



PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

*COURTESY TRANSLATION*

26 June 2024

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Burkina Faso by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 44<sup>th</sup> session in November 2023. As the final outcome report on the review of Burkina Faso was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 55<sup>th</sup> session, I have taken note of the efforts of your Government to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by your Government, is available at OHCHR's website (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/bf-index>) and should be considered as part of this letter. The matrix indicates the recommending State and links each recommendation to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In annex, I have also attached my Office's observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the UPR. In line with previous practice, I will be sending similar observations to all Member States once their fourth cycle UPR outcome is adopted by the Human Rights Council, with a view to follow-up action in close cooperation with national entities and other stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the support available through the Voluntary Fund for UPR Implementation, which may be activated at the request and with the consent of a concerned State, along with tools such as the "UPR practical guidance" and the "UN good practices" repository on how the UPR process supports sustainable development, available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main>, with a view to facilitating efforts to implement UPR recommendations in line with the SDGs.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volker Türk

His Excellency  
Mr. Karamoko Jean Marie Traore  
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation  
and Burkinabé Abroad of Burkina Faso



## **Observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review**

Burkina Faso's membership in the World Program for Human Rights Education and its implementation at the national level are welcomed developments. Efforts made by Burkina Faso to combat female genital mutilation are positively noted, and so are efforts pursued for the creation of child protection units within police services to identify potential victims of human trafficking. Free healthcare for women and children under 5 years old and free family planning also constitute noteworthy progress.

The abolition of the death penalty for offenses dealt with by civil courts in the Criminal Code constitutes a step forward, further to which Burkina Faso should consider the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The signing, on 12 September 2022, between the United Nations System and Burkina Faso of the Memorandum of Understanding on the transfer and care of children found during operations to secure the territory is also a welcomed development.

While noting the actions undertaken to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission, Burkina Faso is encouraged to continue efforts to guarantee the full independence of its members, including by providing the Commission with sufficient human and material resources so that it can fully perform its functions as a national mechanism for the prevention of torture.

Burkina Faso is strongly encouraged to ensure that anti-terrorism norms and policies observe international human rights obligations, and strengthen care for victims, especially women, girls, boys and the Fulani community. A secure environment for civil society, guaranteeing freedoms of association, peaceful assembly, expression and of the press, should be also ensured. Furthermore, efforts are needed to guarantee the rights of migrants, children and women, and the effective implementation of development programmes aimed at promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Moreover, LGBTQI+ persons should be protected against discrimination and violence, while ensuring the respect of their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Burkina Faso is also encouraged to continue the practice of developing an implementation plan in follow up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the Transitional Legislative Assembly, the judiciary, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. The Government is encouraged to explicitly link each UPR recommendation to corresponding recommendations from other international and regional human rights mechanisms and to the relevant SDG and its targets. This will, in turn, facilitate the creation of synergies between UPR implementation and SDG-related actions and reporting within the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).



The Government is further encouraged to further strengthen the Multisectoral Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Recommendations Made in the Course of the Universal Periodic Review and by Treaty Bodies, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms, and to implementing the recommendations, in line with the guidance provided by OHCHR following regional consultations and the High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/50/64](#)).

Further, an important measure that could positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term UPR reporting. All Member States are encouraged to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report in about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, I have taken note of the commitment expressed by the Government of Burkina Faso during the universal periodic review to submit a mid-term report on the follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2026, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR  
26 June 2024