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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Thirty-seventh session**  
18–29 January 2021

## **Compilation on Sao Tome and Principe**

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies<sup>1, 2</sup>**

2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Sao Tome and Principe ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>3</sup>

3. In 2018, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provided Sao Tome and Principe with training materials and guidelines on the international human rights mechanisms, as well as training aimed at increasing its capacity to engage with those mechanisms.<sup>4</sup> In 2019, OHCHR provided technical guidance to an interministerial committee of Sao Tome and Principe regarding the development and adoption of a road map for the drafting of reports to be submitted to the international human rights mechanisms.<sup>5</sup>

4. In 2020, UNESCO recommended that Sao Tome and Principe ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions as a means to promote access to and participation in creative expressions and as such contribute to implementing the right to take part in cultural life.<sup>6</sup>

#### **III. National human rights framework<sup>7</sup>**

5. In 2019, the Economic Commission for Africa noted that the structural transformation of Sao Tome and Principe required the overcoming of certain obstacles, such as the absence of statistical data necessary for the formulation of coherent policies



based on evidence.<sup>8</sup> The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) indicated that, in particular, the child protection system remained weak owing to a lack of consistent data.<sup>9</sup>

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

### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

#### **1. Equality and non-discrimination<sup>10</sup>**

6. UNICEF stated that, further to advocacy on birth registration conducted at the end of 2016, in early 2017, the ministries responsible for justice and for finance had signed a decree ensuring birth registration free of charge for children up to 1 year of age, replacing the previous policy, under which birth registration had been free of charge only during the first month of a child’s life.<sup>11</sup> UNICEF expected that the new policy would help achieve full birth registration,<sup>12</sup> and that the excellent achievements of the country in the area of birth registration could inspire other countries to reach related objectives.<sup>13</sup>

7. UNESCO encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to fully implement the provisions of the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage that promoted access to and participation in cultural heritage and creative expressions and that, as such, were conducive to implementing the right to take part in cultural life as defined in article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It also encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to, in doing so, give due consideration to the participation of communities, practitioners, cultural actors and non-governmental organizations from civil society, as well as vulnerable groups, namely, minorities, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, young people and persons with disabilities.<sup>14</sup>

#### **2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights<sup>15</sup>**

8. In a report submitted to the Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at its thirty-ninth meeting, held in 2020, progress made by Sao Tome and Principe in fulfilling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 was noted.<sup>16</sup> UNICEF reported that above-average performance in several sectors, including access to water and electricity, had been key factors contributing to the graduation of Sao Tome and Principe to the status of lower-middle-income country. However, the new status presented important risks, particularly with regard to a future decline in external support to the country. The status also failed to reflect the vulnerability experienced by most of the population.<sup>17</sup>

9. UNICEF noted that the everyday reality for children, young people and women in Sao Tome and Principe remained challenging. The quality of living conditions for a majority of the population contrasted with the encouraging forecast of the International Monetary Fund released in 2017, which was often cited by the local media.<sup>18</sup>

10. The United Nations country team urged the Government of Sao Tome and Principe to take deliberate action and make the necessary efforts, through an effective and integrated national strategy, to maximize the benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area, including political reforms.<sup>19</sup>

11. UNICEF stated that the country’s vulnerability to climate change was perceived to have increased, and highlighted the importance of support for emergency preparedness in that area.<sup>20</sup> The Economic Commission for Africa reiterated its argument that the blue economy could play a major role in the structural transformation of Sao Tome and Principe. That would require the sustainable use, management and conservation of aquatic and marine ecosystems and associated resources, and an optimal linkage of those with other sectors.<sup>21</sup>

## **B. Civil and political rights**

### **1. Right to life, liberty and security of person<sup>22</sup>**

12. UNICEF stated that the districts of Mé-Zóchi and Lembá were among those with the highest rates of domestic violence, according to the national police. Mé-Zóchi included some of the most populated rural communities in the country. The preliminary results of the study financed by UNICEF in 2018 on the impact of interventions against domestic violence showed that awareness of domestic violence as a crime had increased in communities in the most remote areas of the country, such as those in the districts of Mé-Zóchi and Lembá. That knowledge resulted from awareness-raising activities supported by United Nations and other organizations. Nevertheless, existing gender dynamics affected the translation of the knowledge into new behaviours.<sup>23</sup>

13. UNICEF noted the critical situation of women in the country,<sup>24</sup> and that worrying phenomena continued to be observed in the area of child protection, including child labour, violence against children (corporal punishment was common), sexual violence and early marriage.<sup>25</sup>

14. UNICEF also noted that some of the most critical barriers to eliminating violence against children and women included strong gender stereotypes and discrimination, as well as multiple-partner dynamics out of wedlock, leading to an absence of social and economic responsibility by males, and the use of corporal punishment by caregivers. Cultural and gender barriers related to childcare, as well as harmful practices such as violence and alcohol abuse among caregivers, required stronger support for the parental education programme across sectors.<sup>26</sup>

### **2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law<sup>27</sup>**

15. UNICEF noted with satisfaction that the law on civil juvenile justice included new procedures and envisioned the establishment of services for children in conflict with the law.<sup>28</sup>

### **3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life**

16. UNICEF indicated that, following the October 2018 election results, opposition parties had formed a coalition, obtaining an absolute majority in Parliament, and had been asked by the President to form a government. The new Government was officially installed in December 2018, following two months of negotiations. Further to inclusive dialogue and diplomatic negotiations, the peaceful transfer of power confirmed Sao Tome and Principe as one of the strongest multiparty democracies in Africa.<sup>29</sup>

17. The World Bank stated that the results of the 2018 elections reinforced the notion of Sao Tome and Principe as being a model of democratic transfer of power in Central Africa.<sup>30</sup>

18. UNICEF noted that Sao Tome and Principe had not been affected by any emergency in 2018. Nevertheless, the changing political environment and the continuous electricity cuts, especially towards the end of the year, had affected administrative, private and public services and had led to civil unrest and discontent in most parts of the country.<sup>31</sup>

19. UNESCO stated that no killings of journalists in Sao Tome and Principe had been registered between 2008 and 2019 and that, generally, journalists and media professionals worked in a safe environment.<sup>32</sup>

20. UNESCO noted, however, that defamation, libel and slander were considered criminal offences under the Penal Code, carrying a maximum of two years of imprisonment, and that there was no legislation concerning freedom of information in the country.<sup>33</sup> It recommended that Sao Tome and Principe introduce an access to information law in accordance with international standards, and that it decriminalize defamation, and place it within a civil code in accordance with international standards.<sup>34</sup>

### **4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery**

21. The International Labour Organization (ILO) noted that child labour remained widespread in Sao Tome and Principe, in subsistence farming, plantations in general and

small-scale fisheries, and that children began working in the informal economy at a very young age. Moreover, despite the efforts made to implement a national action plan to address child labour, the country still faced financial challenges in promoting a sense of ownership and raising awareness around the plan.<sup>35</sup>

22. In 2017 the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations requested Sao Tome and Principe to continue taking steps to raise public awareness of trafficking in persons for both labour and sexual exploitation and also to provide training for the competent authorities in the identification and suppression of that crime. The Committee also requested the country to provide information on any cases of trafficking that had been investigated, any judicial proceedings in progress and any convictions handed down.<sup>36</sup>

## **C. Economic, social and cultural rights**

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

23. ILO noted that the institutional framework in Sao Tome and Principe did not provide adequate conditions for the strategic planning and operational management of policies and programmes to promote decent and productive work.<sup>37</sup> Young persons were more affected by underemployment, which demonstrated their precarious position in the labour market, and lack of qualifications was clearly one cause of youth unemployment.<sup>38</sup>

24. UNICEF noted that the training of out-of-school young people and their integration into the labour market remained critical, but was hampered by the absence of a national employment policy. The Government's inability to generate employment made young people, of whom more than 20 per cent were unemployed, the most vulnerable segment of the population, posing a potential challenge to political stability and economic prosperity.<sup>39</sup> In 2019, the Economic Commission for Africa highlighted the need to align the youth training policy with the development needs of Sao Tome and Principe.<sup>40</sup>

25. In 2019, the ILO Committee of Experts requested Sao Tome and Principe to take all the necessary measures, both in law and practice, to encourage and promote the development and utilization of collective bargaining.<sup>41</sup>

26. The same Committee requested Sao Tome and Principe to take the necessary measures so as to ensure that the legislation contained specific and effective provisions concerning anti-union discrimination and interference.<sup>42</sup>

27. The same Committee also requested Sao Tome and Principe to take specific measures to ensure that workers who removed themselves from a work situation which they had reasonable justification to believe presented an imminent and serious danger to their life or health were protected from undue consequences and that the employer could not require workers to return to a work situation where there was continuing imminent and serious danger to life or health.<sup>43</sup>

### **2. Right to social security<sup>44</sup>**

28. UNICEF referred to the national law on social protection and the national social protection policy. It noted that there was a range of relevant initiatives, but also that gaps in coverage, impact and coordination persisted. The approach had failed to create a basic social protection system for the population of Sao Tome and Principe. UNICEF further noted the lack of a universal family benefit programme for children.<sup>45</sup>

29. ILO considered that implementation of the law on social protection and the establishment of a labour court were some of the main challenges faced by Sao Tome and Principe in addressing issues related to labour legislation.<sup>46</sup> In general, despite support from development partners, including the World Bank, implementation of the social security law had been very slow and patchy, and not all of its provisions were enforced. The lack of a social protection floor in the country was one of the main weaknesses in the social security system of Sao Tome and Principe.<sup>47</sup>

### 3. Right to an adequate standard of living<sup>48</sup>

30. In 2019, the World Food Programme noted that despite the fact that Sao Tome and Principe had made significant progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger remained one of the country's biggest challenges.<sup>49</sup>

31. In July 2020, the World Bank indicated that Sao Tome and Principe had performed higher than the sub-Saharan Africa average on the United Nations Development Programme human development index and had made progress improving other social indicators. It had a gross primary school enrollment of 110 per cent, a life expectancy of 66 years, an under-5 mortality rate of 51 per 1,000 live births, access to an improved water source for 97 per cent of the population, and access to electricity for 60 per cent of the population.<sup>50</sup>

32. The World Bank reported that poverty incidence in Sao Tome had not changed significantly between the 2000 and 2010 household surveys. According to recent World Bank estimates, about one third of the population lived on less than the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day, and more than two thirds of the population was poor, using the World Bank poverty line of \$3.20 per day. Urban areas and southern districts, such as Caué and Lembá, had higher levels of poverty incidence.<sup>51</sup>

33. UNICEF noted that inequities in Sao Tome and Principe remained, mainly related to household wealth.<sup>52</sup> Despite the significant progress made in the past by Sao Tome and Principe towards overcoming three standard indicators of malnutrition, disparities by wealth quintile were observed, with children in the poorest quintile disproportionately affected by malnutrition. Surveys indicated that more than 6 in 10 children in the age group 6–59 months suffered from anaemia, as did four of every five children aged 6–23 months. Around three quarters of children under 6 months of age were exclusively breastfed.<sup>53</sup>

34. UNICEF noted that access to drinking water had improved continuously in Sao Tome and Principe, and access to improved water sources was more equitable. However, differences remained in the quality of the water, depending on its source, and in relation to the distance to a water source.<sup>54</sup>

35. UNICEF indicated that, according to the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, open defecation rates were among the highest in the region: more than 50 per cent of the population defecated in the open.<sup>55</sup> UNICEF further noted a lack of responsiveness to awareness raising, and that barriers to behaviour change included poor socioeconomic conditions and poor understanding of the impact of open defecation on health and well-being.<sup>56</sup>

### 4. Right to health<sup>57</sup>

36. UNICEF highlighted that Sao Tome and Principe had succeeded in meeting the Millennium Development Goals on improving maternal and infant mortality and combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and other diseases, despite significant challenges.<sup>58</sup> However, the under-5 mortality rate among the poorest 60 per cent of the population was 50 per 1,000 live births, compared to 30 per 1,000 live births among the richest 40 per cent.<sup>59</sup>

37. UNICEF stated that, in the area of HIV/AIDS, Sao Tome and Principe had made important efforts to expand access to antiretroviral treatment, with the coverage rate increasing from 48 per cent in 2011 to 78 per cent in 2018.<sup>60</sup>

38. UNICEF also stated that, despite progress made, challenges remained in reducing neonatal mortality in Sao Tome and Principe, largely due to disparities in access to prenatal care and childbirth in a health centre as well as to the level of quality of care, and the fact that essential drugs and equipment were not always available at maternity facilities.<sup>61</sup>

39. UNICEF further stated that the adoption of a national health plan and implementation of a new national health strategy were expected to accelerate the improvement of access to and the quality of health services.<sup>62</sup>

## 5. Right to education<sup>63</sup>

40. UNESCO stated that, despite significant challenges, Sao Tome and Principe had achieved the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education.<sup>64</sup> While enrolment in primary school was high and inclusive of boys and girls, the quality of education at all levels remained an issue, with high dropout and repetition rates, especially among girls. Access to the second level of basic education remained limited because schools offering those grades were located mainly in district capitals.<sup>65</sup> Efforts were needed to ensure the availability of educational opportunities for out-of-school children and young people.<sup>66</sup>

41. UNICEF stated that its 2018 education sector analysis report had shown that while Sao Tome and Principe remained among the top spenders in education, the percentage had decreased steadily since 2010. Strong investment and support for education by the international community had resulted in improved quality and increased enrolment across all levels. In particular, access to preschool education had jumped from 21.4 per cent in 2006 to 71.4 per cent in 2017.<sup>67</sup>

42. UNICEF noted that the population of Sao Tome and Principe was extremely young; more than 50 per cent were under the age of 20. While that represented an extraordinary opportunity for growth and transformation, it also required investment in the social sectors, especially education, to provide equitable access to and retention in quality education, learning, including non-formal learning, and professional training opportunities.<sup>68</sup>

43. UNICEF noted that, despite a slight improvement, secondary school dropout rates for both girls and boys remained high, and that the causes needed to be identified and addressed.<sup>69</sup> It noted the lack of a gender-responsive education system, in which pregnant girls were only allowed to attend evening sessions.<sup>70</sup>

44. UNICEF noted that, unfortunately, non-formal strategies for out-of-school children were not yet part of the national education system. Further dialogue with the new Government and partners was needed to identify sustainable and cost-effective solutions for children, especially adolescents, not in school. The introduction of effective strategies would be required to keep young people committed to education while improving communication and pedagogical approaches used by teachers, especially for secondary education.<sup>71</sup>

45. Regarding the duration of free and compulsory education, UNESCO indicated that the recommendation in the Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 in respect of target 4.1 was 12 years of free primary and secondary education, of which at least 9 should be compulsory. Sao Tome and Principe could therefore be encouraged to amend its legislation accordingly. In addition, since pre-primary education was neither compulsory nor free, the country could be encouraged to put in place at least one year of free and compulsory pre-primary education of good quality, as indicated in the Framework for Action for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4.<sup>72</sup>

46. UNESCO therefore recommended that Sao Tome and Principe enshrine the right to education for all in its Constitution, increase the years of compulsory education to 9 and the years of free education to 12, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, and make one year of pre-primary education free and compulsory, in accordance with the same Goal.<sup>73</sup>

47. The ILO Committee of Experts encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to improve the functioning of the education system, by taking measures to ensure access to free basic, quality education for all children, particularly children from poor communities, including by taking measures to increase the school enrolment and completion rates, both at the primary and secondary levels.<sup>74</sup>

## D. Rights of specific persons or groups

### 1. Women<sup>75</sup>

48. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) noted that some progress on women's rights had been achieved in Sao Tome and Principe. However, work still needed to be done to achieve gender equality. As at February 2019, only 14.5 per cent of Parliament seats were held by women.<sup>76</sup>

49. UN-Women also referred to concerns regarding the proportion of women aged 20–24 years old who were married or in a union before age 18, the adolescent birth rate, and the proportion of women aged 15–49 years who had reported that they had been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Women aged 15–49 years often faced barriers with respect to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.<sup>77</sup>

50. UN-Women further noted that, in Sao Tome and Principe, data was available for only 22.5 per cent of the indicators used to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective, with gaps in key areas such as unpaid care and domestic work, and for key labour market indicators such as unemployment rate, gender pay gaps and skills in information and communications technology. Many areas, such as gender and poverty, women's access to assets, including land, physical and sexual harassment, and gender and the environment, lacked comparable methodologies for comprehensive and periodic monitoring. Addressing those gender data gaps was a prerequisite for understanding the situation of women and girls in Sao Tome and Principe and for achieving the gender-related Sustainable Development Goal commitments.<sup>78</sup>

51. ILO stated that, in the economic sphere, it had been found that, although women in Sao Tome and Principe were more active than men, particularly in the informal sector, they still had little economic power, according to a poverty profile study. Accordingly, one of the country's development challenges was to ensure equal enjoyment for men and women of favourable conditions and opportunities to achieve self-reliance.<sup>79</sup>

52. UNESCO encouraged the country to ensure that equal opportunities were given to women and girls in Sao Tome and Principe to address gender disparities.<sup>80</sup>

53. UNICEF noted that the new family law established 18 as the minimum age for marriage and strengthened the obligations of parents, especially fathers, towards their children. The law represented an important step forward for gender equity as, previously, girls could be married at 14, and boys at 16. The stronger focus on fathers was aimed at improving shared responsibilities among caregivers with regard to child care and support.<sup>81</sup>

## 2. Children<sup>82</sup>

54. UNICEF welcomed the establishment of a multi-sectoral national committee to coordinate implementation of the child protection policy, created through a national decree that entered into force in May 2018.<sup>83</sup> Under the leadership of the ministry responsible for social affairs, the committee would define the strategic axes and priorities for implementation of the policy. It was expected that the committee would enhance coordination among all stakeholders.<sup>84</sup>

55. UNICEF indicated that the political environment in Sao Tome and Principe was conducive throughout 2018 for the design, validation and adoption of several key policies and laws aimed at improving the lives of children and young people. There were strong partnerships among the Government, United Nations agencies, bilateral partners and civil society, which allowed Sao Tome and Principe to achieve important results for children in the second year of its UNICEF country programme 2017–2021 implementation, especially at the strategic and policy development levels.<sup>85</sup>

## 3. Persons with disabilities<sup>86</sup>

56. UNICEF stated that children with special needs, especially those with mobility or hearing difficulties, were very vulnerable to exclusion from education in Sao Tome and Principe.<sup>87</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Sao Tome and Principe will be available at [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/STindex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/STindex.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 107.1–107.39, 107.50–107.55 and 108.1.

<sup>3</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Sao Tome and Principe, para. 8.

- <sup>4</sup> OHCHR, *OHCHR Report 2018*, p. 342.
- <sup>5</sup> OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2019*, p. 211.
- <sup>6</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 12.
- <sup>7</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 108.4–108.24.
- <sup>8</sup> See [www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy](http://www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy).
- <sup>9</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018: Sao Tome and Principe”, p. 11.
- <sup>10</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 108.28–108.35 and 109.1.
- <sup>11</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2017: Sao Tome and Principe”, pp. 1 and 4.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16. p. 4.
- <sup>13</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 16.
- <sup>14</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 11.
- <sup>15</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/31/17, para. 107.72.
- <sup>16</sup> See [www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/CoM/2020/e2000245\\_ipoa\\_en.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/CoM/2020/e2000245_ipoa_en.pdf), para. 34.
- <sup>17</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 4.
- <sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>19</sup> See [www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy](http://www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy).
- <sup>20</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 4.
- <sup>21</sup> See [www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy](http://www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy).
- <sup>22</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/31/17 para. 107.58.
- <sup>23</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 10.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>25</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 7.
- <sup>26</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, pp. 7 and 10.
- <sup>27</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 107.68–107.70.
- <sup>28</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 10.
- <sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 1.
- <sup>30</sup> See [www.worldbank.org/en/country/saotome/overview](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/saotome/overview).
- <sup>31</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 4.
- <sup>32</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 7.
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 4–5.
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 9–10.
- <sup>35</sup> ILO, *Programme de promotion du travail décent 2018–2021 de São Tomé et Príncipe*, para. 11.
- <sup>36</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/de/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3333872](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/de/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID:3333872).
- <sup>37</sup> ILO, *Programme de promotion du travail décent 2018–2021*, para. 19.
- <sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 17–18, and E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 9.
- <sup>39</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 9.
- <sup>40</sup> See [www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy](http://www.uneca.org/stories/sao-tome-and-principe-urged-workout-african-free-trade-strategy).
- <sup>41</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:4018777:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:4018777:NO).
- <sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>43</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:4021532:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:4021532:NO).
- <sup>44</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/31/17, para. 107.73.
- <sup>45</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 12.
- <sup>46</sup> ILO, *Programme de promotion du travail décent 2018–2021*, para. 13.
- <sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 22.
- <sup>48</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 107.74 and 107.76–107.77.
- <sup>49</sup> World Food Programme, “Sao Tome and Principe country strategic plan (2019–2024)”, p. 1.
- <sup>50</sup> See [www.worldbank.org/en/country/saotome/overview](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/saotome/overview).
- <sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>52</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 2.
- <sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 11.
- <sup>54</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 10.
- <sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>56</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, pp. 11–12.
- <sup>57</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 107.78–107.79.
- <sup>58</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 2.
- <sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 3.
- <sup>60</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, pp. 3 and 6.
- <sup>61</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 5.
- <sup>62</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 2.



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- <sup>63</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 107.81–107.84 and 108.57–108.58.
- <sup>64</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 2.
- <sup>65</sup> Ibid., para. 8.
- <sup>66</sup> Ibid., para. 9.
- <sup>67</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 3.
- <sup>68</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>69</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>70</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 9.
- <sup>71</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 8.
- <sup>72</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 7.
- <sup>73</sup> Ibid., para. 8.
- <sup>74</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:4020334:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:4020334:NO).
- <sup>75</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 107.56–107.57, 107.59–107.60, 107.77 and 108.38–108.39.
- <sup>76</sup> See <https://data.unwomen.org/country/sao-tome-and-principe>.
- <sup>77</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>78</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>79</sup> ILO, *Programme de promotion du travail décent 2018–2021*, para. 29.
- <sup>80</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 11.
- <sup>81</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 10.
- <sup>82</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/31/17, paras. 107.29, 107.43, 107.49, 108.52, 107.62–108.65, 108.48–108.49, 108.53 and 109.2.
- <sup>83</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 9.
- <sup>84</sup> Ibid., p. 10.
- <sup>85</sup> UNICEF, “Country office annual report 2018”, p. 2.
- <sup>86</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/31/17, para. 108.59.
- <sup>87</sup> E/ICEF/2016/P/L.36, para. 8.
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