large number informal or illegal mining sites across the country which has close links to criminal, armed groups who are frequently present at these sites. Children, many of whom have been trafficked from neighbouring countries such as Burkina Faso and Mali, are exposed to demanding and hazardous tasks in both formal and informal sites, including carrying heavy loads and being exposed to toxic substances. Within the informal/illegal sites, children are also lured into other criminal activities such as drug and weapons trafficking, as well as sexual exploitation of trafficked women and girls. In such a context, many children reportedly drop out of school and continue to work in artisanal gold mining. In considering the indicators mentioned, it seems clear that many instances in the sector amount to the worst forms of child labour. In addition, the Special Rapporteur was informed that the mining activities lead to severe environmental degradation, including erosion and the pollution of rivers which has a serious negative impact on the affected populations' right to a healthy environment. The legal and illegal extraction of gold, including by children, requires the urgent attention of the Government and businesses which condone child or forced labour must be held accountable.

Domestic work is another area of concern, affecting particularly girls. While not all tasks within domestic work amount to exploitation, the Special Rapporteur received first-hand information that many children perform physically demanding tasks during long hours and consequently are not able to attend school. They do not receive proper wages, and instances of physical, including sexual abuse and other forms of violence as well as trafficking of children from rural

to urban areas have been reported. Labour inspectors are not permitted to investigate private homes, and this increases their vulnerability as labour and sexual exploitation behind closed doors are not easily identified and domestic workers rarely report instances of abuse or exploitation, including due to a lack of awareness about existing reporting channels or as they do not have access to them. Despite the existence of a law on domestic violence, the Special Rapporteur is also concerned that certain tasks in domestic work are not mentioned in the list of hazardous work.

Alongside child labour, the Special Rapporteur received information that labour exploitation among adults, which may amount to forced labour², also exists to some extent in some sectors of the economy, for example in artisanal mining. In this regard, stakeholders pointed to indicators of forced labour such as insufficient wages, long working hours, limited access to essential services and healthcare, as well as debt bondage. This seems to happen for both Ivorian nationals and foreign nationals migrating or trafficked into the country. Women are disadvantaged regarding access to land ownership, among other areas, which affects their economic autonomy. They also face a disproportionate burden, as they also have domestic and caring responsibilities. The Government does not seem to consider labour exploitation of adults to be a major issue, but the Special Rapporteur urges it to pay more attention in the future and collect relevant data so that it can take appropriate preventive actions.

Moreover, the Special Rapporteur is also concerned by instances of child or forced marriage in Côte d'Ivoire, reportedly affecting girls from the age of 13. According to CNDH, 79 cases were reported to them between 2022 and 2023 alone, but it is estimated that the actual number is significantly higher due to underreporting. Many girls are said to marry before reaching 18, particularly in the north. Despite important awareness raising efforts undertaken by the Government, CNDH and civil society organisations, traditional and religious leaders reportedly continue to support the marriage of girls at a young age which points to the need to strengthen efforts to end this form of gender-based violence. While the number may be much lower, the Special Rapporteur also received information regarding forced marriage of adult women.

Further, human trafficking of foreign nationals into Côte d'Ivoire, as well as of Ivorian nationals abroad, is a pressing problem. Most foreign victims are trafficked into the country from its neighbouring countries for both labour and sex exploitation. The Special Rapporteur was informed, for instance, that a large number of girls and women are trafficked from Nigeria and forced into prostitution in Côte d'Ivoire, for instance around sites of artisanal mining. Many victims have to pay a large sum of money to traffickers or smugglers and therefore are often trapped in debt bondage. Despite major efforts, access to decent work for young people remains insufficient, and as a result, Ivorian nationals are also trafficked to Europe and the Middle East for labor exploitation, particularly in agriculture, construction (for men) and domestic work (for women). Ivorian women and girls with albinism may also be trafficked internally for sexual exploitation.

The existence of contemporary forms of slavery in Côte d'Ivoire should be understood in the context of deep-rooted poverty, which is exacerbated by a number of factors. Despite the fact that the pricing is mainly influenced by the international market and the Government has limited leverage, a large number of stakeholders in the cacao industry stated that the pricing of cacao set by the Government is too low (1,000 CFA (\$1.65) per kilo as of this writing) as it does not take various expenses incurred by producers and the increasing cost of living into consideration. The decision is also one-sided as the Special Rapporteur was informed that

² In line with the ILO Forced Labour Convention 1930, forced labour means “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself [or herself] voluntarily.”

producers and others like local cooperatives are not at all consulted in deciding the price. This means that many farmers cannot afford to send their children to school, which in turn can facilitate child and forced labour. 47% per cent of people are illiterate in Côte d'Ivoire, out of which 2/3 are women³ which prevents them from various opportunities. The prevailing poverty and unequal distribution of wealth indicate that efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development for all need to be significantly stepped up by the Government.

A related point is the low minimum wage. While the amount was increased to 75,000 CFA per month from 65,000 in 2023, a large number of stakeholders said that this is not enough to support their families. This forces people to work longer hours, find second jobs or borrow money, all of which increases their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, including child labour. This underscores the need to provide a living wage which takes the cost of living sufficiently into consideration.

Limited access to education is another issue which has consistently been raised with the Special Rapporteur. While education up to the age of 16 is mandatory and free in Côte d'Ivoire in theory, this is not the case in practice as parents have to pay for uniforms, books, transportation and food for their children which increases financial burdens on them. While the Special Rapporteur acknowledges the ongoing efforts by the Government and private companies to increase the number of schools in the country, many stakeholders stated that their efforts are insufficient due to continuing inaccessibility and unavailability, particularly at the secondary level and children without a certificate from primary school are unable to access it. This disproportionately affects girls, migrant children as well as children with special needs, putting them at a higher risk of exploitation and abuse. The quality of education is often also low particularly in rural areas as schools lack qualified teachers and infrastructure such as access to information and communication technology.

In addition, access to healthcare and social security has also been raised as an issue by many stakeholders. Côte d'Ivoire has universal health coverage where everyone can access public healthcare facilities for free and without discrimination. While this is commendable, everyone has to make financial contributions every month, which is difficult for many. The Special Rapporteur was also informed that even if access to public health services is free, patients have to pay for medical kits and other expenses. Remote locations of healthcare facilities often make them inaccessible for many, and the quality of medical services has been called into question as there seems to be a consistent lack of infrastructure. With regard to social security, bureaucracy surrounding it and a lack of sufficient information given to workers means that many do not access it in practice.

These issues are partly caused by the problems surrounding birth registration and obtaining identity documents. Local registration offices are often located far away from people living in rural areas, and this seems to prevent timely birth registration despite efforts made by the Government. Fees are incurred if one fails to register within 3 months, which many are not able to afford. The Special Rapporteur was also informed that it takes an excessive amount of time for the local authorities to process registration, and that there is not enough awareness raising among the general public as many apparently do not see the need to register their children. Registration of foreign nationals also can pose difficulty when they are undocumented. It was also pointed out that many of them do not wish to be identified for a variety of reasons. The Special Rapporteur acknowledges the Government's ongoing efforts to address these and other issues in order to reduce poverty and socio-economic inequality,

³ <https://www.gouv.ci/actualite-article.php?recordID=15651>.

including through the implementation of the National Development Plan 2021-2025 and PSGouv 2, and hopes that positive outcomes are achieved in the near future.

Aside from poverty, the informal nature of key sectors of Côte d'Ivoire's economy including agriculture and domestic work raises concerns. While the Labour Code does provide rules on working conditions, one of the key issues raised is a lack of written contracts, as job offers and working conditions have traditionally been communicated orally. This leaves a protection gap as workers may not be able to enforce their rights and entitlements effectively. Indeed, the Special Rapporteur met workers who clearly stated that their working conditions significantly improved with the introduction of written contracts. He therefore urges the Government to enact legislation mandating written contracts for all sectors.

Further, criminal law enforcement should be strengthened as the rates of prosecution and punishment, are still low according to a large number of stakeholders. A lack of resources, capacity and expertise among relevant agencies have been raised as key reasons, but there are other serious problems such as corruption and impunity which seems to be widespread. Similarly, there is much scope to improve the effectiveness of labour inspection. While the Special Rapporteur acknowledges that the Government has been enhancing the labour inspection regime in the country and progress has been made in conducting inspections including in rural areas, concerns have been expressed by many that more needs to be done by allocating sufficient human and financial resources to the labour inspectorate. Of particular concern is inspection of domestic work as labour inspectors are not legally entitled to enter private household for investigation. In addition, fines imposed on employers do not appear to be sufficiently stringent enough to deter them from exploiting workers.

In terms of victims identification and protection, the complaint or reporting mechanisms, including a hotline, are not regarded as sufficiently effective by many stakeholders. Potential/actual victims need better access to information about their rights and existing reporting mechanisms, and the protection of complainants from reprisals should be ensured. For victim protection and assistance, the Government relies heavily on civil society organisations. These organisations are chronically under-staffed/resourced, and yet the Government reportedly does not provide much support to them to carry out their important work. These organisations can sometimes obtain support from international organisations and other donors, but these are temporary, project-based in their nature and therefore sustainable longer-term support is non-existent. The Special Rapporteur urges the Government, international organisations and private donors to proactively support front-line organisations. Further, access to justice and remedies should be strengthened as many victims are reportedly not aware of the available avenues.

Finally, it is clear that human rights due diligence and accountability among companies operating in Côte d'Ivoire need to be enhanced. According to information received, aside from multinational cooperations from Western countries, many local companies, most of whom are small and medium enterprises, are not aware of the importance of human rights due diligence in their business operations. The Special Rapporteur was informed by the Government that it is in a process of developing a national action plan on business and human rights, and he hopes that this is done speedily and with the active participation of employers, employees, trade unions, civil society, and the international community.

To conclude, Côte d'Ivoire has robust legal frameworks to address contemporary forms of slavery and has made significant progress in tackling child labour in certain sectors through the adoption of a multi-stakeholder approach. However, it is also clear that enforcement of these frameworks is inadequate in many other areas, and the Special Rapporteur urges the Government to enhance its efforts to address these more effectively.

Recommendations

To the Government

- Regularly collect disaggregated data on contemporary forms of slavery, including child/forced labour, child/forced marriage, forced labour, as well as trafficking for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation
- Continue its good efforts in eradicating child labour through a multi-stakeholder approach
- Improve the enforcement of the existing criminal and labour laws by increasing the human and financial resources allocated to relevant authorities such as the police, gendarmerie and labour inspectorate and train them regularly on the identification of instances of child and forced labour;
- Consider streamlining the different existing committees to simplify the governmental architecture for the elimination of child labour and to avoid overlap. Also, allocate sufficient resources to these structures and through regular oversight, ensure that they operate effectively at the local level and that the resources reach the children in need and their families;
- Hold perpetrators of child and forced labour accountable by ensuring that appropriate and sufficiently dissuasive punishments are imposed;
- Make education more accessible, available and affordable for all children, including by building more schools and by financially supporting families who are unable to afford the costs related to schooling and by removing the requirement at secondary level to present a school certificate from primary school. Manage public finance/revenue more effectively to this end.
- Facilitate proactive birth registration and provision of identify documents to Ivorian citizens and migrant workers so that they can access education and essential services. Deploy mobile units to reach remote and rural areas;
- Include certain aspects of domestic work in the list of hazardous work prohibited for children under the age of 18 and increase monitoring in this area;
- Step up efforts to address labour exploitation among adults, including by developing and implementing an appropriate strategy to address it;
- Mandate, through legislation, written contracts in all sectors with a view to enhancing the protection and enforcement of workers' rights;
- Clearly inform the workers about their rights and entitlements, as well as about grievance procedures in cases of labour law violations, in languages they understand;
- Step up efforts for the economic empowerment of women as a means of addressing poverty, gender inequality and to prevent child labour and other forms of exploitation.
- As a matter of priority, increase skills training and employment opportunities for the young workforce;
- Provide sufficient subsidies and financial incentives to farmers in the agriculture sector in order to prevent child labour;
- Reinforce infrastructure such as roads and transport in the agricultural sector;
- Involve producers and cooperatives in decision-making with regard to the pricing of commodities such as cacao and coffee;
- Develop a holistic long-term policy/vision with regard to the mining sector and take urgent action to halt child labour as well as labour and sexual exploitation and

environmental destruction in that area, including by promoting dialogue among all relevant stakeholders;

- Sensitise Ivorian citizens who may wish to migrate abroad for employment in order to prevent sexual and labour exploitation and create incentives to avoid migration through irregular and dangerous channels;
- Provide sufficient resources to embassies abroad, including by deploying additional labour attachés so that they can provide appropriate support and assistance for Ivorian nationals who may have been exploited in foreign countries;
- Enhance its support to Ivorian nationals who have been exploited and returned from abroad;
- By allocating sufficient resources to awareness raising, continue efforts to change the mindset of religious and traditional leaders as well as the general public on child and forced marriage, and hold perpetrators of these practices accountable;
- Enhance the identification and protection of victims of contemporary forms of slavery through a multi-stakeholder approach;
- Provide appropriate support to the CNDH, civil society organisations, trade unions and workers' organisation which play a vital part in identifying, protecting and reintegrating victims;
- Intensify its multi-stakeholder efforts to reducing poverty by:
 - investing in childcare, education and vocational training
 - expanding social safety nets for those in need
 - introducing a living wage
 - investing in entrepreneurship, self-employment and other income generating opportunities
 - Increasing efforts to address intersecting forms of discrimination and socio-economic inequality
 - managing public finance more effectively by promoting efficiency and distributing revenues equally all across the country, decentralising and deconcentrating the public administration and increasing the autonomy of departments.
 - addressing corruption and impunity
- Develop and implement a national action plan to strengthen human rights due diligence among businesses operating in the country, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Businesses

- In consultation with relevant stakeholders, adopt and implement a human rights due diligence policy in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- In consultation with local communities, continue allocating resources to community and social development at the local level, based on the needs identified;
- Create more employment opportunities and enhance access to decent work;
- Pay living wages to all workers;
- Introduce written contracts for workers in all sectors;
- Ensure the transparency of supply chains;
- Continue to work collaboratively with the Government, trade unions, civil society and other stakeholders with a view to enhancing and maintaining the rights of all workers.

Regional and International Communities

- Provide adequate support to the Government and non-governmental stakeholders to prevent and suppress contemporary forms of slavery.
- Enhance regional and international cooperation among States.