

# Universal Periodic Review

## All country summary and recommendations

related to the right to a  
nationality and the rights of  
stateless persons

37<sup>th</sup> Session, 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle  
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This document highlights the **statelessness** related challenges in States that will be reviewed during the 37th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): **Australia, Austria, Georgia, Lebanon, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Oman, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Sao Tome and Principe**. The issues raised in this summary include gender and racial discrimination in nationality laws, arbitrary deprivation of nationality and the child's right to acquire a nationality. All recommending states are urged to draw on this document when formulating recommendations to States under review. In addition to this summary, the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) and its partners made joint submissions on human rights and statelessness issues in **Australia, Austria, Lebanon, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal and Oman**.<sup>1</sup>

## Australia

Australia has ratified both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. According to national statistics, there were at least 4,025 recorded stateless persons in 2020, though the total number of stateless people in the country is likely to be higher. Australia lacks a dedicated statelessness determination procedure. Stateless persons are also at high risk of mandatory and indefinite detention, as the High Court of Australia (HCA) has ruled that it is permissible to detain stateless persons indefinitely.<sup>2</sup> This is especially problematic during COVID-19, as crowded unsanitary conditions in detention centres create a high-risk environment for the spread of the virus. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has expressed regret at this HCA ruling and the Committee Against Torture (CAT) has expressed concern about the indefinite detention of stateless persons. In 2015, Australia expanded its powers to deprive citizenship of those engaged in terrorist activities or providing military service in the army of an enemy state. At the time of writing the joint submission, the Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Cessation) Bill 2019 (Cth) had been proposed, seeking to further extend these citizenship deprivation powers. More recently, this Bill was passed into law in September 2020. During the second UPR cycle, Australia noted a recommendation from France to ensure that deprivation of citizenship is only possible in exceptional circumstances.

### Proposed recommendations:

1. Develop and introduce a fair, effective and accessible Statelessness Determination Procedure.
2. Ensure that national laws comply with international obligations which prohibit the arbitrary deprivation of nationality and discrimination, while ensuring the avoidance of statelessness.
3. Ensure that treatment of stateless persons, including those in immigration detention complies with international standards, and that alternatives to detention are implemented to protect against arbitrary detention in all circumstances.

## Austria

Austria is party to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions but maintains two reservations to Article 8 of the 1961 Convention, permitting deprivation of nationality even if it results in statelessness. Austria retains 11 reservations to the European Convention on Nationality impacting statelessness. Austria declares that the term 'parents' does not include fathers of children born out of wedlock. Such gender discrimination in acquisition of nationality by descent leaves children born out of wedlock at risk of statelessness if the mother also cannot confer her nationality onto her child. As 1 January 2020, Austria recorded 4,255 stateless persons, 745 persons of 'unknown nationality', and 12,025 of undetermined nationality.<sup>3</sup> As Austria does not have a dedicated statelessness determination procedure, stateless persons living with irregular residence status in Austria are mainly invisible in the data.<sup>4</sup> Stateless people can regularise their stay in Austria through an application for international protection, naturalisation or a residence permit.<sup>5</sup> However, none of these procedures provide for a right of residence by virtue of being stateless. Children born stateless in Austria must meet requirements that go beyond the 1961 Convention before acquiring Austrian nationality, such as lawful residence in Austria for at least ten years. Without legal residence, stateless people in Austria only have access to emergency medical care and primary education, and face barriers regarding access to employment, housing and affording costs related to education. They also face a heightened risk of arbitrary detention particularly where procedural safeguards to identify and determine statelessness and related barriers to removal are lacking. Concerns have also been raised about the lack of accessible and accurate information for stateless persons, relating to COVID-19 and movement restrictions.<sup>6</sup> Stateless communities have also reported impacts on their access to rights (healthcare, shelter, work, food, education, etc.), increased discrimination and impact on their ability to access legal support and initiate or progress with legal proceedings.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.institutesi.org/core-activities/human-rights-advocacy>

<sup>2</sup> *Al-Kateb v Godwin* (2004) 219 CLR 562; M47/2018 v Minister for Home Affairs [2019] HCA 17.

<sup>3</sup> Statistik Austria, [Statistik des Bevölkerungsstandes](#), Bevölkerung am 1.1.2020 nach detaillierter Staatsangehörigkeit.

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR, [Mapping Statelessness in Austria](#), January 2017, paras 3, 12, 17, 18, 80 and chapter 3.

<sup>5</sup> Bundesgesetz über die Niederlassung und den Aufenthalt in Österreich (Niederlassungs- und Aufenthaltsgesetz), BGBl I No. 100/2004 as amended by BGBl I No. 24/2020, [Unofficial English translation](#) (amended version as of BGBl I No. 56/2018).

<sup>6</sup> DerStandard, [Auch Innenressort informiert Geflüchtete unvollständig über Corona-Maßnahmen](#), 17 April 2020, DerStandard, [Wie Quarantäne von Polizei und Behörden kontrolliert wird](#), 21 May 2020 DerStandard, [Geflüchtete wehren sich gegen Ausgangsverbot in Traiskirchen](#), 30 April 2020

### Proposed recommendations:

1. Establish a legal basis for the automatic acquisition of Austrian nationality at birth by children born on Austrian territory who would otherwise be stateless.
2. Amend Article 14 of the Austrian Nationality Act in line with the 1961 Convention and allow children born stateless in Austria to acquire Austrian nationality until the age of 21.
3. Amend Article 7 of the Austrian Nationality Act to ensure that children born to Austrian fathers out of wedlock acquire Austrian nationality retroactively upon establishment of fatherhood.
4. Establish a fair and accessible SDP, which provides a legal basis for granting residence and rights to stateless people.
5. Consider statelessness as a juridically relevant fact in return and detention decisions, to prevent arbitrary detention.
6. Do not discriminate in COVID-19 responses on any grounds including nationality, documentation, or migration/residence status.

## Georgia

Georgia is party to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. According to UNHCR statistics, 559 persons are recorded as stateless in Georgia, but in reality, this number is likely to be higher. In 2017, CERD highlighted that stateless persons, including children born in Georgia who would otherwise be stateless, face barriers acquiring citizenship.<sup>7</sup> The CRC urged Georgia to establish an identification and referral mechanism for undocumented children and children at risk of statelessness and accede to the European Convention on Nationality and the Council of Europe Convention on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to State succession. During UNHCR's High-Level Segment on Statelessness in 2019, Georgia committed to reduce the 10-year residence period required for naturalisation by half, to reduce the fee for statelessness determination by half, to provide stateless status applicants with access to emergency healthcare and free legal aid, to undertake to identify and document stateless persons and to work with UNHCR to raise awareness and foster common understanding about statelessness in an inclusive manner. The commitments made in 2019 are yet to be fully implemented by the Government.

### Proposed recommendations:

1. Ensure that all otherwise stateless persons, including children born in the territory, can acquire Georgian nationality without discrimination.
2. Accede to the 1997 European Convention on Nationality and the 2006 Council of Europe Convention on the avoidance of statelessness in relation to State succession.
3. Implement the pledges made during the 2019 UNHCR's High-Level Segment on Statelessness.

## Lebanon

Lebanon denies women the right to confer their Lebanese nationality onto their children and spouse on an equal basis with men. Lebanese women cannot confer nationality to their children unless the child is born outside of legal marriage and claimed by the mother while the child is a minor, making childhood statelessness a widespread issue.<sup>8</sup> Lebanon hosts the world's largest number of refugees per capita, including an estimated 1.5 million refugees from Syria and approximately 174,000 longstanding Palestinian refugees registered with UNWRA. Lebanon is not party to the Refugee Convention or the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. There is no statelessness determination procedure in place to. Stateless persons and children of Lebanese women to whom access to Lebanese nationality is denied face wide ranging human rights violations and hardships throughout their lives. Due to the children's inability to access their mother's nationality in specified circumstances, women are dependent on their husband resulting into increased barriers to women extracting themselves from abusive relationships. Further, being stateless results in a greater risk of abuse, trafficking, arrest and detention.<sup>9</sup> During the Covid-19 pandemic stateless people in Lebanon and Lebanese women's noncitizen children and spouses do not benefit from relief packages due to lack of information and their status resulting into exclusion and further marginalisation.

### Proposed recommendations:

1. Repeal gender-discriminatory nationality laws and policies. In particular, amend the Nationality Law to uphold women and men's equal right to confer nationality on children and spouses.
2. Enact a legal framework on the prevention of statelessness which ensures that all children who are stateless or at risk of statelessness are granted nationality without discrimination against the child, their parents or guardians.
3. Establish a stateless determination procedure and ensure that the procedure is fair and accessible to all persons in Lebanon regardless of their legal status.

<sup>7</sup> CERD, [Concluding observations on the sixth to eighth periodic reports of Georgia](#), 22 June 2016

<sup>8</sup> Art 1 para 1 and Art 2 of the Nationality law, Decision 15 dated 19 January 1925

<sup>9</sup> UNHCR, UNICEF, and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights joint press release, [Urgent action needed to reform gender discriminatory nationality laws causing childhood statelessness](#)

4. Uphold the human rights of all persons regardless of nationality, including equal access to education and healthcare.
5. Do not discriminate in COVID-19 responses on any grounds including nationality, documentation or migration status.

## Mauritania

Mauritania is not a signatory to the 1954 or the 1961 Statelessness Conventions. In 1989, the government arbitrarily denationalised and expelled over 70,000 black Mauritians. Despite a repatriation deal that promised restoration of nationality, there has been significant difficulty in (re)obtaining documents. The statistics on the number of Mauritanian refugees in exile – 37,427 in 2019 - is likely to be representative of the number of *stateless* refugees, since most have not acquired their documents, and have not been able to acquire the nationality of their host country.<sup>10</sup> Within the country, approximately 9,000 members of the Haratine community do not have access to citizenship. Mauritania is also home to a large number of Sahrawi refugees from Western Sahara - 26,001 in 2013 - whose nationality is unclear and are likely to be stateless. Mauritania's nationality law also denies women the equal right to confer nationality upon their children and spouse, which contributes to statelessness and undermines women's equal citizenship. No safeguards against intergenerational statelessness exist – as the nationality law does not provide for nationality if both parents are stateless or cannot pass on their nationality. Children born out of wedlock also face risk of statelessness as a marriage certificate is a pre-condition to issue birth certificates, excluding children's right to be registered at birth. Mauritania received recommendations in previous UPR cycles mostly regarding amending the gender discriminatory nationality law. Other recommendations, including by CRC, CEDAW and CERD reiterated issues relating to gender discriminatory provisions in the nationality law, as well as documentation-related problems of the expelled population, improving birth registration, and acceding to the statelessness conventions. During COVID-19, those who are facing (risks of) statelessness are at higher risk of COVID-19 given their dire living conditions. Due to children's inability to access their mother's nationality in some circumstances, barriers to women extracting themselves from abusive relationships are increased, a risk that is further exacerbated due to the notable increases in GBV globally linked with pandemic lockdowns.

### Proposed recommendations:

1. Amend nationality law provisions to ensure that women enjoy equal rights to confer nationality upon their children or spouses.
2. Amend nationality laws to ensure every child's right to a nationality, including by introducing a comprehensive safeguard against statelessness, where the parents may themselves be stateless or unable to pass on their nationality to the child.
3. Ensure that all children born in Mauritania are registered at birth and enact reforms to guarantee each parent's independent and autonomous right to register their child's birth and obtain a birth certificate for their child regardless of the parent's sex or marital status.
4. Accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.

## Micronesia (Federated States of)

Micronesia is not a party to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. There are no statistics on statelessness in the country. In 2010 UNHCR recommended that Micronesia accedes to the Statelessness Conventions. The High Commissioner identified the unique challenges the state faces due to climate change. The impact of rising sea levels and weather-related disasters presents a real pressure of 'external displacement' and a de facto or de jure loss of sovereign State itself.<sup>11</sup> In 2017, CEDAW noted with concern, the disproportionate impact climate change had on women in Micronesia. In 2020, the CRC Committee noted that international migration in the context of climate change and natural disasters may increasingly affect children.

### Proposed recommendations:

1. Accede to and fully implement the 1954 and the 1961 Conventions.
2. Ensure that the National Climate Change Policy includes references to migration and considers the impact of climate change on children and women and their role in shaping it.

## Myanmar

Myanmar is not party to either the 1954 or 1961 Statelessness Conventions and is home to one of the world's largest stateless minority groups, the Rohingya. The Rohingya have been subject to structural discrimination, persecution, atrocity crimes and genocide, and have endured multiple mass expulsions to Bangladesh since 1978, followed by failed repatriations, declining legal status, severe human rights violations and violence, and ongoing state practices relating to the removal, destruction and

<sup>10</sup> The acquisition of nationality in a new country leads to cessation of refugee status under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, such that a person would no longer be included in UNHCR's refugee statistics.

<sup>11</sup> HRC, *Report of the WG on the UPR: Federal States of Micronesia*, UN Doc A/HRC/WG.6/9/FSM/2 (15 July 2010), 9 [38]-[39]. UN ESC for Asia and the Pacific Office, *Climate Change and Migration Issues in the Pacific Project 'Enhancing the Capacity of Pacific Island Countries to Manage the Impact of Climate Change on Migration.'* (2014), 16.

nullification of documents used to prove identity and residence. Since the 1970s, over 1.8 million Rohingya have been displaced into Bangladesh, and other countries in the region including Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Thailand, and 459,114 remain in Rakhine State in Myanmar, many of whom are internally displaced and live in internment camps.<sup>12</sup> Myanmar's genocide, crimes against humanity and atrocities against the Rohingya are the subject of various international legal cases, as well as UN investigations and resolutions. The Myanmar nationality law is arbitrary and discriminatory, and has been weaponised to deprive the Rohingya of their nationality and deny their belonging to Myanmar. The law also disproportionately impacts other groups including Kaman Muslims, and those of Chinese, Indian or Nepali heritage. Barriers to birth registration are prevalent, increasing risk of childhood statelessness, and those applying for documentation face extremely burdensome evidentiary requirements, such as providing ancestral information, language and geographic barriers and undue delays. These requirements are inconsistent and largely dependent upon the perceived ethnicity and religion of the individual. Since 2015, the Rohingya have been denied voting rights and issued with National Verification Cards which label them as foreign, which has led to further restrictions to registration and documentation. Rohingya were also denied the right to vote or seek office in the 2020 Election. Further, moves to implement biometric IDs in Myanmar, without first reforming the discriminatory and arbitrary law, will likely entrench the statelessness and exclusion of the Rohingya and other groups. During COVID-19, the government response has raised concerns that the pandemic is used to exercise increased control over the Rohingya and other vulnerable populations, and ongoing conflict and internet blackout have resulted in low awareness of the virus and access difficulties for humanitarian organisations.

#### Proposed recommendations:

1. Repeal and replace the 1982 Citizenship Law with a nationality law that retroactively protects against statelessness, prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of nationality and recognises the right to nationality of the Rohingya and other minority communities who have been arbitrarily deprived of their right to nationality.
2. Address the significant challenges regarding access to civil documentation including the excessive evidentiary requirements, difficulties in accessing the documentation procedure, administrative barriers and undue delays in the decision-making process.
3. Immediately end the national verification process and ensure the restoration of citizenship to all those deemed non-citizens or ineligible for citizenship due to the implementation of discriminatory measures.
4. Fully cooperate with the ICJ, ensure that no more crimes against humanity and acts of genocide are perpetrated and ensure accountability and access to justice through a transparent legal process in accordance with international standards.
5. Ensure that a legislative framework based on the principles of non-discrimination is in place prior to the implementation of a digital identification system.

## Nauru

Nauru is not a party to the 1954 or 1961 Statelessness Conventions, or the ICCPR or CERD, which contain provisions that protect the right to nationality. There are no reliable statistics on stateless persons according to UNHCR. The Constitution provides automatic acquisition of nationality to those born on the territory. However, there are no safeguards against statelessness for foundlings, or to ensure that statelessness does not arise due to loss or deprivation of nationality. Nauru also lacks a statelessness determination procedure, as well as provisions in the immigration law to grant legal residence to non-refugee stateless persons or to provide other rights to stateless persons.<sup>13</sup> This is problematic given that Nauru is one of the principle offshores processing and detaining centres for refugees, stateless persons and other migrants under Australia's international law contravening policy. Between 2013 and 2017, an estimated 248 stateless individuals (excluding children born to stateless individuals while in Nauru) were transferred to Australia for on-shore processing.<sup>14</sup> There are significant concerns regarding the arbitrary detention and poor detention conditions of refugees, stateless persons and migrants. Inhabitants of Nauru are also at risk of statelessness due to climate change, which has been regarded as requiring preventative measures and international cooperation.

#### Proposed recommendations:

1. Accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, ICCPR and CERD.
2. Develop a stateless determination procedure to identify and protect stateless persons on the territory.
3. Cease to perform the role of offshore processing and detaining centre for refugees, stateless persons and migrants that Australia is obligated to protect under international law and cease their arbitrary detention.
4. Amend the Constitution to include provisions against statelessness of foundlings, and on loss or deprivation of nationality.
5. Establish contingency plans to address the risks of rising sea levels and other predicted consequences of climate change.

## Nepal

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR data, 'Myanmar' (2019), available at <http://reporting.unhcr.org/node/2541?y=2019#year>

<sup>13</sup> UNHCR, Submission by the UNHCR for the OHCHR Compilation Report – Universal Periodic Review, March 2015, p. 9.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/operation-sovereign-borders-offshore-detention-statistics/3/>.

Nepal is not a party to the 1954 or 1961 Statelessness Conventions and denies women the equal right to confer nationality upon their children or their spouse. This is a result of the discriminatory and contradictory provisions in both the Constitution and the Citizenship Law. Nepal has received numerous recommendations in previous UPR cycles to advance gender equality and address women's unequal nationality rights, but little progress has been made. The 2018 Citizenship Amendment Bill, which is still under debate in Parliament, goes some way in addressing gender inequality and statelessness, but even if enacted, discriminatory provisions will prevail. For discrimination to be legally eradicated, Constitutional reform is needed to align it with the Citizenship Act. An estimated 5.4 million people had not citizenship certificates in 2017.<sup>15</sup> A large but unquantified number within this group, have either been denied citizenship or are likely to be at risk of statelessness. Discriminatory access to documentation is prevalent, as officials abuse their discretion and frequently deny documents to women and their children due to patriarchal beliefs. Low levels of birth registration are also a result of discriminatory attitudes, coupled with administrative challenges such as access to civil registries and high application fees. Statelessness is also prevalent among long-term refugee populations in the country, such as the 19,574 ethnic Nepali Bhutanese in refugee camps, all of whom are stateless; and Tibetans living in exile in Nepal. 'Lower caste' groups, such as the Badi people of the Dalit community, also face long-standing discrimination and difficulty accessing citizenship. During COVID-19, those without documentation have been excluded from state relief measures, despite a Supreme Court order that "*relief should be provided without documentation*".

#### Proposed recommendations:

1. Accede to and fully implement the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.
2. In line with obligations under CEDAW, take immediate steps to amend or repeal all gender-discriminatory provisions in the Constitution and Nepal Citizenship Act, including, as a first step, by passing the Citizenship Amendment Bill.
3. Simplify access to documentation and ensure that citizenship certificates are granted when the relevant criteria are met.
4. Conduct a comprehensive study on the state of statelessness of minority and lower caste groups and ensure that caste-based discrimination does not result in denial of citizenship.
5. Ensure that COVID-19 relief is provided based on need, not documentation, and take proactive steps to ensure that aid reaches those without documents

## Oman

Omani women face gender discrimination in relation to the transmission of Omani nationality to their children and spouses, undermining their equal citizenship and resulting in other wide-ranging rights violations. Omani women married to non-Omani men may only transmit their nationality to their children under strict conditions and in extremely rare circumstances. The Nationality law lacks adequate safeguards to ensure conferral of citizenship on children who would otherwise be stateless. A foreign spouse of an Omani woman is required to have been married and resided in Oman for at least 15 continuous years while a foreign wife of an Omani citizen only for at least 10 years in order to be granted Omani citizenship. In practice, it is not clear that the spouses of Omani women may acquire nationality even when these requirements are met. Pursuant to the Nationality Law, Omani citizenship can be deprived if a person joins a group or party or organisation supporting principles or beliefs that harm the interests of Oman. Various cases have shown the broad range of activities that are judged to be contrary to the state's interests. Safeguards to prevent arbitrary deprivation of nationality and statelessness are not in place while the relevant authority has broad discretionary powers to strip people of their Omani nationality. Stateless persons and children of Omani women denied Omani nationality face wide ranging human rights violations and hardships throughout their lives, resulting in 'lifelong discrimination'.<sup>16</sup> Due to the children's inability to access their mother's nationality in some circumstances, barriers to women extracting themselves from abusive relationships are increased, a risk that is further exacerbated due to the notable increase of GBV globally linked with pandemic lockdowns. Oman is also not party to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions. During both UPR cycles, Oman received several recommendations in relation to nationality and statelessness, specifically on gender discrimination and the right to nationality.

#### Proposed recommendations:

1. Amend the Nationality Law to ensure equality between women and men regarding the acquisition, change, retention and transmission of nationality.
2. Protect every child's right to acquire and preserve a nationality, without discrimination in relation with the child or the child's parents or guardians and ensure comprehensive safeguards against statelessness.
3. Ensure that national laws comply with international obligations that prohibit arbitrary deprivation of nationality.
4. Accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.

## Rwanda

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<sup>15</sup> This constitutes 24% of the population aged 16 and over. See: United States Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Nepal Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2017, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> UNHCR, Gender Discrimination And Childhood Statelessness, available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/gender-discrimination-andstateless-children/>

Rwanda is a state party to both the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. There are no statistics on statelessness in the country, but major concerns on (the risk of) statelessness exist for the refugees from Kinyarwanda speaking communities in the neighbouring DRC, many of whom fled the DRC upon denial of nationality.<sup>17</sup> Many refugees have not been naturalised, since to apply for Rwandan nationality, proof of genealogical connections and historical residence is needed. Other populations, such as refugees from Burundi, are at risk of statelessness. Moreover, thousands of Rwandan refugees in neighbouring countries may also be stateless. Rwanda has made significant pledges to identify and protect stateless persons, including through facilitating naturalisation, issuing documentation to refugees of Rwandan origin who opted for integration in their host country, and granting nationality to stateless persons and descendants in Rwanda.<sup>18</sup>

Proposed recommendations:

1. Fully implement all pledges made at the High-Level Event on Statelessness.
2. Establish an SDP and a national action plan to eradicate statelessness.

## Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Kitts and Nevis is not party to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons nor the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. There are no reliable statistics on statelessness according to UNHCR.

Proposed recommendations:

1. Accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.
2. Accede to the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action to address statelessness.

## Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia is not party to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons nor the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. There are no reliable statistics on statelessness according to UNHCR. During the first UPR cycle both Slovakia and Hungary recommended to Saint Lucia to accede to the Statelessness Conventions. Saint Lucia has adopted the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, which includes concrete measures to address statelessness in the region and sets up the goal that within ten years the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will eradicate statelessness.

Proposed recommendations:

1. Accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions.

## Sao Tome and Principe

Sao Tome and Principe (STP) is not party to the 1954 or 1961 Statelessness Conventions. During the first UPR cycle, STP received a recommendation to accede to the statelessness conventions, which it accepted. There is no reliable data on statelessness according to UNHCR. The term 'stateless' is not defined in national legislation. The CRC has previously expressed concern about the significant number of children remaining without birth certificates, in particular regarding informal fees and fines for late birth registration. STP received five recommendations related to improving birth registration during the second UPR cycle, which it accepted. STP is also vulnerable to the effects of climate change and rising sea levels, which creates (risks of) statelessness.

Proposed recommendations:

1. Accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness.
3. Ensure that all children are registered immediately after birth.
4. Participate in initiatives contributing to the aversion of climate change impacts, including climate induced displacement.

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<sup>17</sup> <http://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Statelessness-and-citizenship-in-the-East-African-Community.pdf>, p. 66.

<sup>18</sup> UNHCR, [High-Level Segment on Statelessness](#) (2019).