

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**DIRECTORATE OF
PARLEMENTARY COOPERATION**

BURKINA FASO

Unity-Progress-Justice



Burkina Faso National Assembly

FIRST ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENT MAY-JUNE 2021

Presented by the MPs:

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I- INTRODUCTION

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am privileged to stand before this august Assembly to present the summary of the Burkina Faso report on behalf of the Burkinabè delegation, in accordance with the agreed format.

Dear colleagues, **Rt. Hon. Mr Alassane Bala SAKANDE, Speaker of the National Assembly** extends his warm greetings to all of you.

II- POLITICAL SITUATION

Burkina Faso has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to democracy and the rule of law over the past year by organizing and successfully completing the November 22, 2020 Legislative and Presidential elections, at the end of which President Roch Marc Christian KABORE was brilliantly re-elected to the Supreme Judiciary.

Likewise, the MPs made their choices on **Alassane Bala SAKANDE** to preside over the destiny of this institution for the next five years.

The free, peaceful and transparent conditions in which the said elections were held were lauded by all stakeholders, which once again testifies to the political maturity of our country.

The government intends to complete the electoral process by ensuring that municipal elections and the constitutional referendum are organized under optimal conditions.

However, the new political landscape resulting from the November 22, 2020 elections and the importance of the reforms initiated to consolidate decentralization and local democracy justified the postponement of the poll from May 2021 to May 2022.

III- SECURITY SITUATION

The security situation in Burkina Faso still remains very volatile, although there has been a lull since the start of the second half of 2020. Repeated armed attacks and

clashes in certain regions of Burkina Faso have led many people (1,147,699 as of March 31, 2021), to flee their locality. The year 2020 was marked by a drastic surge in movements within the country. Indeed, between the months of December 2019 and December 2020, the number of displaced persons increased by 92%. The most affected regions are mainly the Sahel and the Centre-North, then the Eastern and Northern regions, although all regions are affected by the displacement of populations.

One of the government's major concerns is the consolidation of peace and human security. In a bid to continue building and preserving security and peace hard hit by terrorism, the major actions carried out by the government focus on:

- consolidation of the gains made through the operationalization of the 2018-2022 military programming law;
- improvement of volunteers' contribution for the defence of the fatherland through better supervision;
- pursuit of sub-regional and international cooperation within the framework of the G5 Sahel;
- restoration of the climate of confidence between the law and security forces and the civilian population by stepping up civil-military actions to strengthen army-nation ties; and
- strengthening the intervention capacities of the internal security forces with a view to countering the development of cross-border and organized crimes in our towns and countryside.

IV- HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

Burkina Faso adopted Law N° 001 on March 24, 2016, 24 establishing a National Human Rights Commission, whose objectives are to:

- ensure the popularization of instruments and documents relating to Human Rights;
- carry out information and public awareness campaigns on Human Rights;
- participate in the formulation of policies and the implementation of programmes Human Rights related education at the various levels of education;
- sensitize public actors on respect for Human Rights; and
- build the technical capacities of actors in the field of Human Rights.

As part of the protection and defence of Human Rights, the Commission:

- receives individual or collective complaints on all allegations of Human Rights violations and initiates investigations into cases of Human Rights violations;
- directs complainants and victims; - to offer legal assistance to those who request it;
- if possible, carries out conciliation between parties in the event of Human Rights violations; and
- contributes to respect for Human Rights in places of deprivation of freedom through regular, notified or unannounced visits and to make recommendations to the competent authorities.

There are cases of Human Rights violations noted thanks to the activism of unidentified armed groups, in particular cases of assassinations, restriction of liberty, kidnappings, arrest, theft and looting, especially in the Sahel, the North, the Centre-North and the East of Burkina Faso.

a) Protection of the Rights of the Child

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child by the Burkinabè State proves, by this adhesion, its full commitment and its willingness to work for the promotion and respect of children's rights.

The issue of child protection is a matter of concern. Many children are often involved in gold mining and housework. This situation exposes them to mistreatment, abuse of all kinds and diseases.

According to UNICEF, as part of the 2011-2017 Cooperation Programme, the government of Burkina Faso has made remarkable progress in the area of child protection, particularly with regard to birth registration, the fight against the worst forms of child labour and female genital mutilation.

Nonetheless, worrying bottlenecks relating to the legal framework, the weak budgetary allocation to the sector, the persistence of harmful social standards,

the still insufficient service offer and the low level of empowerment of rights holders continue to limit system returns.

b) Situation of Refugees

The armed conflict in Northern Mali in 2013 led to a massive influx of refugees to Burkina Faso. In March 2020, threats and terrorist attacks forced refugees to abandon the Goudoubo camp, which held more than 9,000 people, to self-relocate to Dori, Gorom-Gorom and Djibo.

Faced with insecurity, the Government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees decided to relocate all Malian refugees to the unique Goudoubo site for better care. 6,570 Malian refugees have already been resettled at this site. The operation will continue with the refugees who remained in Djibo and those who do not reside in the camps.

All these relocations were possible, thanks to the operations to secure the camp and its surroundings, carried out by the central and local authorities as well as taking on board the various security measures. Shelters, drinking water, school, health centre, basic social services are in place with a permanent presence of a major security system.

Situation of Refugees as at 31 March 2021									
Refugees living in the camp	9 269	Households in the camp	1 909	Children (Below 18 years)	58%	Average family size	5	Individuals given Cash to live on	5 387
Refugees living in the Sahel Region	19 738	Individuals living with disabilities	157	Children under custodianship	198	Number of shelters allocated	1780	Households receiving small ruminants	40

Sources: Ministry of Humanitarian Action

V- HEALTH SITUATION

With the security crisis, the right to health is severely tested in some regions.

We note the non-functioning of some CSPS in localities under the control of Unidentified Armed Groups and even for health facilities still functional in risk areas.

The health system is strongly impacted by the security situation in Burkina Faso. Attacks perpetrated affect the health system (intimidation, kidnapping of health workers, theft of drugs, etc.).

According to the report received from the Ministry of Health, 95 health facilities were closed, i.e. 8.5% of health facilities in six regions affected by insecurity, and 199 other health facilities partially functioning, depriving more than 1,171,907 million people of access to care following this dysfunction.

Burkina Faso has also suffered a COVID-19 epidemic since March 9, 2020. Other endemo-epidemic diseases such as malaria, dengue, measles and meningitis remind us that surveillance must be strengthened at all levels of the health system.

In order to fight against the pandemic, the Government of Burkina Faso has implemented four types of measures:

- measures to protect and prevent the spread of the virus;
- conducting a macroeconomic analysis study of the impact of Covid-19;
- mitigation measures; and
- formulation of a response plan.

Consequently, certain measures put in place have impacted the economic, social and political life of the country, in particular the prohibition of any gathering of more than 50 people, the imposition of a curfew from 7p.m. to 5a.m., closure of certain markets, of air, land and rail borders, of places of worship, the isolation of certain towns, etc.

It should be noted that since the pandemic, Burkina Faso has recorded 13,416 cases, with 166 deaths.

Following a decline in cases of confirmed infections (1 case as of May 24) by the technical departments of the Ministry of Health, the Government has gradually lifted certain restrictions and revised certain measures in order to reduce their impact on the populations (gradual return to work in offices, opening of markets and places of religious worship), while establishing a strong awareness on distancing and the compulsory wearing of masks.

VI- STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOWAS TEXTS

• Protocol on Community Levy (CL)

• Community Levy Revenue

State of CL Assessments-Collections-Payments (January - December 2020)

Period	Assessments(1)	Collections(2)	Payments (3)	Differences	
				(1)-(2)	(2)-(3)
January	193 740,169	051 866,806	806,051 866	- 126 636 858	0
February	228 837,384	871 811,037	037,871 811	26 346,357	0
March	263 781,902	756 819,507	507,756 819	- 37 605,493	0
April	772 722,234	052 745,182	182,052 745	- 22 947,280	0
May	522 742,871	716 706,312	312,716 706	36 558,806	0
June	475 778,226	347 784,827	827 347 784	- 6 600 872	0
July	115 694,993	228 741,125	125,228 741	- 46 132,113	0
August	699 670,604	371 647,349	349,371 647	23 255,328	0
September	877 722,361	532 749,102	102,532 749	- 26 740,655	0
October	049 704,083	666 709,909	909,666 709	- 5 826,617	0

November	300	737,804	074	690,033	690	47	771,226	0
December	068	933,586	190	900,172	900	33	413,878	0
Total	561	9,066,221	854	9,171,365	9,171,365	- 105	144,293	0

Total amount of: nine billion, one hundred and seventy-one million, three hundred and sixty-five thousand, eight hundred and fifty-four (9,066,221,561)

Statement of CL Assessments-Collections-Payments (January - March 2021)

Period	Assessments(1)	Collections(2)	Payments (3)	Differences	
				(1)-(2)	(2)-(3)
January	501	553,473	650,656	- 97	
		650,656,347	347	182,846	0
February	378	795,522	727,545	67	
		727,545,824	824	976,554	0
March	551	856,686	886,099	- 29	
		886,099,164	164	412,613	0
Total	430	2,205,682	2,264,301	- 58	
		2,264,301,335	335	618,905	0

Total amount of: two billion, two hundred and sixty-four million, three hundred and one thousand, three hundred and thirty-five (2 205 682 430)

a) Payment of Proceeds from the Community Levy

Burkina Faso has no arrears of payment of the Community Levy, there is only a lag between the collections and the payments into the ECOWAS BCEAO account. Measures are taken to avoid the accumulation of transfers from the CL to the ECOWAS account.

b) Protocol on Free Movement of Persons and Goods

The ratification of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, relating to free movement of persons, right of residence and right of

establishment by ECOWAS Member States testifies to their political will to make regional integration a reality.

But, like the other countries of the ECOWAS region, free movement of persons and goods is not yet a reality in Burkina Faso. This is mainly due to ignorance on the part of the population in respect of the relevant texts in force.

VII- Supplementary Act relating to equal rights between women and men for sustainable development in the ECOWAS Region

a) Women in Parliaments

Like other countries in the ECOWAS region, the rate of participation and representation of women in Burkina Faso is low within decision-making spheres. According to statistics from the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD), women represent more than 52% of the population in Burkina Faso, but only 15% hold positions in decision-making spheres.

The relatively low rate of representation of women in political arenas can be justified for several reasons. Women contesting elections face many problems, including discrimination or cultural beliefs that limit the role of women in society and difficulty in reconciling private, family and political life, garnering support from political parties and funding campaigns.

To guarantee equal opportunity between women and men, initiatives have been taken by the Burkinabè State to find remedies.

Thus, the National Assembly adopted law n ° 010-2009 / AN of April 16, 2009 establishing quotas of 30% of one or the other sex in legislative and municipal elections to fight against inequalities towards women and promote their full participation in political life.

Despite the application of the law on the gender quota, the results of legislative and municipal elections are relatively weak.

In the 2015 legislative elections, out of the 127 seats, 11 women were elected, i.e. 8.66% and at the end of the 2016 municipal elections, out of a total of 18,602 elected municipal councilors, 2,359 were women, i.e. 12, 68% of elected candidates.

An in-depth analysis of the law on the gender quota revealed certain shortcomings linked, among other things, to the positioning of women by political parties, which led to the adoption of a new law establishing the quota and modalities for the positioning of candidates for legislative and municipal elections in Burkina Faso in January 2020.

Despite the legal and regulatory measures, the last November 22, 2020 legislative elections saw a drop in the representation of women in parliament. Out of 127 Parliamentarians, only 08 women were elected, i.e. 6.29% of those elected.

a) Gaps in Education

In Burkina Faso, girls' education has been a priority in ten-year education development plans for the past two decades in order to catch up with girls lagging behind in education. Thus, through the implementation of activities aimed at reducing the gaps in the education of girls, the gross enrollment rate of girls in 2017-2018 is 90.7%, against 90.5% for boys in primary education, and 87.50% against 85.80% for boys in 2019-2020.

Parity between girls and boys at the primary level has been achieved since 2013. At the post-primary level, the gross enrollment rate for girls is 54.60%, against 49.60% for boys in 2017-2018 and 53.60% against 45.30% for boys in 2019-2020.

At the secondary level, the gross enrollment rate for girls is 14.50%, against 20.60% for boys in 2017-2018 and 19.80% against 24% per cent for boys in 2019-2020. A slight difference can be observed in terms of parity between girls and boys, which can be justified by:

- long distances to be covered to reach schools;
- persistent shortage of supply;
- overload of household chores;
- social and economic vulnerability of some girls and parents;
- early marriages and pregnancies;
- gender-based violence at school; and
- inadequacy of the school environment to the needs of girls.

b) Gaps Observed at the Primary Level

Primary Level 2019/2020 Academic Year									
National total	G	F	T	G	F	T	G	F	T
	Number of 6-year old children			Newly enrolled			GROSS Rate of Admission %		

	337 131	321 733	658 864	324 799	300 790	625 589	96.30%	93.50%	94.90%
	Number of children between 6 and 11 years			6-11 year old children in school			Gross rate of schooling %		
	1,913 516	1,826 782	3,740 298	1,641 216	1,599 131	3 240 347	85.80%	87.50%	86.60%
	Number of children between 6 and 11 years			6-11 year old children in school			Net rate of schooling %		
	1,913 516	1,826 782	3,740 782	1,332 875	1,282 898	2 615 773	69.70%	70.20%	69.90%
	11 year old children				Newly enrolled primary 6 children		Completion rate		
	300 899	287 396	588 295	168 427	186 496	354 923	56.00%	64.90%	60.30%

c) Gaps observed at the secondary level

Indicators	2015-2016			2016-2017			2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020		
	G	F	T	G	F	T	G	F	T	G	F	T	G	F	T
GROSS ADMISSION RATE															
Form 1	43.4 0%	45.7 0%	44.6 0%	40.7 0%	43.0 0%	41.8 0%	47.1 0%	52.9 0%	49.9 0%	43.5 0%	48.1 0%	45.7 0%	38.6 0%	42.1 0%	40.3 0%
Secondary	20.0 0%	13.9 0%	17.0 0%	17.8 0%	12.5 0%	15.2 0%	18.9 0%	14.2 0%	16.6 0%	26.8 0%	23.2 0%	25.0 0%	17.8 0%	15.4 0%	16.7 0%
GROSS RATE OF SCHOOLING															
Post primary	46.0 0%	47.2 0%	46.6 0%	47.7 0%	50.5 0%	49.0 0%	49.6 0%	54.6 0%	52.0 0%	47.1 0%	54.1 0%	50.5 0%	45.3 0%	53.6 0%	49.3 0%
Secondary	18.2 0%	11.8 0%	15.0 0%	19.4 0%	13.1 0%	16.2 0%	20.6 0%	14.5 0%	17.6 0%	24.2 0%	19.0 0%	21.6 0%	24.0 0%	19.8 0%	21.9 0%
Together	35.3 0%	33.1 0%	34.2 0%	36.7 0%	35.6 0%	36.2 0%	44.6 0%	45.2 0%	44.9 0%	38.1 0%	40.0 0%	39.0 0%	36.9 0%	39.3 0%	38.3 0%
NET RATE OF SCHOOLING															
Post primary	25.2 0%	26.3 0%	25.8 0%	24.4 0%	26.0 0%	25.2 0%	26.2 0%	29.0 0%	27.6 0%	24.9 0%	28.4 0%	26.6 0%	23.6 0%	27.5 0%	25.5 0%

Secondary	5.70 %	4.10 %	4.90 %	5.70 %	4.30 %	5.00 %	6.10 %	4.70 %	5.40 %	7.10 %	6.10 %	6.60 %	6.40 %	5.70 %	6.10 %
Together	27.1 0%	26.6 0%	26.9 0%	27.5 0%	27.8 0%	27.6 0%	28.6 0%	30.0 0%	29.3 0%	27.5 0%	30.0 0%	28.7 0%	26	29.3 0%	27.6 0%
COMPLETION RATE															
Form 1	29.8 0%	28.6 0%	29.2 0%	35.4 0%	35.3 0%	35.4 0%	39.2 0%	42.1 0%	40.6 0%	36.3 0%	41.7 0%	39.0 0%	35.5 0%	42.6 0%	39.0 0%
Secondary	12.1 0%	7.60 %	9.80 %	13.6 0%	8.80 %	11.2 0%	17.7 0%	11.9 0%	14.8 0%	17.8 0%	12.9 0%	15.4 0%	19.8 0%	15.1 0%	17.5 0%

d) Gaps Observed in the Higher Level

Gross Rate of Schooling								Evolution			
								2017-2018		2009-2010	
Public Universities			Tertiary Education			% of below 25 years	% Foreign students	Number	%	Number	%
Number	Girls	Boys	Number	Girls	Boys						
132 569	35.30 %	64.70 %	27,865	21.00 %	79.00 %	63.50 %	2.30%	14,844	12.60 %	81,403	159.10 %

d) Early Marriage

The legal age for marriage is 17 for girls and 20 for boys in Burkina. Yet forced marriage is still pervasive, especially in rural areas. According to UNICEF, more than 52% of women are married before the age of 18 and 10% before the age of 15.

The root causes of child marriage are due to the persistence of social norms and values contrary to the rights of the girl, household poverty, the existence of a legal vacuum with regard to customary and religious marriage and the weakness of the commitment of decision makers to finance structural policies for the protection and promotion of rights.

As part of the fight against forced marriages, actions undertaken by the government mainly focus on:

- ratification of the African Charter and the Convention on Human Rights;
- adoption of the Persons and Family Code;
- adoption of Law No. 040-2019 / AN on the Code of Criminal Procedure;

- adoption of Law No. 061-2015 / CNT on prevention, repression and reparation of violence against women and girls and the care of victims; and
- the (2016-2025) national strategy for the prevention and elimination of child marriage

Despite the establishment of a legal framework and the taking of certain measures by the government in this regard, the phenomenon persists.

Rt. Hon. Speaker,
Dear colleagues,

Going by the format, these in a nutshell, are the main information and data that illustrate the overall situation in Burkina Faso.

*******Thank you *******