

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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DIRECTORATE FOR  
PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

BURKINA FASO  
Unity-Progress-Justice



*National Assembly  
of Burkina Faso*



## ***COUNTRY REPORT: BURKINA FASO***

### **SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENT**

***18 NOVEMBER - 14 DECEMBER 2019***

**Presented by:**

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**Honourable Speaker,**

**Honourable Members,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to present to this August Assembly, the Report of Burkina Faso according to the format provided.

## **I. POLITICAL SITUATION**

After some years of stability, Burkina Faso witnessed a period of difficult transition in 2014 and 2015, which led to peaceful and transparent presidential and legislative elections.

This was followed by a constitutional review process. Following the presentation of the content of the draft at local level, it was submitted to the national assembly for possible amendments. Consultations were carried out among political parties to pave the way for its adoption.

The political class is looking forward to the organisation of presidential and legislative elections in 2020.

## **II. SECURITY SITUATION**

Like other Sahel countries, Burkina Faso is prey to terrorist attacks. Since 2015, Burkina Faso has been witnessing growing insecurity characterised by several attacks in the capital Ouagadougou and widespread insecurity in northern and eastern regions of the country. Despite security measures put in place and the deployment of armed forces, violence has been on the rise in some parts of the country since 2015.

Some of the despicable acts that undermine the peace and security of persons and properties in our country are deadly attacks and the destruction of public buildings, abductions, kidnappings, assassination of government officials and attacks on national armed forces units, internal security and paramilitary forces.

Recent events are evidence of sustained increase in insecurity. A case in point is the community conflicts in Yirgou and Arbinda as well as the August 2019 attack on the Burkinabe army in Soum, in the northern part of the country, which left 24 people dead and another one on 3 November 2019 during which an MP/mayor of the region was killed.

The increase in terrorist acts and community conflicts directly affects the daily life of the people of Burkina Faso. The World Food Programme (WFP) has reported that the growing insecurity has caused 240,000 people to flee from their homes and health centres to close.

Following the barbaric attack in August, a major search operation was conducted, during which many attackers were overpowered. After about seven years of coordinated international, regional and national efforts to bring peace to the Sahel region, it must be acknowledged that significant security challenges still lie ahead.

### **III. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION**

#### **1. Status of Operation of the National Human Rights Commission / Agency**

Burkina Faso passed Act No 001 of 24 March 2016 to establish a National Human Rights Commission.

To promote human rights, the Commission:

- Ensures the dissemination of instruments and documents on human rights;
- Carries out campaigns to inform and sensitise the public on human rights;
- Participates in the development of policies and the implementation of programmes on human rights education at various levels of education.
- Sensitises public actors on the respect of human rights;
- Provides technical capacity building for actors involved in human rights issues

With a view to protecting and defending human rights, the Commission:

- Receives individual or collective complaints on allegations of human rights violations and expedites investigations on cases of violation;
- Provides guidance to plaintiffs and victims as well as legal assistance to those who request it;
- If possible, conciliates the parties in case of human rights violations
- Contributes to the respect of the human rights of inmates through regular announced or unannounced visits and by making recommendations to relevant authorities.

#### **2. Protection of the Right of the Child**

Burkina Faso has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as a demonstration of government's commitment to children's rights. Despite the government's commitment to child protection through the adoption of regulatory laws and texts as well as the establishment of social protection structures, it should be noted that major challenges are still yet to be met.

According to UNICEF, under the 2011-2017 Cooperation Programme, the government of Burkina Faso has made tremendous progress in respect of child protection, especially birth registration, the fight against the worst forms of child labour and feminine genital mutilations. Nevertheless, the performance of the system remains limited, owing to

worrying bottlenecks, having to do with the legal framework, inadequate budget allocation to the sector, persistence of harmful social norms, inadequate service delivery and low empowerment of right holders.

To deal with the various challenges, the “child protection” component of the new 2018-2020 programme aims to step up efforts to consolidate and boost what has been achieved so far.

Furthermore, the government of Sweden and UNICEF Burkina Faso have signed a partnership agreement aimed at reducing poverty and child vulnerability in the Boucle du Mouhoun, centre-north, northern and eastern regions through a child-friendly social protection system.

The partnership aims to:

- fight against multidimensional poverty with a view to enhancing the realisation of children's rights through child-friendly social protection systems in 5 municipalities of Boucle du Mouhoun, 3 municipalities in the centre-north region, 3 in the northern region and 4 in the eastern region.
- Strengthen the national social protection system through the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Social Protection (SP/CNPS) under the office of the Prime Minister with a view to defining a social protection floor for Burkina Faso.

### **3. Situation of Refugees**

Burkina Faso is currently hosting about 25,000 Malian refugees in the northern part of the country. Terrorist attacks in that area of the country affect civilians, namely displaced persons and refugees. The growing insecurity has compelled about 115,000 nationals of Burkina Faso to be internally displaced and 11,000 to flee to neighbouring countries. According to the UNHCR, 90% of internally displaced persons are living in host communities, about 70% in the Sahel region and 30% in Djibo.

In the face of this humanitarian emergency, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has provided shelters and emergency aids in its current stocks within the country. The UN agency is also monitoring the protection of displaced persons and has intensified its presence in the country to provide for growing humanitarian needs.

The UNHCR has expressed concern that humanitarian actors are also targeted in terrorist attacks and other acts that limit the ability of the humanitarian community to provide vital assistance in affected areas, especially in the camps in the Soum and Oudalan provinces in the Sahel region, close to the Malian border.

Against this background, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has joined other humanitarian partners to advocate for the protection of civilians and the respect of

the neutrality of humanitarian workers to enable them to continue providing assistance to those in need of protection and assistance.

The agency has urged refugees in camps in the Soum and Oudalan provinces to move to other camps where humanitarian organisations can ensure their protection and access to basic social services.

#### **IV. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY TEXTS**

##### **1. Status of Ratification of Community Texts**

Burkina Faso is party to ECOWAS protocols and conventions. Out of fifty-four (54), only two (2) are yet to be ratified, namely:

- Protocol A/P.1/01/06 Establishing an ECOWAS Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau
- Supplementary Protocol A/SP.01/05 amending the preamble and Articles 1, 2, 9, 22 and 30 of Protocol A/P1/7/91 relating to the Community Court of Justice as well as Article 4, paragraph 1 of the English version of the said Protocol.

##### **2. Specific Situations / Measures relating to:**

###### **a) Free Movement of Persons and Goods**

The free movement of goods in the ECOWAS region is governed by Protocol A/P1/1/03 of 31 January 2003 relating to the definition of the concept of products originating from Member States of the Economic Community of West African States.

This protocol is complemented by many implementing texts, including Regulation C/REG.3/4/02 of 23 April 2002 establishing procedure for the approval of originating products to benefit under the ECOWAS trade liberalisation scheme.

Several years after their adoption, these protocols remain unknown to some key stakeholders in the implementation process. Despite efforts by political leaders to make it effective, the free movement of persons and goods is still struggling to become a reality. This is evidenced by the multiple complaints by citizens about harassments at the borders or checkpoints.

True integration of states and peoples is unachievable without effective and complete implementation of the protocol on the free movement of persons and goods. To operationalise this protocol, Burkina Faso set up in January 2018, a department in charge of African Integration and Burkinabe abroad.

The department organised on 9 October 2019, an information and sensitisation workshop on the free movement of persons and goods for officers in charge of screening persons and goods at the Bobo-Dioulasso International Airport.

The aim of the workshop was to build the capacity of various actors, namely the police, the gendarmerie and the customs, who are involved in screening persons and goods at the Bobo-Dioulasso Airport. This workshop will enable them to be abreast of community regulations and to better understand issues relating to the free movement of persons and goods.

It should be recalled that the President of Burkina Faso has been appointed by his peers to monitor the implementation of the protocols on the free movement of persons and goods, the right of residence and establishment.

### **b) Fight against Corruption and Money Laundering**

Burkina Faso signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 10 December 2003 and ratified it on 10 October 2006. This political commitment is constantly renewed through the adoption of legislative and regulatory texts, the establishment of institutions and structures to combat corruption and money laundering.

The government has passed:

- Act No 004-2015/CNT on the prevention and repression of corruption in Burkina Faso, which demonstrates our government's commitment to fight against corruption.
- Act No 039-2016/AN on the regulation of government procurement;
- Act No 005-2017/AN of 19 January 2017 on the establishment, structure and operation of specialised judicial units to combat economic, financial and organised crime.
- Decree No 2017-0050/PRES/PM/MINEFID on the responsibilities, structure and operation of the public procurement regulatory authority;
- Decree No 2017-0051/PRES/PM/MINEFID regulating to the delegation of public contracts.

At institutional level, three institutions have been set up to fight against corruption and money laundering, namely:

- Government Monitoring and Anti-Corruption Authority (ASCE-LC);
- National Anti-Corruption Network (REN-LAC);
- As well as anti-corruption committees within administrations.

## **V. Status of Implementation of Community Programmes and Projects: Transport and Infrastructure Projects**

The government rolled-out major transport and infrastructure projects by creating geographic access both internally and with neighbouring countries.

Government's actions to open up the country to neighbouring countries are targeted at the construction and rehabilitation of international roads and railways with projects such as:

- The construction of the Ouagadougou–Abidjan highway;
- The rehabilitation of the Abidjan- Ouagadougou railway and its extension to Dori and Tambao;
- The Ouagadougou-Tema railway project.

Burkina Faso's projects under the CDP are:

- West African railway loop project: Niamey-Kaya (430 km) at an estimated cost of USD 597.7 million;
- Dakar– Abidjan – Lagos highway corridor construction project
- Regional railway project: Niamey-Kaya, Niamey-Cotonou and Ouangolodougou-Bamako.

With regard to internal accessibility, government 's actions will focus on:

- Constructing and upgrading rural roads to create access to production zones;
- Expediting the asphaltting of roads linking regional capitals with provincial capitals;
- Improving public road networks to facilitate movement in our cities.

## **VI. Economic Situation**

### **1. Economic Growth**

The National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES), which is a development framework in Burkina Faso for the 2016-2020 period, is still under implementation in 2019, despite the persistence of terrorist attacks that have caused internal displacement of people and the formation of a social front motivated by social demands in the public sector. In spite of this situation, economic activities are still growing. Real PIB growth rate stood at 6.1% in 2019 compared with 6.6% in 2018. This growth was driven by all sectors. Inflation has remained moderate and is kept within the community threshold of 3% maximum. On average, it stood at 0.4% at the end of June 2019 compared with 2.9% in June 2018.

On public finance, the total revenue and grants mobilised during the first half of 2019 stood at 986.1 billion CFA Francs, representing an increase of 22.8%. This performance has been achieved thanks to effective mobilisation of +69.5 billion CFA Francs in tax revenue and +127.1 billion CFA Francs in non-tax revenue. Total expenses and net lending stood at 1.0598 trillion CFA Francs at the end of June 2019 compared with 895.6 billion

CFA Francs at the end of June 2018, representing an increase of 18.3%. This performance is driven by both current expenses to the tune of +18.8% and capital expenses to tune of 15.8%. Outstanding public debt stood at 3.5289 trillion CFA Francs at the end of June 2019, representing an increase of 6.1% compared with the previous year-end.

As regards external transactions, Burkina Faso's foreign trade during the second half of 2019 recorded an overall deficit of 46.1 billion compared with surpluses of 69.3 billion during the first quarter of 2019 and 107.2 billion during the second half of the previous year. The downward quarterly variation in the aggregate balance (-115.3 billion) is imputable to the current account position. Financial and capital accounts, on the other hand, have improved.

The monetary situation from the end of December 2018 to the end of June 2019 suggests an increase in net foreign assets to the tune of 23.2 billion CFA Francs (+1.6%) and in domestic claims to the tune of 190 billion CFA Francs (+7.0%). This translates into a 167.6 billion CFA Francs increase in the money stock (+4.5%).

## **2. Fight against Poverty**

In 2018, Burkina Faso ranked 183rd out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index. The population, largely rural (79%), was estimated at 19.03 million inhabitants in 2016 with an increase rate of 3.1% per year. Between 2003 and 2014, poverty rate declined from 53% to 40% of the population thanks to a 6% average economic growth per year. With a gross domestic product (GDP) of 744 dollars per capita in 2019, Burkina Faso is one of the countries that produce the lowest wealth per capita.

It should be recalled that in 2016, Burkina Faso rolled out a National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) to ensure the structural transformation of the economy with a view to robust, sustainable and inclusive growth as well as the creation of decent jobs for all. This plan is premised on Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

The implementation of this plan has improved educational opportunities through the construction of 6,351 classrooms and 13 institutions of higher education in the regions and the creation of 87,715 decent jobs.

Despite all the efforts made over the past 15 years to alleviate poverty, this country, largely rural, remains one of the poorest in the world.

## **3. Fight against Youth Unemployment**

Youths are a significant asset for economic, cultural, social and political development. However, they are confronted with challenges, such as unemployment, poverty, citizen participation, which jeopardise their development and hinder their active participation in development.



On 12 September 2019, the Minister for Youth and the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship launched the 2019 edition of the Youth Socio-professional Integration Support Programme. In all, 300 young graduates will benefit from internships and trainings on job search and self-employment.

In the same vein, the Ministry for Youth and the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship, through its Youth and Women Employment Programme, has transferred a livestock and poultry feed manufacturing unit to Houet Cooperative Company of Livestock and Meat Traders and Exporters. The aim is to contribute to the socio-professional integration of young people and women through self-employment and the development of income generating activities (IGA).

## **VII. Status of Implementation of Macroeconomic Convergence Criteria**

For the first half of 2019, Burkina Faso's performance in respect of macroeconomic convergence criteria adopted in accordance with Supplementary Act A/SA/01/12/15 of 16 December 2015 is as follows.

### **1. Primary criteria**

- Budget deficit, including grants (on commitment basis) to GDP ratio ( $\leq 3\%$ ): overall budget balance, including grants, recorded a surplus of 73.7 billion CFA Francs at the end of June 2019 compared with a deficit of 92.6 billion at the end of June 2018;
- Annual average inflation rate ( $\leq 10\%$ ): annual average inflation rate stood at -0.4% at the end of June 2019 compared with 2.9% in June 2018 in compliance with the Community standard of 10% maximum.
- **Budget deficit financing by the Central Bank:** Burkina Faso did not receive funding from the Central Bank to finance budget deficit.

### **2. Secondary criteria**

- Overall outstanding public debt to nominal GDP ratio ( $\leq 70\%$ ): outstanding public debt stood at 3.5289 trillion CFA Francs at the end of June 2019, representing 40.7% of nominal GDP compared with 3.3271 trillion CFA Francs at the end of December 2019, representing 42.3% of GDP. This ratio is expected to be within the Community standard by the end December 2019;
- Variation in nominal exchange rate ( $\pm 10\%$ ): the variation in the average exchange rate of the CFA Franc against the West African Unit of Account stood at 2.5% (ECOWAS) in 2018 compared with 2.1% in 2017, which is within the  $\pm 10\%$  threshold required.

## VIII. Proceeds of the Community Levy

### 1. Payment of the Community Levy (1 January - September 2019) in thousands of CFA Francs

PERIOD	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	TOTAL
AMOUNT	744,454	714,034	786,342	849,843	784,335	808,532	846,991	645,717	687,083	6,867,330

### 2. Payment of the proceeds of the Community Levy

Burkina Faso has no arrears in respect of the Community Levy. There is only a discrepancy between the amounts collected and the amounts transferred into the ECOWAS account at BCEAO. Measures have been taken to avoid the accumulation of CL payments.

## IX. Environment and Climate Change

Climate change is adversely affecting rural development, owing to the constant decline in rainfall in terms of volume and quality of precipitations as well as high temperatures, upsurge in the number and intensity of floods, droughts and wind storms. These extreme weather conditions hamper the performance of agricultural, livestock and animal production systems and leads to increased population movement as well as serious humanitarian problems and economic losses. Degradation has affected thirty-four (34%) per cent of lands in the country, representing more than nine million hectares of arable lands.

To improve the living conditions as well as the production and consumption patterns of the people and prevent environmental degradation and the degradation of the living environment, the government has fast-tracked the implementation of specific actions and measures defined in the second National Rural Sector Programme (PNSR II) to ensure the sustainability of agricultural production in the country

To facilitate the transition to green economy, the government will take actions to improve environmental governance, to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to enhance the resilience of grassroots communities to climate change.

## X. Sensitisation Activities Carried out by Parliamentarians

Burkinabe MPs have various mechanisms to account for their activities to the people. These activities include:

- Organising parliamentary accountability sessions by visiting provinces to engage the people and account for their activities.
- Broadcasting plenary sessions of the National Assembly on RTB and parliament's radio station.
- Organising press conferences to share activities carried out by the National Assembly within or outside the country.

**Honourable Speaker,  
Dear colleagues,**

In a nutshell, this is the account of major developments that illustrate the general situation in Burkina Faso.

**Thank you for your attention**