

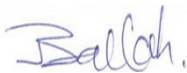
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FOREWORD

On 11 July 2023, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) turned 20 years old. This marked 20 years of the valiant efforts by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, member states, women's rights organisations, academia, and women across the continent to improve the lives of women. In the 20 years that it has been in existence, the Maputo Protocol has managed to garner 44 member states. While this is quite commendable, as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, it is my singular mission to ensure universal ratification of the treaty and take this opportunity to call upon the remaining 11 African states to ratify and domesticate the Maputo Protocol. At its 20th anniversary, it is an opportune time to reflect upon the progress that has been made and the impact that the protocol has had on the laws, court decisions, activism, academia, and lives of the women in the member states. I therefore welcome this publication by the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, which traces the impact of the Maputo Protocol in 16 member states. Through the meticulous research done by the country researchers, the book discusses the ways in which the Maputo Protocol has influenced policies in member states and alerts us to the gaps that still exist in the domestication of the treaty. I hope that this publication will assist researchers, activists, and academics to have a deeper understanding of the objectives of the Maputo Protocol and that policy makers in the member states might use it as a reference for reforms based on the gaps highlighted by the authors.



Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie
Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa
African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| ACDHRS | African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies |
| ACERWC | African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Child |
| AEJCI | <i>Association des Etudiants Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire</i> |
| AEPB | Abuja Environmental Protection Board |
| AFJCI | <i>Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire</i> |
| African Charter | African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights |
| African Commission | African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights |
| African Court | African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights |
| AG | Attorney-General's Department |
| AGMoJ | Attorney General and Minister of Justice |
| AGPO | Access to Government Procurement Opportunities |
| AIDS | acquired immunodeficiency syndrome |
| ANC | antenatal care |
| APDH | <i>Action pour la Protection des Droits de l'Homme</i> |
| APDHAC | <i>Association pour la Défence des Droits de l'Homme en Afrique Centrale</i> |
| AWLN | African Women Leadership Network |
| BAFROW | Foundation for Research on Women's Health, Productivity and the Environment |
| BOR | Bill of Rights |
| CAMES | <i>Conseil Africain et Malgache pour l'Enseignement Supérieur</i> |
| CAMMAC | Coalition to Address Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion and its Complications |
| CAT | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment |
| CCJPA | Child Care Justice and Protection Act |
| CDF | Child Dignity Forum |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CEDEP | Centre for the Development of People |
| CEGENSA | Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy |
| CEI | Independent Electoral Commission |
| CERD | International Covenant on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination |

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| CGG | Campaign for Good Governance |
| CHRAGG | Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance |
| CHRAJ | Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice |
| CHREAA | Centre for Human Rights Education Advice and Assistance |
| CHRR | Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation |
| CIDOC | Information and Documentation Centre |
| CIMDIH | <i>Comité Interministériel de Droits Humains et du Droit International Humanitaire</i> |
| CLDO | Customary Law Declaration Order |
| CLE | Council of Legal Education |
| CLE | Continuing Legal Education |
| CMEF | <i>Clubs mères d'élèves filles</i> |
| CNDH | National Human Rights Commission |
| CNDHCI | <i>Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme de Côte d'Ivoire</i> |
| CGND | <i>Coalition grossesse non désirée</i> |
| COCOFICI | <i>Compendium des Compétences Féminines de Côte d'Ivoire</i> |
| CP&EC | Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code |
| CRA | Child's Right Act |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CRC-OP-AC | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict |
| CREAW | Centre for Rights Education and Awareness |
| CRPD | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| CSM | Superior Council of the Magistracy |
| CSOs | civil society organisations |
| DCEO | Directorate of Corruption and Economic Offences |
| DCP | Deputy Commissioner of Police |
| DESS | <i>Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées</i> |
| DEWIPA | Deceased Estates Wills, Inheritance and Protection Act |
| DOVVSU | Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit |
| DRC | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| DV | domestic violence |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| EHRC | Human Rights Commission |
| ENA | National School of Administration |
| ENAM | <i>Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature/National School of Administration and Magistracy</i> |
| EOC | Equal Opportunities Commission |
| EPRDF | Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front |
| EWLA | Equality Now and Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association |
| EWLA | Ethiopian Women Lawyers Associations |
| Family Code | Revised Federal Family Code |
| FAWEGAM | Forum for African Women Educationalist The Gambia |
| FBC | Fourah Bay College |
| FGM | Female Genital Mutilation |
| FIDA-Lesotho | Lesotho Federation of Women Lawyers |
| FLAG | Female Lawyers Association of The Gambia |
| FPI | <i>Front Populaire Ivoirien</i> |

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|-----------|---|
| FSU | Family Support Unit |
| FYDP | Five Year Development Plan |
| GAMCOTRAP | Gambian Committee on Traditional Practices |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| GEA | Gender Equality Act |
| GenCED | Gender Centre for Empowering Development |
| GEWE | Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy |
| GIMPA | Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration |
| GJA | Ghana Journalists Association |
| GNFS | Ghana National Fire Service |
| GPF | Gambia Police Force |
| GPI | Girls' Power Initiative |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| HIV-AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome |
| HoPR | House of Peoples' Representatives |
| HRCSL | Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone |
| HTPs | Harmful cultural and traditional practices |
| ICCPR | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights |
| ICESCR | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| ICJ | International Commission of Jurists |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology |
| IDEG | Institute for Democratic Governance |
| IG | Inspector General of Police |
| IHRDA | Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa |
| IJLS | Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation |
| IMC | Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law |
| IMLU | Independent Medical Legal Unit |
| IRCSL | Inter Religious Council of Sierra Leone |
| IRIC | Institute of International Relations of Cameroon |
| KHRC | Kenya Human Rights Commission |
| KNCHR | Kenya National Commission on Human Rights |
| LAWYERS | Legal Access through Women Yearning for Equal Rights and Social Justice |
| LBTQ | lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer |
| LCMPA | Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act |
| LCN | Lesotho Council of NGOs |
| LDF | Lesotho Defence Force |
| LECIAD | Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy |
| LGAs | Local Government Authorities |
| LHRC | Legal and Human Rights Centre |
| LI | legal instrument |
| LIDHO | <i>Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme</i> |
| LMA | Law of Marriage Act |
| LSZ | Law Society of Zimbabwe |

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| Maputo Protocol | Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa |
| MBDHP | <i>Mouvement Burkinabè des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples</i> |
| MBSSE | Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education |
| MDAs | Ministries Departments and Agencies |
| MDFRA | Marriage Divorce and Family Relations Act |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals |
| MDHPC | <i>Ministère des Droits Humains et de la Promotion Civique</i> |
| MDHS | Malawi Demographic and Health |
| MFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and International Trade |
| MFAIC | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Corporation |
| MGDS | Malawi Growth and Development Strategy |
| MGEFW | Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare |
| MGYSR | Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation |
| MHRC | Malawi Human Rights Commission |
| MIDH | <i>Mouvement Ivoirien des Droits Humains</i> |
| MoCLA | Ministry for Constitutional and Legal Affairs |
| MoFA | Minister of Foreign Affairs |
| MoGCSP | Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection |
| MOHS | Ministry of Health and Sanitation |
| MOPA | Maintenance of Peace and Order Act |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MoWSA | Ministry of Women and Social Affairs |
| MP | Members of Parliament |
| MPA | Matrimonial Property Act |
| MPS | Malawi Police Service |
| MSWGCA | Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs |
| NAP | National Action Plan |
| NAPTIP | National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons |
| NBS | National Bureau of Statistics |
| NCAA | National Coalition on Affirmative Action |
| NCCE | National Commission for Civic Education |
| NCHRF | National Commission on Human Rights and Freedom |
| NDSP | National Development Strategic Plan |
| NEEP | National Economic Empowerment Policy |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NGEC | National Gender and Equality Commission |
| NGOs | Non-governmental organisations |
| NGP | National Gender Policy |
| NGPF | National Gender Policy Framework |
| NHP | National Health Policy |
| NHRC | National Human Rights Commission |
| NMRF | National Mechanism for Report Writing and Follow-up |
| NPA-VAWC | National Plan of Action to end Violence against Women and Children |
| NPAGW | National Policy for the Advancement of Gambian Women |

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| NPRC | National Peace and Reconciliation Commission |
| NRA | National Reforms Act |
| OAU | Organisation of African Unity |
| ONEG | <i>Observatoire National de l'Équité et du Genre</i> |
| ONUCI | <i>Opération des Nations Unies en Côte d'Ivoire</i> |
| PAAC | Public Agreements Advisory Committee |
| PALAJ | <i>Projet d'appui à l'Amélioration de l'Accès aux droits et à la Justice</i> |
| PASI | Paralegal Advisory Service Institute |
| PCA | Police Complaints Authority |
| PDA | Persons with Disabilities Act |
| PDCI-RDA | <i>Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire-Rassemblement Démocratique Africain</i> |
| PDVA | Prevention of Domestic Violence Act |
| PEP | Post-Exposure Prophylaxis |
| PLHIV | Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV |
| PNAPF | National Plan for Accelerating Family Planning |
| PNDES | National Economic and Social Development Plan |
| PNDS | National Health Development Plan |
| Protocol to the African Court | Protocol to the African Charter on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights |
| PSAEF | <i>Plan Stratégique d'Accélération de l'Éducation des Filles</i> |
| REDHAC | Central African Network of Human Rights Defenders |
| RHDP | <i>Rassemblement des Houphouëtistes pour la Démocratie et la Paix</i> |
| RMNCAH | Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health |
| SADC | South African Development Community |
| SAFPAC | Supporting Access to Family Planning Post Abortion Care |
| SALC | Southern African Litigation Centre |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SDMR | <i>Comité National de Surveillance des Décès Maternels et de Riposte</i> |
| SEARCWL | Southern and Eastern African Regional Centre for Women's Law |
| SGBV | sexual gender-based violence |
| SODV | sexual offences and domestic violence |
| SOMILES | SADC Observer Mission in Lesotho |
| SRHR Policy | Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Policy |
| SRPDC | Special Rapporteur for Prisons and Detention Conditions of the African Commission |
| STI | sexually transmitted infections |
| TAMWA | Tanzania Media Women's Association |
| TANGO | The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations |
| TAWLA | Tanzania Women Lawyers Association |
| The Constitution | Cameroon's 1996 Constitution |
| The Forum | Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum |
| TLS | Tanganyika Law Society |
| TRC | Transformation Resource Centre |
| TRC | Truth and Reconciliation Commission |
| TYW | Think Young Women |

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| UCAC | Catholic University of Central Africa |
| UDHR | Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNGA | United Nations General Assembly |
| UNIMAK | University of Makeni |
| UNOWAS | United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel |
| UNSCR | United Nations Security Council Resolution |
| UPR | Universal Periodic Review |
| VAPP | Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act |
| VAWC | Violence against women and children |
| VVF | vesicovaginal fistula |
| WACOL | Women's Aid Collective |
| WAVES | Women Against Violence and Exploitation in Society |
| WELA | Women Empowerment and Legal Aid Initiative |
| WGEI | Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa of the African Commission |
| WGIP | Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples/Communities |
| WHARC | Women Health and Action Research Centre |
| WiLDAF | Women in Law and Development Africa |
| WILSA | Women and Law in Southern Africa |
| WLAC | Women's Legal Aid Centre |
| WRAPA | Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative |
| ZHRC | Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission |
| ZLHR | Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights |
| ZWLA | Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association |