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National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Burkina Faso

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted during the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, gives an account of the human rights situation in Burkina Faso since its transition from the third universal periodic review cycle in 2018. This situation is marked by a challenging security, health and humanitarian crisis.

II. Preparation of the report

2. The process of preparing the present report was inclusive and participatory and involved the following stages:

- Preparation of a preliminary draft report by the Multisectoral Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendations Made in the Course of the Universal Periodic Review and by Treaty Bodies, which is composed of representatives of ministerial departments, institutions and civil society organizations
- Pre-validation of the preliminary draft report by public and private stakeholders in the promotion and protection of the rights of specific groups
- Examination of the preliminary draft report by the Transitional Legislative Assembly
- Validation of the preliminary draft report at a national workshop
- Consideration and adoption of the draft report by the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law
- Adoption of the report by the Council of Ministers

III. Changes in the normative and institutional framework and public policies related to human rights

A. Normative framework

3. Since 2018, Burkina Faso has adopted a number of important legislative texts that strengthen the protection of human rights and the independence of the judiciary, including:

- Act No. 003-2023/ALT of 25 March 2023 on the Establishment of Monitoring and Development Committees
- Act No. 002-2023/ALT of 16 March 2023 on the Reinforcement of Political Neutrality and Meritocracy in Public Administration
- Act No. 001-2023/ALT of 16 February 2023 amending Act No. 24-94/ADP of 24 May 1994 on the Code of Military Justice
- Act No. 028-2022/ALT of 17 December 2022 on the Establishment of the Volunteer Defence Force
- Act No. 005-2022/ALT of 10 June 2022 on the Status of National Heroes
- Act No. 004-2022/ALT of 10 June 2022 on the Status of Martyrs and Veterans with Disabilities
- Act No. 003-2022/ALT of 10 June 2022 on the Status of Wards of the State
- Act No. 001-2022/ALT of 6 June 2022 empowering the Government to Take Measures in the Interests of National Security
- Act No. 043-2021/AN of 20 December 2021 amending Act No. 014-2001/AN of 3 July 2001 on the Electoral Code
- Act No. 004-2021/AN of 6 April 2021 on Social Security Provision for Employed Persons and Persons Treated as Such

- Act No. 003-2021/AN of 1 April 2021 on Social Security Provision for Public Servants
 - Act No. 002-2021/AN of 30 March 2021 amending Act No. 001-2016/AN of 24 March 2016 on the National Human Rights Commission
 - Act No. 001-2021/AN of 30 March 2021 on the Protection of Persons with Regard to the Processing of Personal Data
 - Act No. 003-2020/AN of 22 January 2020 setting Quotas and Requirements for the Placement of Women on Lists of Candidates for Legislative and Municipal Elections
 - Act No. 045-2019/AN of 11 July 2019, which further extended the duration of the state of emergency extended by Act No. 001-2019/AN of 11 January 2019
 - Act No. 040-2019/AN of 29 May 2019 on the Code of Criminal Procedure
 - Act No. 023-2019/AN of 14 May 2019 on the Regulation of States of Siege and States of Emergency
 - Act No. 015-2019/AN of 2 May 2019 on the Judiciary
 - Act No. 033-2018/AN of 26 July 2018 amending Act No. 004-2015/CNT of 3 March 2015 on the Prevention and Punishment of Corruption
 - Act No. 026-2018/AN of 1 June 2018 enacting General Regulations on Intelligence
 - Act No. 025-2018/AN of 31 May 2018 on the Criminal Code and its amending Act No. 044-2019/AN of 21 June 2019
4. In addition, the country has signed or ratified the following bilateral and international instruments:
- Amendments on the crime of aggression to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, ratified on 19 August 2019
 - African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development, ratified on 19 August 2019
 - Memorandum of understanding between the Government of Burkina Faso and the United Nations System in Burkina Faso on the transfer and care of children encountered during security operations of 12 September 2022
 - Memorandum of understanding between the Government of Burkina Faso and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the promotion and empowerment of women, gender equality and child protection of 12 December 2021
 - Cooperation agreement between Nigeria and Burkina Faso on the prevention, suppression and punishment of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on 12 December 2021
 - Tripartite cooperation agreement on the protection of children in situations of mobility and victims of cross-border trafficking between the Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso and the Togolese Republic of 23 December 2019
 - Cooperation agreement between Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire on the protection of children in the context of cross-border mobility, concluded on 31 July 2019

B. Institutional framework

5. Several public institutions and structures that contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights have been strengthened, including:
- National Human Rights Commission, strengthened in 2021
 - Data Protection Commission, strengthened in 2021
 - Volunteer Defence Force, established in 2022

- Special Unit for Counter-Terrorism Investigations and the Fight against Organized Crime, established in 2020
- Central Unit for Combating Cybercrime, established in 2020
- Ouaga II *tribunal de grande instance* (court of major jurisdiction), operational since 2021
- *Tribunal de grande instance* of Pô, operational since 2021

C. Public policies

6. The public policies developed and implemented to strengthen the effective enjoyment of human rights include the following:

- National Security Policy 2020–2050
- Sectoral Policy on Justice and Human Rights 2018–2027
- Sectoral Policy on Labour, Employment and Social Protection 2018–2027
- Sectoral Policy on Culture, Tourism, Sports and Leisure 2018–2027
- Sector Policy on Environment, Water and Sanitation 2018–2027
- National Strategy for the Development of Inclusive Education 2018–2022
- National Employment Strategy 2021–2025
- National Strategy for Preventing Radicalization and Combating Violent Extremism 2021–2025
- National Water Strategy 2021–2025
- National Gender Strategy 2019–2023
- National Child Protection Strategy 2020–2024
- National Strategy for Education in Emergency Situations 2019–2024
- National Strategy for the Development of the Inventory Credit System 2019–2023
- National Inclusive Finance Strategy 2019–2023
- National Social Education Strategy 2019–2023
- National Strategy to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour 2019–2023 and its operational action plan 2022–2023
- National Culture and Tourism Strategy 2018–2027
- National Migration Strategy 2016–2025
- National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage 2016–2025
- National Strategy for Social Cohesion 2021–2025
- National Reconciliation Strategy 2022–2026
- National Strategy for the Recovery of Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities 2023–2025
- National Strategy for the Protection and Advancement of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2025

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Fulfilment of international obligations

7. Article 151 of the Constitution of 11 June 1991 provides that treaties and agreements that have been duly ratified or adopted take precedence over national laws from the moment they are promulgated.

8. Several ministries and institutions ensure compliance with the State's human rights commitments through cooperation with regional and international mechanisms and the adoption of national legal texts.

9. A 2021 study on the conformity of the legislation and regulations of Burkina Faso with international human rights standards identified a number of inconsistencies and shortcomings and set out proposals for reform that are currently being implemented.

B. Promotion of human rights

10. Burkina Faso has subscribed to the World Programme for Human Rights Education and has taken measures aimed at instilling a culture of human rights in its citizens by all appropriate means. For example, human rights education is included in the primary-school curriculum. The process of generalizing human rights education to the post-primary and secondary levels began in 2016 and was completed by the 2022/23 school year.

11. The Government has continued its initial and in-service training programmes for the National Armed Forces, the Internal Security Forces, prison guards, water and forestry officials, judges and health workers. Between 2019 and 2022, training and awareness-raising activities on a number of topics related to human rights and international humanitarian law were organized for 1,755 members of the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces and for health workers. Training sessions on human rights were also organized for a further 500 people, namely 140 members of the Internal Security Forces, 100 health workers and 260 members of civil society organizations. Over the same period, 175 law enforcement officials and 45 journalists received training on human rights in the context of legal proceedings.

12. In order to consolidate these achievements, an action plan on the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education over the period 2020–2024 was adopted following a review of the status of the Programme in 2019.

13. The initial training programmes of the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces include modules on keeping the peace, human rights and international humanitarian law, which lay down the conditions for the use of force and firearms in accordance with human rights requirements.

14. Members of the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces regularly receive refresher and advanced training on ensuring respect for human rights in the conduct of their missions. During national security operations, all units receive operational training prior to deployment. From 2018 to 2022, over 1,400 members of the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces underwent training on human rights and international humanitarian law.

15. The capacity of the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces to incorporate a human-rights perspective into counter-terrorism operations is continually reinforced. In 2022, the ministry responsible for human rights drew up a guide to this effect, as well as a training manual for military and paramilitary forces on respect for human rights in the fight against terrorism.

16. A joint plan to build the capacities of the Volunteer Defence Force has been drawn up and will be implemented in 2023. In addition to receiving initial training in human rights and international humanitarian law, members of the Volunteer Defence Force undergo in-service training based on a manual on human rights and international humanitarian law. In total, 123

trainers and 20,000 members of the Volunteer Defence Force have participated in such training sessions, which continue to be organized.

17. International human rights days, such as those dedicated to the memory of victims of terrorism, the rights of women, migrants, rural women, refugees and African children, combating the worst forms of child labour, Nelson Mandela, tolerance and peace, support for victims of torture and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, provide an opportunity for the Government to conduct extensive public awareness-raising campaigns.

18. Regarding the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Burkina Faso presented its second voluntary report on 14 July 2023 in New York, in which it highlighted the progress made in terms of access to basic social services and action against climate change.

19. With regard to efforts to combat female genital mutilation, Burkina Faso promoted, within the Group of African States, resolution [A/HRC/RES/44/16](#), which was adopted by the Human Rights Council on 17 July 2020. As part of these efforts, several guidance documents have been adopted, including the Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation 2016–2020.

C. Efforts to protect and defend human rights

20. A number of important legislative and regulatory texts have been adopted to reinforce the legal and institutional frameworks and to ensure that allegations of human rights violations and abuses are handled and that reparations are made to victims. Up-to-date information in this regard has been provided in paragraphs 3 to 5 of the present report.

21. The technical services of the ministry responsible for human rights contribute to the protection of human rights by providing advice and guidance in relation to, following up on and processing allegations of human rights violations and abuses with the help of a digital tool called the Database of Cases of Human Rights Violations and Abuses.

22. In 2021 and 2022, the ministry responsible for human rights carried out 39 professional visits to places of detention throughout the country. In addition, 264 officials, specifically prison guards, criminal investigation assistants and criminal investigation officers, participated in capacity-building activities on the minimum rules for detention. A report on human rights violations and abuses is drawn up every year. From 2018 to 2022, 430 cases were processed.

23. Allegations of human rights violations or abuses are systematically investigated. A number of cases have gone to trial, while others remain under investigation. From 2018 to 2022, 68 cases involving vigilante groups were tried and the perpetrators convicted by the courts of major jurisdiction falling within the jurisdiction of the Bobo-Dioulasso Court of Appeal.

24. Protection of human rights during counter-terrorism operations is ensured through the deployment of legal advisers to the operations centres of units engaged in the field. Military police detachments are also deployed alongside forces engaged in operations to record any human rights violations.

25. Allegations of human rights violations or abuses reported in the context of counter-terrorism operations are dealt with systematically. Seven people have been tried on such allegations, of whom one was acquitted for lack of evidence, one was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 10 years and the remaining five were sentenced to terms of imprisonment of 21 years each. As of 30 April 2023, 555 cases were under investigation by four specialized law firms before Ouaga II *tribunal de grande instance*.

26. To strengthen the follow-up given to allegations of human rights violations and abuses reported in the context of counter-terrorism operations, a framework for consultation between the Government of Burkina Faso and the country office of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and an interministerial working group have been set up.

D. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

27. Burkina Faso regularly participates in the sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. From 2019 to 2021, it was a member of the Human Rights Council for the third time.

28. It also responded to requests for information, contributed to thematic reports and provided answers to requests for visits by special procedures.

29. Burkina Faso regularly submits reports to international human rights bodies, responds to requests for information from treaty bodies and follows up on the recommendations made following the presentation of its reports.

30. On 6 October 2021, Burkina Faso concluded an agreement with the United Nations concerning the establishment of the OHCHR Country Office in Burkina Faso, which has a dual mandate to monitor respect for human rights and provide technical assistance.

V. Status of implementation of accepted recommendations

31. In order to facilitate follow-up to their implementation, accepted recommendations have been summarized and grouped into 33 thematic categories according to their subject matter.

Abolition of the death penalty and ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (125.1; 126.1; 126.4; 126.5; 126.11; 126.12; 126.13; 126.14; 126.15; and 126.16)

32. The abolition of the death penalty from the Criminal Code took effect on 31 May 2018. All death sentences handed down before that date were commuted to life imprisonment. Concerning the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, a meeting dedicated to exchange and consultation between public and private stakeholders was organized on 9 December 2019. The ratification process has begun.

Adoption and revision of legislation and public policies (125.8; 125.31; 125.59; 125.76; 125.114; 125.117; 125.118; 125.119; 125.120; 125.123; 125.146; 125.162; 125.163; 126.9; 126.10; 126.27; and 126.29)

33. The Personal and Family Code, which is currently being revised, harmonizes the legal age of marriage at 18 for both men and women. The draft personal and family code allows couples who were married according to customary or religious rules to have their marriage legally recognized by declaration before the civil registrar.

34. Constitutional reform is part of the transitional Government's plan of action.

35. The Child Protection Code is in the process of being adopted.

36. Several measures have been taken to promote gender equality, including the adoption of the National Gender Strategy and Act No. 003-2020/AN of 22 January 2020.

37. Regarding regulations and administrative practices to protect the rights of migrant workers, a draft law has been drawn up on the conditions of entry and residence of foreigners in Burkina Faso and the exit of nationals from the country. Regional and community standards on the free movement of people and goods within the Economic Community of West African States and the West African Economic and Monetary Union also apply. In addition, Burkinabe law formally prohibits the expulsion, refoulement or extradition of a person to any country where he or she would be at risk of being subjected to torture.¹

38. With a view to enhancing the protection of the rights of migrants, the National Migration Strategy 2016–2025 was adopted on 8 February 2017 and is currently being implemented.

39. The Criminal Code adopted in 2018 harmonizes national legislation with the Convention against Torture. It defines and punishes torture in accordance with the Convention and establishes the jurisdiction of the courts of Burkina Faso to hear cases involving torture-related offences.

Strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission and operationalization of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture (125.10; 125.11; 125.12; 125.13; 125.14; 125.15; 125.16; 125.17; 125.18; 125.19; 125.20; 125.21; 125.22; 125.23; 125.35; and 125.36)

40. To improve the working conditions of the National Human Rights Commission, the Government has provided it with vehicles and rented a suitable building to serve as its headquarters.

41. Regarding the strengthening of the Commission's human resources, its staff has grown from 8 people in 2018 to 58 people in 2023 – an increase of 625 per cent. The Commission's administrative and financial autonomy is guaranteed by articles 2 and 48 of Act No. 001-2016/AN of 24 March 2016. It has had its own section in the State budget since 2022. Its budget increased from CFAF 120,000,000 in 2018 to CFAF 646,347,000 in 2023. Partnership agreements have also allowed the Commission to strengthen its financial autonomy.

42. To facilitate the operationalization of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the mechanism's mandate was transferred to the National Human Rights Commission under Act No. 002-2021/AN of 30 March 2021.

Access to justice (125.53; 125.55; 125.56; 125.126; 125.138; 125.140; 125.96; and 126.20)

43. The construction and opening of three new courts of major jurisdiction has helped reduce the average distance for access to a court of major jurisdiction from 59 km in 2018 to 56.87 km in 2021. Reception and information desks have been set up and are now operational in 27 out of 29 courts of major jurisdiction. Staff at these offices welcome and provide guidance to the public.

44. Two judicial units specializing in economic and financial offences have been set up in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso and a judicial unit specializing in the suppression of terrorist acts has been established in Ouagadougou. A team of court interpreters has been established by decree.

45. Access to justice has also been strengthened by the operationalization of the Legal Aid Fund, which provides assistance to people with limited means. From 2018 to 2021, its budget increased from 100 million to 350 million, enabling it to provide support to 1,550 people, including 528 women.

46. To improve access to justice for victims of human rights abuses, awareness-raising campaigns on how to bring cases before the courts and how to access protection mechanisms were organized over the period 2018–2022 for 1,750 women. Children benefit from counselling and support from social services throughout legal proceedings.

47. Prosecutors take prompt action in cases of violence against women and girls and request the application of appropriate penalties. They thus protect the rights of victims and witnesses, particularly women. For example, in 2020, three members of the Internal Security Forces were handed sentences ranging from 3 to 5 years' imprisonment, including effective and suspended sentences, for rape and sexual violence.

48. In 2022, 16 criminal hearings were held by the criminal divisions of the three courts of appeal and 301 judgments were issued.

49. With the aim of improving the geographical accessibility of the justice system, mobile courts were established under Act No. 015-2019/AN of 2 May 2019 on the Judiciary.

Strengthening the effectiveness and independence of the judiciary and the protection of human rights defenders (125.53; 125.54; 125.57; 126.20; and 125.58)

50. Under the National Pact for Justice Reform adopted in 2015, it was recommended that the judicial branch be totally separated from the other powers and that steps be taken to improve the credibility and annual performance of the courts.

51. The adoption of Constitutional Act No. 072-2015/CNT of 5 November 2015 amending the Constitution strengthened the independence of the judiciary by separating the judicial branch from the other powers.

52. From 2018 to 2021, the number of judges rose from 559 to 690, including 125 women, the number of court clerks from 541 to 806, including 177 women, and the number of prison guards from 2,410 to 2,903. The number of lawyers rose from 178 to 203, including 39 women, and the number of notaries rose from 18 to 37, including 13 women.

53. In addition, as part of the Government's drive to simplify administrative procedures, 27 procedures employed by the Ministry of Justice were identified for simplification. Their simplification will improve access to justice.

54. A number of measures have been taken to combat corruption in the judiciary, including the holding of disciplinary board sessions to sanction certain unscrupulous judges, the setting up of anti-corruption committees and the establishment of a commission for the admission of petitions open to all persons who wish to file a complaint or report of corruption.

55. Several human rights defenders have benefited from the protection of the competent State services since the adoption of Act No. 039-2017/AN on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. In addition, the National Commission on Human Rights organized a national forum for human rights defenders in 2020 and 2022, with a view to operationalizing the national mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders. To this end, a manual of operating procedures for the early warning and rapid response system has been drawn up.

56. To ensure the effective application of Act No. 039-2017/AN, 857 stakeholders responsible for its implementation participated in awareness-raising activities between 2018 and 2021.

Improving the efficiency of the judicial and prison systems (125.52 and 125.56)

57. The Code of Criminal Procedure adopted in 2019 contains new provisions on the right of defence. It provides that freedom is the rule and detention is the exception. Pretrial detention may be imposed by the examining judge only by way of an order in which the specific grounds for the detention are stated.

58. In criminal cases, the public prosecutor has only two weeks to summon the accused under the flagrante delicto procedure. The court then has two months to rule on the defendant's case.

59. To prevent wrongful detentions, the law requires judges, public prosecutors and the President of the Investigations Division to visit the prisons in their jurisdiction at least once a month, once every three months and once a year, respectively. Between 2018 and 2021, 509 visits to places of detention were carried out by the judicial authorities.

Humanization of detention facilities (125.39; 125.40; 125.41; and 125.42)

60. Reducing prison overcrowding through various means was included as one of the objectives of the Sectoral Policy on Justice and Human Rights, with the aim of providing persons deprived of their liberty with adequate material conditions of detention. These means include sentence adjustment measures, increased numbers of justice personnel, promotion of the use of alternatives to imprisonment, strengthened judicial oversight of pretrial detention and the transfer of prisoners by administrative or judicial decision. The Code of Criminal Procedure sets time limits beyond which release is mandatory. It also provides for the imposition of suspended sentences for first-time offenders. Alternatives to imprisonment are provided for in the juvenile justice system.

61. As part of its efforts to combat coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Government ordered full remission of the custodial sentences of 1,207 prisoners convicted of minor offences. The total number of prisoners in detention and correctional facilities in Burkina Faso fell from 7,812 in 2018 to 7,401 in 2020.

62. In addition, between 2018 and 2022, the construction of the large detention facility at the Bobo-Dioulasso detention and correctional facility, which has a capacity of 700 places, and the standardization and refurbishment of 22 prisons resulted in a reduction of the prison overcrowding rate from 89.6 per cent in 2018 to 59.1 per cent in 2021.

63. In addition, the Strategic Plan of the Prison Administration and its action plan for the period 2021–2025 call for the construction of seven new prisons and a large detention facility at the Ouagadougou detention and correctional facility.

64. An order on the upkeep of prisoners is in the process of being adopted with a view to improving their food.

65. Regarding prisoners' health, the Government has improved the availability of tracer molecules by providing funds for their acquisition in order to respond effectively to prisoners' needs and ensure better treatment for the diseases affecting each institution. The Government also increased the number of health-care staff at four prisons with at least three health workers in 2022. The infirmaries are currently being brought up to standard in order to improve health care in the prison setting with the construction of three new infirmaries in 2019. All these efforts increased the prisoner health coverage rate from 32.77 per cent in 2019 to 35.14 per cent in 2021.

Prevention and punishment of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention (125.45; 125.32; 125.33; 125.34; 125.38; 125.43; 125.44; and 125.46)

66. Burkina Faso systematically opens investigations to shed light on all allegations of human rights violations and abuses, including those related to torture, ill-treatment and excessive use of force by members of the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces, the Volunteer Defence Force and local security initiatives. In the case opened into the deaths of 11 persons detained at the Anti-Drug Unit, the *Ziniaré tribunal de grande instance* sentenced three police officers for manslaughter and ordered the State to pay the sum of CFAF 107,000,000 to the families of the victims.

67. In addition to the checks carried out by the administration's internal bodies into cases of alleged human rights violations, the National Commission on Human Rights carried out visits to nine detention and correctional facilities and 30 investigation subunits in six regions in 2020 and 2021. In its role as the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, it organized visits to 11 detention and correctional facilities, including the High Security Prison, and 44 investigation subunits in seven regions in 2022 and undertook to map all places of deprivation of liberty.

Respect for human rights by the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces, including in the context of counter-terrorism operations (125.51; 125.30; 126.18; 125.48; and 125.49)

68. Information on this issue is provided in paragraphs 13 to 16 of the present report.

Monitoring of self-defence groups and sanctions for human rights violations (125.37; 126.18; 126.20; 125.43)

69. The Government has taken measures to regulate the actions of vigilante groups. From 2018 to 2021, 160 community leaders received training on their role with respect to human rights. Training and awareness-raising activities were organized for 400 members of local security initiatives in 2022.

70. Regarding abuses by such groups, prosecution proceedings have been brought against members of groups suspected of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Between 2018 and 2022, 94 people were prosecuted before the courts of major jurisdiction falling within the jurisdiction of the Bobo-Dioulasso Court of Appeal. This resulted in 33 of them being sentenced to fines and/or imprisonment for various offences.

Reinforcing security and civil defence (125.50 and 126.18)

71. The following steps have been taken:

- Recruitment of 10,700 internal security officers between 2018 and 2021, increasing the security officer-to-population ratio from 1:729 in 2018 to 1:656 in 2021
- Construction of 24 police stations and nine gendarmerie brigades between 2018 and 2020, increasing the national rate of security-service coverage from 65.81 per cent in 2018 to 69.23 per cent in 2021
- Equipment of the national police and gendarmerie with more than 477 vehicles to improve their operational capacity
- Training of 3,340 trainee police officers in first aid
- Establishment of an emergency police force in 2020 and of a night-time police force in 2022
- Establishment of a digital monitoring, alert and assistance unit within the gendarmerie in 2023

Combating gender-based violence (125.9; 125.96; 125.97; 125.98; 125.99; 125.100; 125.101; 125.102; 125.103; 125.104; 125.105; 125.106; 125.107; 125.108; 125.109; 125.110; 125.111; 125.112; 125.113; 125.114; 125.115; 125.116; 125.117; 125.118; 125.119; 125.120; 125.121; 125.123; 125.124; 125.125; 125.126; 125.127; 125.130; 125.141; 125.143; 126.27; and 126.29)

72. As part of efforts to combat gender-based violence, several awareness-raising and training initiatives were carried out from 2018 to 2022. They include:

- Capacity-building on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for 37 members of the Gender Caucus of the National Assembly
- Awareness-raising among 7,608 women and men about women's rights and the prevention of gender-based violence
- Training and information exchange sessions on gender-based violence, guidelines for the care of survivors of gender-based violence and the application of the law on female genital mutilation and child marriage for 165 stakeholders in the criminal justice system and members of gender units
- Training of 1,000 members of the National Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces on the concept of gender and the problem of gender-based violence
- Training of 1,085 education professionals in gender-sensitive pedagogy

73. In terms of care for female victims of gender-based violence, three care centres have been set up in Ouagadougou, Kaya and Tenkodogo. In addition, an action plan for the period 2019–2021, a protocol for the integrated management of victims for use by social, legal and health stakeholders, a guide and database on gender-based violence survivors and alleged perpetrators, a directory of gender-based violence stakeholders and a referral system for victims have been established. Between 2018 and 2022, assistance was provided to 9,361 victims of gender-based violence. A toll-free helpline was introduced in 2021 and, as of 31 December 2022, had been used to report 1,139 instances of gender-based violence, of which 958 had been reported by women and 181 by men.

74. In 2018, financial support was granted to 429 coordinators of women's organizations for the identification of victims of violence against women and girls.

75. Regarding the punishment of offenders, between 2018 and 2020, 248 people were arrested, of whom 126 were convicted of female genital mutilation. Between 2018 and 2021, seven people were convicted on charges of practising witchcraft.

76. The Criminal Code prohibits forced marriage. As part of efforts to prevent the forced or early marriage of women and girls, 114,506 people underwent training and awareness-raising activities between 2018 and 2020 and 149,286 adolescent girls underwent training in

life skills and the promotion of positive masculine norms between 2018 and 2022. A national guide on family-life education was adopted in May 2022. Furthermore, 700 monitoring units have been set up in 700 villages and 1,089 villages have made public commitments to abandon the practice of excision.

77. To improve access to justice for women victims of gender-based violence, financial support was granted to 518 women between 2018 and 2021.

78. Marital rape is covered and punished by article 533-12 of the Criminal Code.

Access to employment and empowerment of women and young people (125.64; 125.65; 125.66; 125.67; 125.68; 125.132; 125.133; and 125.136)

79. The Sectoral Policy on Labour, Employment and Social Protection 2018–2027 and the National Employment Strategy 2021–2025 have been adopted.

80. Measures to promote access to employment for women and young people are carried out on a regular basis. For example, 750 women entrepreneurs receiving training in 2019, 50 women participated in awareness-raising activities on the formalization of economic activities and 300 brochures on financing opportunities were distributed to women. A 50 per cent formalization fee subsidy was awarded to 1,000 female-owned businesses in 2018 and 2019. In 2018, under the Project to Support Economic Transformation and Job Creation, 700 women from women's associations and groups received training in the main production sectors and on entrepreneurship.

81. A number of measures were taken to empower women and young people between 2018 and 2022, including:

- Granting of 50.30 per cent of developed land to women in 2021
- Establishment of the National Inclusive Finance Fund in 2020
- Provision of agricultural inputs to 218,519 rural women
- Granting of credit to 450,192 women for a total of CFAF 41,685,867,000
- Financing of the projects, microprojects and businesses of 209,795 women and young people for a total of CFAF 6,131,586,765
- Consolidation of 50,349 jobs and the creation of 38,988 jobs for women and young people
- Training of 109,320 women and young people in job-seeking techniques and entrepreneurship, creating and managing micro-businesses, production techniques and financing opportunities
- Entrepreneurship training for 6,691 women at a total cost of CFAF 490,551,116

Participation of women in the running of public affairs (125.135; 125.139; 125.144; and 125.145)

82. Burkina Faso took positive steps to increase the number of female candidates participating in the 2020 presidential and legislative elections.

83. The number of female civil servants rose from 64,604 in 2018 to 74,693 in 2021.

84. In 2021, three public institutions had female presidents and there were 10 female ministers, 16 female members of parliament, 6 female ambassadors and 4 female governors.

Child marriage and sexual exploitation (125.47; 125.115; 125.116; 125.117; 125.118; 125.119; 125.120; 125.123; 125.125; 125.148; 125.149; 125.150; 125.152; 126.27; and 126.29)

85. To strengthen the protection of children from all forms of violence and reinforce the assistance provided to victims, the Government has adopted plans, programmes, policies and strategies, including the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage 2016–2025 and the National Child Protection Strategy 2019–2023. The

implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Marriage has resulted in the following achievements:

- Rescue of 400,000 adolescent girls from forced marriage
- Support for 696,838 adolescent victims and adolescents at risk of child marriage
- Retention in the school system of 6,830 girls at risk of child marriage in 2018
- Establishment of a child sexual abuse prevention network in 2021

Trafficking and child labour and its worst forms (125.59; 125.60; 125.61; 125.62; 125.63; 125.147; 125.149; 125.151; 125.152; 125.153; 125.154; 125.155; 125.156; and 125.157)

86. The Criminal Code protects children from trafficking, the worst forms of child labour and sexual exploitation.

87. As part of efforts to combat child labour and its worst forms, regional child protection brigades have been set up.² From 2018 to 2023, the number of child protection brigades increased from two to six and 2,095 of their members took part in capacity-strengthening activities. The National Strategy to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour 2019–2023 was adopted on 7 May 2019. In addition, 1,852,043 stakeholders, including 41,394 children, have taken part in awareness-raising activities about the worst forms of child labour and 1,080 documents on ending the worst forms of child labour have been distributed. Moreover, 15,974 children have been saved from the worst forms of child labour and 27,207 children have been rehabilitated and reintegrated into society.

88. Between 2018 and 2021, 7,213 victims of trafficking were intercepted, provided with assistance and reintegrated into society, including 905 victims of economic exploitation and 142 victims of sexual exploitation. Similarly, dedicated operations have resulted in the removal of 244 women and 2,000 children from street situations.

89. Between 2019 and 2021, 5,386 people, including 1,188 women, participated in 31 capacity-building sessions for stakeholders in the fight against the worst forms of child labour. Over the same period, 30 awareness-raising sessions for stakeholders and the general public were organized, benefiting 3,479,283 people, including 531,244 women and 2,377,822 children, of whom 1,230,388 were girls.

90. From 2018 to 2021, 448 people were prosecuted in the national courts for child abduction and 27 others were prosecuted for child trafficking.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in development programmes (125.161)

91. Several measures were taken in this regard between 2018 and 2022, including the organization of capacity-building activities on disability inclusion and disability-sensitive planning for 494 public and private stakeholders and the funding of economic activities benefiting 5,172 persons with disabilities.

92. The “Yirwa” project to promote the rights of persons with disabilities was implemented in the Centre Region in 2022 at a cost of CFAF 319,500,000. In addition, public and private buildings have been brought up to standard to facilitate physical accessibility for persons with disabilities.

93. Between 2018 and 2021, 75 civil service competitions were organized specifically for persons with disabilities, with 94 vacancies to be filled. A total of 2,602 applications were received and 71 positions were filled.

Protection of persons with albinism (126.31; 126.32; and 126.33)

94. In Burkina Faso, persons with albinism are protected within the overall framework of the protection afforded to persons with disabilities. In addition, Albinism Week, organized each year in collaboration with associations of persons with albinism, provides an opportunity to organize awareness-raising campaigns about their specific needs, as well as consultations and sight corrections, conferences on dermatological diseases and radio and television broadcasts. Between 2019 and 2022, 2,064 persons participated in awareness-raising activities on the inclusion of persons with albinism.

Promoting access to a quality health-care system (125.74; 125.75; 125.77; 125.78; 125.80; 125.82; 125.138; 125.142; 125.158; and 125.160)

95. With a view to improving the quality of care and broadening access to health care, the share of the national budget allocated to the health sector has been steadily increasing, varying between 11 per cent and 13.65 per cent between 2018 and 2021. Over the same period, the budget allocated for health rose from CFAF 221.053 billion to CFAF 281.05 billion.

96. Between 2018 and 2022, 206 new health and social protection centres were built and equipped and one medical centre with a surgical unit was completed in Gayéri. The Government also launched a project to build and equip 240 new health and social protection centres, 13 medical centre with a surgical units, two regional hospital centres, two university hospital centres and two specialized geriatric and cancer centres. In addition, 34 health and social protection centres in the main towns of rural communes have been transformed into medical centres.

97. The average distance of travel for access to a health unit fell from 6.4 km in 2018 to 6.1 km in 2021. The ratio of inhabitants to doctors decreased from 12,000 in 2018 to 9,659 in 2021. The ratio of inhabitants to State-qualified midwives and male midwives fell from 5,510 in 2018 to 4,436 in 2021.

98. The Government has also set up a universal health insurance scheme to provide universal access to quality health services. With a view to making this scheme operational, the National Universal Health Insurance Fund was established on 24 April 2018 and the National Armed Forces Health Insurance Fund was established on 16 April 2020.

99. A customer service unit was established within the Ministry of Health in 2018 and put into operation on 7 July 2020, and a free helpline was set up on the number 80 00 12 25. The customer service unit is entrusted with receiving, processing and responding to health-care related complaints from members of the public.

Ensure maternal, sexual and reproductive health (125.75; 125.76; 125.79; 125.81; 125.122; 125.140; and 126.23)

100. The continued provision of free health care for women and children under the age of 5 years living in Burkina Faso has helped to improve maternal and child health and to reduce maternal and infant mortality. From 2018 to 2021, 72,372,787 free procedures were offered at an estimated cost of over CFAF 132.5 billion.

101. Under Decree No. 2019-040/PRES/PM/MS/MFSNF/MFPTPS/MATD/MINEFID of 23 January 2019 on free family-planning care and services in Burkina Faso and the National Plan for Promoting Family Planning 2017–2020, sexual and reproductive health services are offered free of charge at all levels of the health-care system. The new National Family Planning Plan 2021–2025 has been adopted. Its aim is to increase the prevalence of modern contraceptive methods, with a particular emphasis on promoting the rights of adolescents and young people to information and access to quality family-planning services. The contraceptive prevalence rate among partnered women rose from 30.1 per cent in 2018 to 31.2 per cent in 2022.

102. Several measures are being taken to improve sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and young people in order to reduce pregnancy-related school dropouts. From 2019 to 2021, a total of 157,917 young people participated in awareness-raising activities on sexual and reproductive health. Similarly, from 2019 to 2022, 10,376 learners (7,229 boys and 3,147 girls) participated in awareness-raising activities on issues related to the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people in vocational training centres.

103. Further initiatives include an interactive Internet platform called “QG Jeunes”, available online since March 2018, a toll-free number (34 24) for getting in touch with mentors on issues related to sexuality and the “U-report” platform for the elimination of female genital mutilation.

104. The adoption of Decree No. 2021-1118/PRES/PM/MS/MINEFID of 4 November 2021 on free screening, treatment and biological monitoring for people living with HIV/AIDS has improved access to health services for people living with that condition. The

percentage of children born to mothers with HIV/AIDS receiving full preventive antiretroviral treatment in health facilities has risen from 93.4 per cent in 2018 to 95.1 per cent in 2021.

Right to education for all without discrimination (125.74; 125.82; 125.85; 125.87; 125.131; 125.137; 125.140; 125.142; 125.159; 125.160; 125.158; 125.84; and 125.88)

105. A number of initiatives have been launched to broaden access to quality education for all. These include the recruitment of teaching staff, the construction of school infrastructure, reforms in the education sector and the funding of certain educational initiatives. For example, the number of teaching staff rose from 86,944 in 2018 to 100,209 in 2021 at primary and secondary level and from 2,302 in 2019 to 2,455 in 2020 at higher education level. In terms of infrastructure, between 2019 and 2021, 96 new secondary schools were built, 290 classrooms were constructed and equipped to reduce the number of classrooms in thatched huts and 658 schools were brought up to standard. For higher education, in 2021, the following statistics were recorded: 1,532 classrooms with a theoretical capacity of 100,250 places; 85 amphitheatres with a theoretical capacity of 29,344 places; and 18 pavilions with a theoretical capacity of 17,285 places.

106. As a result of the measures described above, the gross enrolment rate for secondary school climbed from 17.6 per cent in 2018 to 21.6 per cent in 2022. However, there was a drop in this rate over the same period at primary and post-primary level, due to the closure of some schools as a result of the security situation. The number of schools closed as at 31 May 2023 was 6,149, representing 23.48 per cent of all educational facilities in Burkina Faso.

107. With the aim of improving access to education for girls, the State continued with the implementation of the National Strategy for the Acceleration of Girls' Education 2012–2021.

108. The National Strategy for the Development of Inclusive Education 2018–2022 is also being implemented. It aims to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities and girls, have the same opportunities for access to and success in education.

109. These measures achieved the following results between 2018 and 2021:

- Quota of 54 per cent of annual scholarships set aside for girls
- Financial support for 3,300 girls who are the victims or are at risk of child marriage
- Award of grants to 681,800 primary-school girls
- Acquisition of 15,000 menstrual hygiene management kits for internally displaced and vulnerable girls in crisis-affected regions
- Quota of scholarships awarded to girls increased from 33.95 per cent to 37.30 per cent
- Award of 36,223 grants and 5,069 loans to female students in 2021
- Quota of 70 per cent of Economic Community of West African States scholarships set aside for internally displaced female students

110. With regard to access to education for persons with disabilities, several measures were taken between 2018 and 2022, including:

- Incorporation of the needs of persons with disabilities into building standards
- Support for children with mental disabilities in public and private facilities in 10 regions
- Granting of subsidies to 4,325 children with disabilities and to 50 private facilities catering for over 6,000 children
- Granting of financial subsidies for over 4,000 children to attend public and private schools
- Support for 1,361 children with disabilities, specifically 690 boys and 671 girls

Strengthening human rights education (125.86; 125.89; 125.90; 125.91; 125.4; 125.94; 125.49; 125.92; and 125.93)

111. Information in this regard is provided in paragraphs 10 to 12 of the present report.

Incorporating the human rights-based approach into policies and programmes (125.25)

112. Burkina Faso has a training manual on the incorporation of human rights into policies and programmes. It has also begun work on a similar guide for planners. From 2018 to 2022, the Government strengthened the capacities of 298 stakeholders from public institutions on the human rights-based approach. This process has allowed 22 communes to draw up communal development plans that incorporate such an approach.

Implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (126.10)

113. Under the Environmental and Social Management Plan, administrative bodies carried out 357 environmental and social management monitoring missions from 2018 to 2021. In addition, 560 stakeholders were trained in the application of environmental and social management.

114. Several texts have been adopted to facilitate the implementation of the Mining and Environmental Code. They include:

- Decree establishing the scale of transactions applicable to offences committed under the Mining Code
- Decree on the prevention and reparation of human rights violations of affected communities reported in the context of mining activities
- Decree setting the conditions for local supply in the mining sector

Access to drinking water and sanitation in urban and rural areas (125.70 and 125.73)

115. The Government's efforts in this regard have continued and led to an increase in the national rate of access to drinking water and sanitation from 74 per cent in 2018 to 76.2 per cent in 2021, broken down as follows: 92.2 per cent in urban areas and 69.5 per cent in rural areas in 2021.

116. The national rate of access to sanitation facilities was 26.8 per cent in 2021, compared with 22.6 per cent in 2018, broken down as follows: 40.8 per cent in urban areas in 2021, compared with 38.2 per cent in 2018, and 20 per cent in rural areas in 2021, compared with 16.4 per cent in 2018.

Protecting the rights of small-scale farmers (126.21; 125.27; and 125.28)

117. Programmes set up by the Government have helped small-scale farmers to develop economically and socially and to achieve food and nutritional security. Between 2018 and 2021, the following activities were carried out:

- Granting of 40 per cent and 50.30 per cent of developed areas to women in 2020 and 2021, respectively
- Development of 85,037.4 hectares using soil and water conservation and soil defence and restoration techniques for the benefit of producers, 15,970.49 hectares of lowlands, 903.1 hectares of market garden areas for use by women and 1,049,775 hectares of pastureland
- Provision of 31,882 tons of improved seed and 86,289 tons of fertilizer
- Provision of 32,761 ploughs, 6,278 carts, 1,815 units of motorized equipment and 12,258 draught animals
- Construction of 21 purchasing counters and 531 storage facilities for agricultural products
- Subsidy of 26,352 tons of forage seed and 158,284 tons of agro-industrial by-products

- Issuance of 6,603 certificates of rural land ownership, 10.20 per cent of which were issued to women

Alternative methods of resolving land disputes (125.134)

118. With a view to promoting a dispute mediation mechanism for women's equal rights in matters of inheritance and access to land, the ministry responsible for human rights organized a workshop in 2020 to identify forms of discrimination against women in terms of access to land and enumerate non-judicial methods of settling land disputes that could be disseminated throughout the country.

119. In addition, several mechanisms have been put in place to strengthen land tenure security, particularly for women, and to prevent conflicts in rural areas. Between 2018 and 2020, 3,538 village land committees, 3,507 village land conciliation committees and 189 equipped rural land services were set up.

Implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan and distribution of the fruits of growth (125.26; 125.29; 125.69; 125.71; 125.72; and 125.129)

120. The National Economic and Social Development Plan was implemented over the period 2016–2022. It has improved access to basic social services. With regard to access to water, a new rural and semi-urban water pricing policy and a new drinking water supply management mechanism have been in force since 2019. This policy has improved access to drinking water in rural areas and reduced the cost of drinking water per cubic metre, which varied between CFAF 300 and CFAF 700 in 2018 and fell to CFAF 188 in 2021.

121. The implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan has helped to reduce the proportion of cases of severe acute malnutrition in relation to the number of expected cases from 85.5 per cent in 2018 to 41 per cent in 2020.

122. With a view to eradicating poverty and improving quality of life, in 2021 the Government set up a “social safety net” project and established a single social register of households and people living in poverty and situations of vulnerability. These actions have resulted in:

- Registration of 210,440 poor and vulnerable households or individuals in the Centre-West and Centre-East regions in 2023 at a cost of CFAF 1 billion
- Execution of cash transfers to 1,065,186 people from 133,779 poor or vulnerable households from January 2018 to September 2022 at a cost of CFAF 30,864,705,000

123. The Government has adopted several measures to ensure that the fruits of growth are redistributed. To that end, 14 sectoral policies corresponding to each planning sector have been adopted for the period 2018–2027.³

124. The National Fund for Inclusive Finance established in 2020 and the Faso Agricultural Development Bank established in 2020 have increased their funding facilities with the aim of combating poverty and facilitating access to finance.

Resource mobilization (125.5)

125. The Government is working to mobilize human, financial and material resources to fulfil its human rights obligations. To that end, it regularly lobbies for support from institutions and technical and financial partners.

Allocation of sufficient human and financial resources towards a sustained implementation of the domestic normative framework on human rights (125.24)

126. Steps have been taken to strengthen the human and financial resources of public institutions. For example, the budget of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights rose from CFAF 31,275,100,000 in 2018 to CFAF 40,281,177,000 in 2023, an increase of 28.8 per cent, and its dedicated staff, who previously numbered 253, increased in number to 297 in 2023 – an increase of 16.6 per cent. The budget of the ministry responsible for women's affairs and humanitarian action rose from CFAF 18,485,411,000 in 2018 to CFAF 55,596,875,000 in 2023 – an increase of 200.8 per cent. The budget of the National Commission on Human

Rights also increased from CFAF 12,000,000 in 2018 to CFAF 646,347,000 in 2023. The Commission's staff increased from 8 people in 2018 to 58 people in 2023.

Candidatures for international positions (126.8)

127. To promote national expertise internationally and encourage applications from Burkinabe nationals for elective positions on treaty bodies, the Directorate for the Promotion of National Expertise was set up in 2018. Candidates who meet the relevant merit-based criteria have been put forward for election to international institutions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes information about vacant positions on a monthly basis.

128. In addition, the National Strategy for the Placement of Burkinabe in International Organizations 2024–2028 was drawn up in 2022 and is in the process of being adopted.

Strengthening cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (125.3 and 125.2)

129. Burkina Faso has strengthened its cooperation with mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, notably through participation in the ordinary sessions of bodies dealing with human rights issues and other international meetings, the production and submission of reports to monitoring bodies, including follow-up reports on priority recommendations, and responses to requests for information from special procedures.

130. Between 2018 and 2021, Burkina Faso received individual communications and accepted four requests for visits from special procedures. In line with a commitment made in 2018, Burkina Faso has prepared and submitted to the Human Rights Council its midterm report on the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.

Monitoring of the implementation of recommendations (125.7 and 125.6)

131. Burkina Faso has a permanent national reporting and monitoring mechanism known as the Multisectoral Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendations Made in the Course of the Universal Periodic Review and by Treaty Bodies. Its members include representatives of the National Commission on Human Rights and civil society organizations.

132. In order to better monitor the implementation of recommendations and collect usable data in a timely fashion, a digital monitoring tool called the Mechanism for Monitoring Human Rights Recommendations and Commitments, or MESURE_DH, has been developed.

VI. Constraints, challenges and good practices

A. Constraints

133. The security crisis, marked by terrorist attacks, has imposed a real constraint on measures to promote and protect human rights. This problem has been compounded by social unrest, institutional instability and insufficient financial resources.

134. In addition, protective measures, including the closure of borders following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, have hampered the execution of certain activities intended to implement the recommendations.

B. Challenges

135. The security crisis has resulted in new challenges, including the following:

- Managing the humanitarian crisis, including by reinforcing food security
- Strengthening human rights protection mechanisms
- Restoring territorial integrity and preserving the gains made in promoting and protecting human rights

- Strengthening care for victims of terrorism, including by improving their access to justice
- Facilitating the return or resettlement of internally displaced persons
- Restoring public services in high-security areas

C. Good practices

136. Good practices have included:

- Regular organization of workshops to discuss recommendations made in the course of the universal periodic review and treaty body recommendations at the central and decentralized levels
- Preparation of an action plan on the implementation of universal periodic review and treaty body recommendations and their adoption by stakeholders
- Preparation of a midterm report on the implementation of the recommendations
- Meetings of a multisectoral committee to monitor implementation of the recommendations
- Establishment of MESURE_DH
- Parliamentary involvement in the universal periodic review and treaty body process
- Preparation of the second voluntary national report on the sustainable development goals

VII. Human rights priorities, initiatives and commitments

A. Priorities

137. The priorities of Burkina Faso with regard to human rights are as follows:

- Continue to build the capacity of stakeholders to respect human rights in the context of the fight against terrorism and violent extremism
- Restore and reinforce security throughout the country
- Strengthen the humanitarian crisis response mechanism
- Strengthen good governance and the fight against corruption
- Strengthen democracy, respect for human rights, justice and peace
- Continue to strengthen the capacities of the National Commission on Human Rights and achieve its A-status accreditation
- Continue to improve access to basic social services for all, especially vulnerable people in the context of insecurity

B. Initiatives

138. To strengthen the human rights situation, Burkina Faso has undertaken a number of initiatives, including:

- Establishment and reinforcement of the capacities of the Special Unit for Counter-terrorism Investigations and the Fight against Organized Crime
- Establishment of the Central Unit for Combating Cybercrime
- Drawing up a road map for the care of victims of terrorism

- Conclusion of a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations System on the transfer and care of children encountered during security operations
- Establishment of a single social register
- Establishment of an interministerial working group to monitor, report and follow up on allegations of human rights violations reported in the counter-terrorism operations
- Establishment of a framework for consultation, monitoring and early warning between the Government and the OHCHR Country Office in respect of cases of alleged human rights violations and abuses

C. Commitments of Burkina Faso

139. In order to meet the challenges of promoting and protecting human rights, Burkina Faso undertakes, among other things, to:

- Report back to all stakeholders at national level on accepted recommendations and commitments
- Implement accepted recommendations
- Strengthen cooperation with international human rights bodies
- Strengthen the role of parliamentarians, the judiciary and civil society organizations in implementing accepted recommendations
- Continue to build the capacity of the National Armed Forces, the Internal Security Forces and the Volunteer Defence Force to take human rights into account in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism
- Continue to strengthen the operational capacities of the two specialized judicial units
- Make it easier for persons with disabilities to enjoy the rights associated with holding a disability card
- Continue to operationalize universal health insurance coverage for all
- Pursue the implementation of the sustainable development goals

VIII. Financial capacity-building and technical assistance needs

140. Implementing the above-mentioned recommendations requires the contribution of several ministerial departments, institutions and civil society organizations. For this reason, it is necessary to strengthen the capacities of the national stakeholders involved in implementing universal periodic review recommendations.

141. Substantial technical and financial resources are required to implement the recommendations, strengthen the database and stakeholders' capacities and draw up and implement an action plan. Technical and financial support from partners would enable Burkina Faso to make great strides in the fulfilment of its international commitments.

Notes

¹ Article 518-1 du Code de procédure pénale.

² Arrêté n°2018-0047/MSECU/CAB du 22 janvier 2018 portant création, attributions, organisation et fonctionnement des brigades régionales de protection de l'enfance.

³ Il s'agit notamment de - la Politique sectorielle « production agro-sylvo-pastorale », la Politique nationale « sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle », la Politique sectorielle « travail, emploi et protection sociale », la Politique sectorielle « gouvernance économique », la Politique sectorielle « transformation industrielle et artisanale ».