Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Seventh session
Geneva, 8–19 February 2010

Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1

Plurinational State of Bolivia

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.
## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core universal human rights treaties</th>
<th>Date of ratification, accession or succession</th>
<th>Declarations /reservations</th>
<th>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>22 Sept. 1970</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 14): Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>12 Aug. 1982</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>12 Aug. 1982</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No</td>
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<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>12 Aug. 1982</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>8 June 1990</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>27 Sept. 2000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): No</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>12 April 1999</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 21): Yes</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Individual complaints (art. 22): Yes</td>
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<td>Inquiry procedure (art. 20): No</td>
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<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>23 May 2006</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>26 June 1990</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td>22 Dec. 2004</td>
<td>Binding declaration under art 3: 18 years</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td>3 June 2003</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICRMW</td>
<td>16 Oct. 2000</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 77): No</td>
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<td>CRPD</td>
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<td>OP-CRPD</td>
<td>16 Nov. 2009</td>
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<td>Inquiry procedure (arts. 6 and 7): Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>CED</td>
<td>17 Dec. 2008</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 31): No</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 32): No</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Core treaties to which Bolivia is not a party: OP-ICESCR and OP-ICCPR.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other main relevant international instruments</th>
<th>Ratification, accession or succession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palermo Protocol</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refugees and stateless persons</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto</td>
<td>Yes, except Additional Protocol III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO fundamental conventions</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. In 2009, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) recommended that the Plurinational State of Bolivia ratify OP-ICESCR and ICCPR-OP. In 2008, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW) encouraged Bolivia to consider making the declarations provided for in articles 76 and 77 of the Convention, and acceding to ILO Conventions No. 97 and No. 143.
B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. CRC welcomed the adoption of the new Constitution in 2009. UNCT noted that the Constitution included both individual and collective rights recognized in international human rights treaties, which possess constitutional status and take precedence over the Constitution if their provisions are more favourable. UNICEF and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food made similar observations.

3. UNCT noted that the most recent constitutional reform had incorporated the traditional indigenous rural courts as an equivalent jurisdiction to the ordinary jurisdiction. While congratulating Bolivia for its recognition of cultural diversity and the specificities of indigenous communities in legislation, CEDAW urged the Government in 2008 to ensure that indigenous concepts and practices are in conformity with the legal framework of the Convention.

4. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people recommended that Bolivia carry out the legislative reforms needed to regulate the exercise of indigenous peoples’ rights as recognized, inter alia, in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has the status of domestic law.

5. In 2009, CRC regretted that national legislation was not in conformity with the Convention, including the Child Code (Código del Niño, Niña y Adolescente) and laws concerning corporal punishment, marriage, alternative care and juvenile justice. UNCT and UNICEF recommended that Bolivia strengthen the overall legal framework on child rights and child protection.

6. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food recommended in 2008 that framework laws on the right to food and the right to water be adopted to fully entrench these rights.

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

7. The Defensor del Pueblo of Bolivia was accredited with “A” status by the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in 2000, which was reconfirmed in 2007. UNCT noted that since December 2008, the office of the Defensor had been under the responsibility of an interim Defensora and that there had so far been no sign of any political will to appoint the new Defensor.

8. In 2008, CEDAW was concerned at the lack of institutional stability of national machineries for the advancement of women, their limited decision-making power and lack of financial and human resources.


D. Policy measures

11. CRC regretted in 2009 that the draft National Plan of Action for Children had not yet been approved, and that the draft text did not cover all the areas of the Convention or all children up to the age of 18.28

12. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples recommended strengthening policies to combat all forms of discrimination.29

13. OHCHR Bolivia welcomed social programmes, such as the “dignity pension”, the “Juancito Pinto” Bonus Programme and the Zero Malnutrition initiative. It added that in spite of Government efforts, many groups are still underserved by social programmes, in particular indigenous communities, women and children.30

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Latest report submitted and considered</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Follow-up response</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Dec. 2003</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined 17th and 18th reports overdue since 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESCR</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Aug. 2008</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined third and fourth reports due in 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>HR Committee</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>May 1997</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Third report overdue since 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>April 2008</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined fifth and sixth reports due in 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>May 2001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Second report overdue since 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Sep. 2009</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Combined 5th and 6th reports due in 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-AC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report overdue since 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CRC-SC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report overdue July 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMW</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>May 2008</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Second report overdue since July 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing invitation issued</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latest visits or mission reports</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (25 November–7 December 2007);32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the right to food (29 April–6 May 2007);33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>independent expert on the effects of structural adjustment policies and foreign debt (15–18 May 2001);34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty (2001).35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits agreed upon in principle</td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2007, reminder sent to set dates);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (scheduled for 2009 and postponed at the request of the Special Rapporteur);</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights (requested in 2008).

Visits requested and not yet agreed upon
- 

Facilitation/cooperation during missions
The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples appreciated the cooperation of the Government.36

Follow-up to visits
- 

Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals
During the period under review, 8 communications were sent concerning, inter alia, particular groups, including 6 women. The Government replied to 2 communications, representing replies to 25 per cent of communications sent.

Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues37
Bolivia responded to 2 of the 16 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders,38 within the deadlines.39

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

14. In February 2007, Bolivia signed an agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an OHCHR office in the country. The agreement provides OHCHR-Bolivia with a broad mandate that comprises, inter alia, the provision of technical assistance to public institutions and civil society organizations; the promotion of human rights; and the monitoring and reporting on the status of human rights in the country. The agreement provides OHCHR-Bolivia with a broad mandate that comprises, inter alia, the provision of technical assistance to public institutions and civil society organizations; the promotion of human rights; and the monitoring and reporting on the status of human rights in the country.40 In 2008, OHCHR-Bolivia conducted 41 monitoring missions and provided advice on the elaboration of five draft laws.41 It also contributed to, inter alia, the inclusion of human rights guarantees in the final draft of the new Constitution42 and the adoption of the PNADH 2009–2013.43 The then High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, visited Bolivia in 2007.44

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

15. In 2008, CEDAW urged Bolivia to repeal without delay all legislation that discriminates against women, including discriminatory provisions in its criminal and civil law. Special reference was made to article 317 of the Penal Code, which provides that there shall be no punishment in cases of rape and other abuses when perpetrators marry their victims, and to article 130 of the Family Code on the grounds for divorce.45

16. CEDAW was concerned that a considerable number of women, particularly indigenous women in rural areas, older women and women with disabilities do not have identity documents and therefore have neither access to public institutions nor to the relevant social services and benefits.46

17. In 2008, CECSR requested taking effective measures and providing funds to combat discrimination in the education of girls and young women, in access to employment and equal working conditions for men and women, and in access to housing and land ownership.47

18. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples stressed that one of the most worrying human rights issues in Bolivia was the persistence of manifestations of racism against indigenous people.48 He referred to episodes of racially tinged political violence, especially in Beni, Santa Cruz and other eastern departments, resulting from political tensions having to do, inter alia, with processes for the recovery and recognition of indigenous territories.49 In 2003, CERD reiterated its recommendation that Bolivia make all forms of racial discrimination punishable by law.50 Between 2007 and 2009, the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the country five times.51
Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples and UNCT also made recommendations in this regard. In 2008, OHCHR-Bolivia noted that a draft law on anti-discrimination was being considered in Congress.

19. In 2008, CEDAW was particularly concerned that the Afro-Bolivian community was socially invisible and marginalized due to the fact that it is not recognized in national statistics, hindering their access to basic social services. In 2003, CERD noted that the Afro-Bolivian community faced severe disadvantages in health, life expectancy, education, income, literacy, employment and housing.

20. CMW was concerned in 2008 that some migrants had allegedly suffered from discrimination and stigmatization from State authorities, including the National Migration Service (SENAMEG) and the police.

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

21. In 2005, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances indicated that there were 28 remaining outstanding cases in Bolivia.

22. According to information collected by OHCHR-Bolivia, on 11 September 2008, shots were fired indiscriminately against a gathering of peasants and indigenous people in El Porvenir (Department of Pando). It is alleged that the armed attack was carried out by civil servants and supporters of the Pando Prefecture. The violent incidents left at least 11 dead and around 50 wounded. OHCHR-Bolivia concluded that what occurred was a massacre, constituting a grave violation of human rights. In 2009, OHCHR-Bolivia reiterated its recommendation that light should be shed on the incidents which took place at El Porvenir, in strict compliance with procedural principles and without undue delay. It added that investigations were required in order to determine whether the actions of the law-enforcement officers had been those most suited to enforcing the law, preventing human rights violations and protecting the victims. It also called on the Public Prosecutor urgently to adopt measures to ensure the safety of the witnesses.

23. In 2001, CAT was concerned about complaints of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, on many occasions resulting in death - in police stations, prisons and military barracks. It recommended, inter alia, that Bolivia incorporate in its criminal legislation the definition of torture as set forth in the Convention, make torture a crime and that it stipulate penalties commensurate with its seriousness. In 2009, while welcoming the prohibition of torture in the new Constitution, CRC expressed concern about reports of torture, cruel and inhuman treatment by the police, including sexual violence, of children in street situations. In 2008, OHCHR-Bolivia provided advice on the elaboration of a draft law on State policy against torture and on the establishment of a national preventive mechanism.

24. Concern was expressed by CAT regarding overcrowding and lack of basic services in prisons. In 2008, OHCHR-Bolivia indicated that, according to information received, 78 per cent of prisoners were awaiting trial. The same year, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food highlighted that it was essential to improve the nutritional value of the food distributed to prisoners. In 2009, CRC expressed concern at the high number of children living in prison due to the imprisonment of one of their parents, as well as at their safety and living conditions.

25. OHCHR-Bolivia noted in 2008 that although no policy or systematic practice of arbitrary detention is in place, there was concern over a number of irregular detentions carried out by the security forces against political opponents, who allegedly committed common crimes. According to allegations received, some of these arrests were carried out by hooded agents acting without warrants and using disproportionate force.
26. In 2008, CEDAW remained gravely concerned about the extent, intensity and prevalence of violence against women in Bolivia, which borders on “feminicide”.\textsuperscript{71} UNCT added that the lack of a unified registry of data on violence against women led to underestimation of the scale of the problem.\textsuperscript{72}

27. CRC was concerned in 2009 by the high rate of domestic violence against children, which is often considered as an educative measure.\textsuperscript{73} It recommended, inter alia, that the Government expressly prohibit corporal punishment by law in all settings and that it promote positive, non-violent forms of discipline.\textsuperscript{74} Concerned by the fact that Bolivia continues to be a source and destination country for victims of trafficking,\textsuperscript{75} CRC also recommended the approval and promulgation of the new integral law on the sale of children, sexual exploitation and trafficking, ensuring that it takes into account OP-CRC-SC.\textsuperscript{76}

28. In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILO Committee of Experts) noted that although Bolivia’s legislation appears to be consistent with the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, work by children under 18 in conditions of debt bondage or forced labour is a problem in practice.\textsuperscript{77} In 2009, CRC recommended urgent measures to address and monitor exploitative forms of child labour.\textsuperscript{78}

29. In 2008, OHCHR-Bolivia found that numerous Guaraní people were still subjected to servitude and other contemporary forms of slavery. It highlighted the alarming conditions of 20 communities in Alto Parapetí in Santa Cruz, where the situation has worsened due to the resistance of landlords and local opponents to Government attempts to end the degrading living and working conditions that persist there.\textsuperscript{79} In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples recommended that the Government, as a matter of priority, strengthen measures for the suppression of all forms of servitude and forced labour in the country, with the technical assistance of the ILO and other relevant agencies and organizations.\textsuperscript{80} CESCR,\textsuperscript{81} the Special Rapporteur on the right to food,\textsuperscript{82} and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues\textsuperscript{83} also made recommendations in this regard.

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

30. In 2008, the High Commissioner called upon national authorities to urgently identify sources of funding to comply with the reparation commitments undertaken through Law 2640 (Law on Exceptional Reparation for Victims of Political Violence During Periods of Unconstitutional Governments).\textsuperscript{84}

31. In 2008, OHCHR-Bolivia highlighted that the justice system and the Public Prosecutor’s Office face many challenges: they have been shown to be susceptible to political interference, are not accessible to a majority of the population and are also subject to delays and corruption.\textsuperscript{85} It added that the political tensions between the Government and the prefectures have weakened the administration of justice and put at risk the rule of law.\textsuperscript{86}

32. In 2009, UNCT explained that the implementation of the new Constitution involved a thorough reorganization of the judiciary and the replacement of all the senior members of the judiciary.\textsuperscript{87} In 2008, OHCHR-Bolivia noted that political impasse in Parliament had prevented new appointments, including the designation of nine magistrates to the Constitutional Tribunal, which was paralyzed as a result.\textsuperscript{88} The High Commissioner recommended to no longer delay the appointment of judiciary authorities and to ensure that the principles of independence and impartiality prevail in all the institutions of justice.\textsuperscript{89}

33. OHCHR-Bolivia expressed its concern over the cases of lynching which took place in 2008. It added that the weakness of the judicial system, in some cases compounded by the slow response of law-enforcement officials, fostered a climate of impunity which
encouraged repetitions of such incidents. OHCHR-Bolivia called on the State to strengthen the judicial system and the other State agencies responsible for ensuring public safety. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples noted that some social sectors and communications media have exploited incidents of lynching to “defame” indigenous justice and to deprive it of full recognition.

34. In 2009, CRC expressed concern that children above the age of 16 serve sentences in adult prisons in precarious conditions, and that deprivation of liberty is not used as a measure of last resort. UNICEF stressed in 2009, that alternatives to custodial sentencing need to be implemented. It also recommended more efforts to ensure that children and adolescents are better served and protected by justice systems.

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

35. CRC was concerned that there are no systematic strategies in place to guarantee transparent adoption processes. UNICEF highlighted that the mechanisms to monitor the post-adoption process are insufficient. CRC added that regulations for alternative care are inappropriate and that the SEDEGES (Servicios Departamentales de Gestión Social) do not have the capacity or resources to take on sufficiently their responsibility for alternative care.

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

36. OHCHR-Bolivia indicated that in 2008 there was an increase in the number of attacks against human rights defenders. Civil society organizations promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and peasants in Beni, Santa Cruz, Tarija and Chuquisaca were particularly targeted. It is alleged that the perpetrators were members of the civic committees and local opponents of the Government. Between 2005 and 2007, special procedures mandate holders sent a number of communications expressing concern about attacks and acts of intimidation against organizations working on agrarian issues. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples recommended, inter alia, that attacks against leaders of indigenous organizations and human rights defenders continue to be investigated and punished and that an exhaustive investigation be conducted into the possible responsibility of public authorities.

37. OHCHR-Bolivia indicated that according to the Observatorio Nacional de Medios, a total of 117 journalists suffered verbal and physical assaults between June 2007 and August 2008. It added that there has been no satisfactory investigation of the few complaints filed by journalists and the national press guild. In 2008, the High Commissioner called upon the Government to respect and guarantee freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the right to information. The High Commissioner also called upon all public and private media to exercise their professions according to the highest norms of professional ethics.

38. In 2008, while taking note of the draft Law against Political Harassment of Women, CEDAW was particularly concerned at the incidence of such violence against women in government posts. A United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament decreased from 19.2 per cent in 2005 to 16.9 per cent in 2009.

39. The High Commissioner encouraged the Government to continue to strengthen policies aimed at including indigenous peoples in all areas of public life.
6. **Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

40. CEDAW was concerned about, inter alia, the existence of a huge gap in men’s and women’s wages, clear-cut job segregation and poor working conditions. CESC noted in 2008 that the minimum wage continued to be insufficient to provide a decent standard of living and that the lack of employment opportunities has obliged much of the population to emigrate. In 2009, UNCT drew attention to problems such as structural unemployment and the huge scale of informal employment which leaves more than 57 per cent of the population without the protection of labour legislation. UNCT recommended that a national policy for promoting short-, medium- and long-term employment be drafted, with an emphasis on the situation of groups affected by discrimination at work. CESC encouraged Bolivia to step up its efforts to protect the rights of workers, and recommended that the fruits of Bolivia’s macroeconomic growth be also used to create decent new jobs for men and women.

41. In 2009, the ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to amend the provisions of the legislation that regulate the age of admission to apprenticeship so as to provide that no one under 14 years of age is engaged in an apprenticeship, as required by the ILO Minimum Age Convention.

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

42. UNCT noted that in 2007, 54 per cent of the population lacked sufficient income to meet their basic needs. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food noted that poverty levels are much higher in rural areas and that extreme poverty is concentrated amongst indigenous communities. In 2008, CESCR urged Bolivia to take all necessary steps to reduce extreme poverty and encouraged it to implement fiscal measures with a view to improving the distribution of wealth among the population in both rural and urban areas.

43. In 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food highlighted that the situation of malnutrition and food insecurity remained grave. Chronic malnutrition of a large proportion of Bolivia’s infant children was of most concern. He recommended that a comprehensive national development strategy for food security and food sovereignty be elaborated and implemented. The strategy should focus on eradicating malnutrition and on reversing extreme inequality, by investing in small-scale peasant agriculture, implementing effective agrarian reform and protecting the rights of peasants and indigenous peoples over their land, water and own seeds. In 2008, CESCR made similar observations, adding that a large quantity of arable land was devoted to the production of biofuels, a situation which affects the availability of food for human consumption and leads to price increases.

44. CESCR was concerned that vulnerable and marginalized groups continue to have very limited access to health services. According to the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people, 80 per cent of the indigenous population does not have access to health facilities. CRC was concerned at the still high number of maternal deaths, and noted that there has been no real reduction of the infant mortality rate in rural areas. In 2008, CEDAW recommended integrating a gender perspective into the national health policy and improving access to health services to the most vulnerable groups of women, in particular rural and indigenous women. CEDAW also urged Bolivia to adopt regulations to implement existing laws on Bolivian women’s right to therapeutic abortion.

45. In 2009, CRC was concerned that HIV/AIDS is becoming a prevalent problem in Bolivia. UNCT recommended that compliance with the AIDS law be encouraged by means of ad hoc legislation and that the funds assigned by the Treasury be increased.

46. CESCR expressed concern in 2008 at the widespread housing shortage, the incidence of forced evictions of farmers and indigenous populations to make way for mining and timber concessions, and the lack of effective measures to provide social
housing for low-income, vulnerable and marginalized groups. It urged Bolivia to take the necessary measures to, inter alia, prevent the forced eviction of rural families who are occupying land peacefully; and ensure that the judicial authorities take the provisions of the Covenant into account when handing down their decisions.

47. In 2009, CRC and UNICEF were concerned at the extremely low level of sanitation coverage and the high discrepancy between urban and rural areas. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food noted that up to 43 per cent of the population in rural areas has no access to safe drinking water and 75 per cent have no sanitation.

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

48. UNICEF, UNCT and CRC noted that the Constitution establishes free and compulsory primary and secondary education. However, CRC was concerned that not all children, particularly indigenous children, attend primary school and that some primary school fees continue to be charged. CRC was further concerned at the lack of preschools, the poor quality of education, the low transition rate from primary to secondary school and the marked gender disparity in secondary school. It recommended ensuring that girls and indigenous children also fully realize their right to education, and improving the quality of teacher training, particularly with regard to intercultural and bilingual education. UNICEF recommended, inter alia, the development of a national early learning policy and early childhood development standards.

9. Minorities and indigenous peoples

49. In 2009, UNCT noted that indigenous peoples made up almost 65 per cent of Bolivia’s population. While noting the efforts made by the State since 2006, the CESCR continued to be concerned at the marginalization of indigenous peoples and the discrimination that they suffer, particularly with regard to the right to education, adequate housing, food and health services.

50. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples highlighted that the main challenges to the enjoyment of the rights of the indigenous peoples in Bolivia are access to land and recognition of their traditional territories. While some progress has been made in land reform and the granting of titles, there are still many obstacles to be faced. The Special Rapporteur recommended that special priority be accorded to the agrarian land regularization process under the new Community-Based Agrarian Reform Renewal Act (No. 3545), paying particular attention to the titling of the indigenous Tierras Comunitarias de Origen (TCO, or original community lands). To this end, the Government should provide the relevant institutions with the necessary human and financial resources. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food, CESCR and CERD also made recommendations in this regard.

51. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples stressed that the environmental pollution of many indigenous territories, as a consequence of mining operations and hydrocarbon production, has posed serious problems to the health and traditional economic activities of the indigenous communities. He added that despite the many complaints submitted, there is a reported failure to provide redress and compensation by those responsible for the polluting activities. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food expressed similar concerns in 2008. In 2009, UNCT highlighted the fact that the ILO Committee of Experts had made a number of comments concerning failure to comply with the obligations laid down in Convention No. 169, including the right to consultation and other collective rights of indigenous people, in particular in respect of projects for the extraction of natural resources. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples recommended that the relevant authorities, as a matter of urgency, carry out a general study on the pollution of the indigenous territories and, in consultation with the communities...
affected, implement such measures of inspection, relief, redress, compensation, prevention and punishment as may be necessary.\textsuperscript{149}

52. In 2008, CMW noted information that 60 per cent of the indigenous population had migrated abroad. It was concerned about the effects of this mass migration, taking into account the often vulnerable situation of indigenous migrants.\textsuperscript{150}

10. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

53. CMW took note in 2008 of the Government’s assurance that a draft bill on migration was being prepared and encouraged it to strengthen efforts to fully incorporate the Convention into domestic law.\textsuperscript{151}

54. CMW also recommended that consular services respond more effectively to the need for protection of Bolivian migrant workers\textsuperscript{152} and invited the Government to facilitate their voluntary return, as well as their durable social and cultural reintegration.\textsuperscript{153}

55. CMW expressed concern that it was not clear from the information provided by Bolivia, whether migrants have access to appeal procedures in relation to expulsion decisions. Bolivia was invited to ensure that migrant workers and their families are only expelled from its territory pursuant to a decision taken by the competent authority in conformity with the law, and that this decision can be reviewed on appeal.\textsuperscript{154}

56. In 2008, CMW regretted that no mechanism existed to facilitate the identification of refugees or victims of trafficking among migrants.\textsuperscript{155} In 2009, CRC reiterated its concern at the lack of specific procedures for providing special care and assistance to unaccompanied and separated children.\textsuperscript{156}

III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

57. UNCT\textsuperscript{157} and OHCHR-Bolivia\textsuperscript{158} commended Bolivia for being the first country to enact the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as law. UNCT also drew attention to the “Yo sí puedo” (Yes I can) literacy programme, as a result of which illiteracy had been reduced to insignificant levels.\textsuperscript{159}

58. According to OHCHR-Bolivia, advances were made in economic, social and cultural rights, yet ongoing political instability had a negative impact on human rights.\textsuperscript{160} UNICEF noted that areas which require increased efforts in order to meet the relevant Millennium Development Goals relate to poverty eradication, nutrition, water and sanitation and environmental sustainability.\textsuperscript{161}

59. OHCHR-Bolivia and UNCT highlighted that implementing the PNADH will be one of the main challenges in the years to come.\textsuperscript{162} Rapid progress with the implementation of the legislative and regulatory framework for the content of the new Constitution also posed a challenge.\textsuperscript{163}

IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

Pledges by the State

60. In its voluntary pledge submitted in 2007 in support of its candidacy for membership of the Human Rights Council, Bolivia expressed its political commitment to the promotion of human rights and referred to, inter alia, actions being taken by the Government to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.\textsuperscript{164}
V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

61. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2008–2012) identified areas for cooperation whose expected outcomes included, inter alia, the development of democratic governance, reduction of under-nutrition and bringing the marginalized population into the fold of society.165


Notes

1 Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006 (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/.

2 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
   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 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
   CED International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance


5 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); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). 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.

6 International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the
Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; 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; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

7 Concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/BOL/CO/4), para. 89.
8 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 10.
9 Concluding observations of the Committee on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families (CMW/C/BOL/CO/1), paras. 12 and 16.
10 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 3 (a).
11 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 2.
13 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 29.
14 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 3.
16 A/HRC/11/11, para. 82.
17 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, paras. 7–8.
18 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 9; UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 5.
19 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 59 (b).
20 For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see A/HRC/10/55, annex 1.
21 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 3.
22 CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 9; see also UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 2.
24 Ibid., para. 11.
25 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 4.
26 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 5.
27 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 2.
28 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 11.
29 A/HRC/11/11, para. 93.
30 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, paras. 60–61; see also UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 4.

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
CMW Committee on Migrant Workers

31 A/HRC/6/15/Add.2.
32 A/HRC/4/30/Add.2 and A/HRC/7/5/Add.2.
35 A/HRC/11/11, para. 3.
36 The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder.
37 See (a) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July 2005; (b) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children’s organs sent in July 2006; (c) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons sent in 2006; (d) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on
migrants sent in 2006; (e) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006; (f) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices; (g) report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (A/HRC/6/15), questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous people sent in August 2007; (h) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/7/8), questionnaire on assistance and rehabilitation programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation sent in July 2007; (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/8/10), questionnaire on the right to education in emergency situations sent in 2007; (j) report on the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1), questionnaire on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; (k) report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty to the eleventh session of the Council (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/9), questionnaire on Cash Transfer Programmes, sent in October 2008; (l) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education sent in June 2009 (A/HRC/11/8), questionnaire on the right to education for persons in detention; (m) report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, (June 2009) (A/HRC/11/6), questionnaire on violence against women and political economy; (n) report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences (A/HRC/12/21), questionnaire on national legislation and initiatives addressing the issue of bonded labour; (o) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to the twelfth session of the Council (A/HRC/12/31), questionnaire on world food and nutrition security; (p) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/12/23), questionnaire on measures to prevent and combat online child pornography.

The questionnaire on the human rights of indigenous people and the questionnaire on political economy and violence against women.

40 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, paras. 1–2.
42 Ibid., p. 131.
43 Ibid., p. 131.
45 CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, paras. 7–8.
46 Ibid., para. 18.
47 Concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/BOL/CO/2), para. 29.
49 Ibid., para. 68.
50 Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/63/CO/2), para. 12; see also A/HRC/11/11, para. 94.
51 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, Section IV, Recommendations.
52 A/HRC/11/11, para. 94.
53 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 8.
54 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 54.
56 CERD/C/63/CO/2, para. 15.
57 CMW/C/BOL/CO/1, para. 21.
59 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, paras. 10 and 21–22.
60 Ibid., para. 22.
61 Informe de prensa de la OACNUDH en Bolivia, 10 de septiembre 2009.
62 Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (A/56/44), para. 95 (b).
63 A/56/44 para. 97 (a).
64 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 38.
66 A/56/44, para. 95 (f).
67 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 30.
68 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 55.
69 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 65; see also UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 2.
70 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 33.
71 CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 24.
72 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 7.
73 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 49.
74 Ibid., para. 41.
75 Ibid., para. 79; see also CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 26; UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 4.
76 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 80; see also CMW/C/BOL/CO/1, paras. 41–42 and CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, paras. 26–27.
78 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 74; see also E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para. 27 (d); and UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 4.
79 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, paras. 55–56.
81 E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para. 2.7 (c).
82 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 59 (f).
84 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, Section IV, Recommendations.
85 Ibid., para. 30; see also UNCT p. 3.
86 Ibid., para. 31.
87 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, pp. 3–4.
88 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 32.
89 Ibid., para. 92.
90 Comunicados de prensa de la OACNUDH en Bolivia, 28 de febrero 2008 and 19 de Noviembre 2008.
91 A/HRC/11/11, para. 27.
92 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 81.
93 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 4.
94 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 5.
95 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 47.
96 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 2.
97 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 45.
98 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 39.
100 A/HRC/11/11, para. 99; see also A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 101.
101 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 66.
102 Ibid., para. 69.
103 Ibid., Section IV, recommendations.
104 CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 30.
106 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 99.
107 CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 34.
109 Ibid., para. 17.
110 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 7.
111 Ibid., p. 10.
112 E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para. 27 (c).
113 Ibid., para. 30.
115 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 1.
116 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 8.
117 E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para. 27 (a).
118 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 48.
119 Ibid., para. 59 (d).
120 E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para. 19.
121 Ibid., para. 21.
123 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 53.
124 CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 43; see also UNCT submission to the UPR, p. 9 and UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 5.
125 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 63.
126 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 9.
127 Ibid., p. 8.
128 E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para. 14 (h); see also CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 61.
129 Ibid., para. 27 (h).
130 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 61.
131 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 3.
132 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 16.
133 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 3.
134 UNCT submission to the UPR in Bolivia, pp. 7–8.
135 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 67.
136 Ibid., para. 67.
137 Ibid., para. 68; see also, CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 33.
138 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 6.
139 UNCT submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 6.
140 E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para 15.
141 A/HRC/11/11, para. 77.
142 Ibid., para. 87.
143 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, para. 58 (f).
144 E/C.12/BOL/CO/2, para. 36.
145 CERD/C/63/CO/2, para. 13.
146 A/HRC/11/11, para. 78.
147 A/HRC/7/5/Add.2, paras. 51–52.
148 UNCT Bolivia submission to the UPR, p. 6.
149 A/HRC/11/11, para. 90.
150 CMW/C/BOL/CO/1, para. 37.
151 Ibid., paras. 13–14.
152 Ibid., para. 28.
153 Ibid., para. 44.
154 Ibid., paras. 29–30.
155 Ibid., para. 41.
156 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 71.
157 UNCT submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 5.
158 A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 50.
159 UNCT submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 4.
161 UNICEF submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 2.
162 UNCT submission to the UPR on Bolivia, p. 7; A/HRC/10/31/Add.2, para. 63.
163 Ibid., p. 2.
166 CRC/C/BOL/CO/4, para. 74 (e).
167 Ibid., para. 82 (h).
168 Ibid., para. 42 (c).