



# Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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## Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Thirty-first session

### Summary record of the 721st meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 13 August 2024, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Ms. Fefoame

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

### **Consideration of reports submitted by parties to the Convention under article 35**

*(continued)*

*Initial report of Burkina Faso (continued) (CRPD/C/BFA/1; CRPD/C/BFA/Q/1; CRPD/C/BFA/RQ/1)*

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the delegation of Burkina Faso joined the meeting.*

*Articles 10–20 (continued)*

2. **A representative of Burkina Faso**, replying to questions put the previous day (CRPD/C/SR.720), said that motorized and non-motorized vehicles intended for use by persons with disabilities were exempt from import duties and value added tax (VAT). The Tax Code contained clear provisions to that effect and was publicly accessible. Exemption from VAT and import duties had been granted in respect of more than 4,000 wheelchairs and vehicles for persons with disabilities in 2024 alone. Persons with disabilities seeking exemption from import duties and taxes on ordinary vehicles to be adapted to their needs must file a request. The procedure was meant as a safeguard to prevent abuse and protect the physical integrity of persons with disabilities.

3. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the President engaged with different segments of society and, in particular, with persons with disabilities. Any concerns raised in those exchanges were conveyed to the competent ministries. Article 1 of the Constitution, the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Act on Agrarian and Land Reorganization guaranteed equal access to housing, without discrimination on grounds of disability. A centre had been established where persons with disabilities could learn a trade or build their own mobility aids. Every year, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, National Solidarity and the Family ordered mobility aids to be made available to persons with disabilities free of charge. In the 2023–2024 biennium, CFAF 1 billion had been spent on mobility aids for more than 800 persons with disabilities.

4. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that participation in legislative processes was open to all stakeholders, including persons with disabilities. They were invited to express their views on draft legislation that might affect them, including with regard to foreign policy matters. Organizations of persons with disabilities had played a crucial role in the ratification of the Convention and provided useful input into supporting documents. They were also actively involved in the implementation of the Convention and in the preparation of reports to the Committee. The fact that the delegation included persons with disabilities was also indicative of their effective involvement.

5. **Mr. Makni** (Country Task Force) said that inaccessibility of information remained a major obstacle to the social inclusion of persons with hearing impairments, blind persons, persons with disabilities who lived in rural areas and those who were illiterate. The State party might wish to ponder the issue of communication more in depth with a view to enhancing independent living and inclusion for those groups. When it came to mobility, existing legislation needed to be strengthened and effectively implemented, as it was currently inadequate to respond to the needs of persons with disabilities.

6. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that the notion whereby the State party was “protecting” persons with disabilities because they were unable to exercise or understand their rights was incompatible with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. Denying persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities due process of law on the presumption that they did not understand what they were doing was equally unacceptable. The State party might wish to take guidance from the International Principles and Guidelines on Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities.

7. It would be useful to know whether any effective measures had been taken to end involuntary hospitalization and treatment, protect women and girls with disabilities from sterilization without their consent, and initiate a process of deinstitutionalization.

8. **Mr. Al-Azzeh** said that the extent to which the concepts applied by the State party deviated from the principles underlying the Convention was deeply disconcerting. He would be grateful to know more about the nature of the State party's engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities, which were unlikely to condone the paternalistic approach being taken. He wondered whether the State party had explored supported decision-making models in the context of the legislative review that was under way and what role disability activists played in that regard.

9. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that persons with disabilities living in rural areas were not left behind. Regional governors, regional associations of persons with disabilities, and regional coordinating bodies of organizations of persons with disabilities participated in decision-making processes under the umbrella of the National Multisectoral Council for the Protection and Promotion of Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Sign language interpreters were currently working to ensure that all persons with hearing disabilities in the country had equal access to information. Sign language interpretation was provided for news programmes and major events broadcast on national television.

10. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that representatives of persons with disabilities were directly involved in the legislative review. The Committee's suggestions would be taken to heart as the review progressed.

11. **Ms. Fernández de Torrijos** said that she shared the concerns expressed by other members with regard to the State party's failure to adhere to basic principles of the Convention. She wished to know what measures had been taken to eliminate corporal punishment and other forms of violence against persons with disabilities, especially children and people living in extreme poverty. She wondered how the State party supported parents of children with disabilities, in particular those who were very poor, and what had been done to raise awareness of disability rights. She would also be grateful to know how the authorities dealt with persons who used children with disabilities for begging and subjected them to corporal punishment.

12. **Mr. Schefer** asked what measures had been taken to protect persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities without a permanent residence – so called “errant persons” (*personnes errantes*) – from mistreatment and abuse.

13. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that government institutions cooperated with civil society organizations to provide housing and support for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities. Community centres has been set up to provide persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities with a safe place and quality care. Multidisciplinary teams of social workers, health workers and other local actors worked together to respond to mental health needs and facilitate the social reintegration of errant persons.

14. The National Solidarity Fund financed free health care for children with disabilities under 5 years of age. Parents of children with disabilities received education grants for their children and psychosocial support.

15. A campaign had been launched to get child beggars off the street, which included awareness-raising activities. If begging persisted, the authorities might nevertheless resort to repression to get the children off the street. The campaign included measures to facilitate the social reintegration of former child beggars and create an enabling environment for them to thrive.

16. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the gap observed by Committee members between State action and the principles enshrined in the Convention did not result from a lack of commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities. The Government was well aware that much remained to be done, but it would be unfair to belittle the efforts made in the context of the country's pressing development needs, which were compounded by a difficult security situation.

17. **Ms. Boresli** said that she wished to know what measures had been taken to protect girls and women with disabilities from female genital mutilation, and what penalties were imposed for contravention of the prohibition on that practice.

18. **Ms. Thongkuay** said that she wished to know whether there was a comprehensive national strategy, with clear timelines and objectives, to improve access to housing and provide support services for persons with disabilities. She also wondered whether the State party's legislation protected persons with disabilities from forced eviction, irrespective of the type of housing arrangement. Might the State party develop a strategy for systematic deinstitutionalization, with clear timelines and measurable goals?

19. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the rights to life, security and physical integrity of women and girls were safeguarded by the Constitution. Legislation protected the rights to life and physical integrity of all persons with disabilities, regardless of age or gender, and prohibited deliberate attacks on the physical integrity of others, including women and girls.

20. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that female genital mutilation was criminalized; numerous persons found guilty of engaging in such practices had been convicted under the relevant legal provisions.

21. A survey conducted in 2019 using the Washington Group short set of questions on functioning had revealed that persons with disabilities had better access to housing than the general population. Those findings were corroborated by statistics, which could be provided in writing. The requirements of persons with disabilities were taken into account in all new housing developments. Persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups were exempt from housing taxes. There were no forced evictions of persons with disabilities, regardless of the type of housing they occupied.

22. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that her country was a global champion of the fight against female genital mutilation and had repeatedly spearheaded relevant resolutions within the Human Rights Council. Persons with disabilities and other stakeholders participated in the discussions around the domestic implementation of those commitments.

23. **The Chair** asked what steps had been taken towards the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.

24. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the process of ratification was under way and expected to be completed shortly.

25. **Mr. Schefer**, noting that article 153 of the Act on the Prison System allowed for support measures for persons with disabilities in prisons, said that he wished to know what measures were being taken for persons with disabilities in prisons with regard to assessment, accessibility of infrastructure and services, rehabilitation, access to health services and access to confidential complaints mechanisms.

26. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that persons with disabilities in detention had the support of social services and health services in detention facilities. Their rights were taken very seriously. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights conducted inspection visits to detention centres to assess the living conditions of persons with disabilities in detention.

27. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that there were 26 persons with disabilities currently being held in detention in Burkina Faso: 17 with physical disabilities, 5 with visual impairments and 4 who were deaf. While the Act on the Prison System provided for specific measures for persons with disabilities, the measures taken would depend on the type of disability. All detention facilities had been equipped to ensure access for persons with physical disabilities. Food allowances for persons with disabilities were adapted to improve their nutrition.

*The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m. and resumed at 11.05 a.m.*

#### *Articles 21–30*

28. **Mr. Kabue** (Country Task Force) said that since the use of sign language interpretation, which was a crucial aspect of access to information, was optional in the media, he wished to know how the State party guaranteed the right to information, especially about important events, for persons who were deaf. He would like to know whether there was a

State policy on access to information for persons with disabilities, in particular regarding the provision of information in sign language, Braille and Easy Read formats. He also wished to know what administrative information was available in those formats. The Committee would appreciate information on the measures taken by the State to ensure that government websites were accessible, in particular for persons with visual impairments who used screen readers.

29. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that measures were being taken, in particular in the context of the application of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Four sign language interpreters had been trained and were employed by media outlets to interpret televised news programmes and television coverage of major events. Sign language and Braille training was offered in some higher education institutions. Act No. 51/2015 on the Right of Access to Public Information and Administrative Documents provided that information relating to educational, occupational and social integration would be provided free of charge to persons with disabilities. Burkina Faso was a contracting party to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

30. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that research was under way to assess types of disability and use of information communication technologies by target groups to enable the Government to better understand which tools would be most appropriate to optimize the accessibility of government websites. In 2023, a digital inclusion strategy had been launched. Sign language classes were available for deaf and hearing students in some colleges, to raise awareness of sign language. Sign language use by the media was being promoted. The national public television channels and private television companies used sign language to ensure accessible coverage of major events. In that regard, all deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in Burkina Faso had been informed about the present dialogue with the Committee and invited to follow the proceedings.

31. **Mr. Kabue** said that since the use of sign language in the media was not obligatory, he particularly wished to know whether the State party had a policy mandating the media to use sign language to impart certain information and how the Government ensured that such a policy was implemented.

32. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stated that all persons with disabilities had the right to access to public communication services online and through written and audiovisual media. Media outlets must therefore include sign language in their efforts to ensure that information was available for all. Awareness-raising measures were under way in that regard.

33. **Mr. Kabue** said that, since large amounts of data were being collected on persons with disabilities, he wished to know how their right to privacy was respected, whether there was a redress mechanism in place in the event of breaches of their privacy, and how it was ensured that the information collected was not used against them negatively.

34. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that national legislation contained clear provisions on respect for the right to privacy during data collection. Training modules on ethics and integrity in respect of collecting data on persons with disabilities, in line with the requirements of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, had been disseminated across 10 regions and among the research community and services responsible for data collection. Violations of the privacy of an individual were punishable by law. The Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulated that any person guilty of arbitrary or illegal interference in the private life of a person with a disability would be fined. Regarding complaints mechanisms, the National Human Rights Commission received complaints, which it investigated. The Human Rights Information Centre, under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, could also receive complaints of violations from persons with disabilities. Complaints and suggestions could also be submitted through the complaints and suggestion boxes that had been placed in various institutions, which were available for persons with disabilities to make confidential submissions. The complaints received through those channels were followed up.

35. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that in the period 2021–2023, the Human Rights Information Centre had received complaints of rights violations from six persons with disabilities. The Centre's help desks and information offices dealt with all communication,

including with persons with disabilities, in complete confidence. For the purposes of confidentiality, complaints would be heard by one staff member only.

36. **Mr. Kabue** asked what measures were taken to follow up on complaints received through those mechanisms, what redress was offered to victims and what penalties were imposed on anyone found guilty of having violated the rights of a person with a disability.

37. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that complaints could either be resolved administratively or judicially. All complaints were handled in full confidentiality. Administrative proceedings would be managed by administrative structures. If the judicial route was taken, the Information Centre could no longer be involved in the case. Due process would be followed.

38. **Mr. Kabue** said that provisions of the Persons and Family Code restricted persons with certain disabilities, especially those under guardianship or trusteeship, with regard to marriage. He wished to know what was being done to address those provisions and bring them into line with the Convention.

39. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the Persons and Family Code was currently undergoing revision and some provisions were being amended. The rights of persons with disabilities were being taken into account in the revision process. It was not yet possible, however, to say whether or how the provisions in question would be revised. According to the national census taken in 2019, 38.5 per cent of persons without disabilities were unmarried, compared with 22.3 per cent of persons with disabilities.

40. **Mr. Kabue** said that the Committee would encourage the removal of any legal restrictions on marriage for persons with disabilities. According to the State party report, the State provided financial and material support to parents of children with disabilities to enable them to discharge their parental responsibilities. More details in that regard would be welcome, in particular on the types of support provided.

41. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the parents of children with disabilities received financial support towards their children's education. Financial assistance was also given for living costs, and parents were supported in undertaking revenue-generating activities to boost their financial autonomy. Technical support was provided in the form of assistive devices to facilitate accessibility, such as wheelchairs for children with disabilities. Access to health care was facilitated for children with disabilities. Families were also provided with training to equip them to look after their children with disabilities and prevent abandonment. Every effort was made to support families, help them to accept their children with disabilities and allow those children to flourish.

42. **Mr. Kabue** said that he would appreciate an update on the status of the draft inter-ministerial decree setting forth the terms and conditions for the award of financial and material assistance to vulnerable families caring for one or more persons with severe disabilities.

43. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that a number of additional, complementary texts had been drawn up since the draft inter-ministerial decree had been brought before the Council of Ministers. After considering the set of texts, the Council had concluded that textual improvements and further stakeholder consultations were needed. Three workshops during which the various texts had been considered and validated by stakeholders had thus been organized in 2023. The adoption process had now been initiated and all the texts should be enacted in the near future.

44. **Mr. Kabue** asked what measures had been taken to ensure an effective transition from segregated to inclusive education for all children with a disability and what had been done to prepare teachers and communities and adapt infrastructure and materials.

45. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the transition from special education in specialized institutions to integrated, inclusive education was complete. The 10 schools designated as specialized schools were still running but now catered for a mix of children with and without disabilities; of the 4,224 pupils currently attending those schools, just 525 had a disability. All schools were legally required to accept all pupils, whether or not they had a disability, and teachers were provided with the support, training and tools

necessary to allow them to adapt their teaching to the child's disability. Textbooks and supplies had also been adapted, the number of schools with accessibility ramps had risen from 6,485 in the 2017/18 school year to 8,430 in the 2022/23 school year, and adjustments had been made to facilitate access for children with visual impairments.

46. **Mr. Kabue** said that the Committee had received reports that, if a child required the support of a teaching assistant in the classroom, the cost had to be borne by their family. Could the delegation comment on those reports?

47. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the Ministry of Education and Literacy had authorized access to the classroom for persons assisting children with disabilities in 2024 and that children requiring assistance were provided with medical support, including glasses, canes and mobility equipment where necessary, as well as teaching support and supplies.

48. **Mr. Kabue**, noting that the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provided for the parallel operation of specialized and inclusive education systems, said that the delegation might confirm whether two systems continued to operate in tandem, and, if so, how. It would also be interesting to know why the relevant legislation had not been amended if the country had opted for the inclusive path.

49. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that specialized education continued to be provided for children with significant disabilities who required very specific care but that those children were taught in the same classrooms as children without a disability. The Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was under review to take account of the transition to an inclusive system.

50. **Mr. Kabue** said that he would be interested to know whether any assessment had been made of the success of the national strategy on the development of inclusive education for the period 2018–2022, and, if it had, what lessons had been learned and what improvements were needed.

51. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that an assessment was under way. Indicators of the accessibility of education for children with disabilities had improved and there was a better understanding both of the concept of inclusive education and of the intersectionality between disability and other vulnerability factors. Accordingly, resources were now being mobilized for a new educational strategy that encompassed disability, gender, security and climate change.

52. **Mr. Kabue** said that he would appreciate details of the institutional difficulties that, according to the State party's replies to the list of issues, had impeded the strategy's effective implementation. It would be interesting to know how the authorities had set about evaluating the success of a strategy that had not been effectively implemented for the first three years.

53. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the security crisis affecting the country at that time had had an impact on education as schools had been forced to close. To address the situation, the Government had adopted a national strategy for education in emergency situations that had placed the focus on vulnerable children, the majority of whom were children with disabilities. The budget of over CFAF 1 billion assigned to the Directorate for Inclusive Education had thus been supplemented by the budget of over CFAF 2 billion assigned to that strategy.

54. **Mr. Kabue** said that he would like to know about the procedures and criteria for obtaining the disability card that gave holders access to free medical care. As some persons had apparently found it difficult if not impossible to obtain a card, he wondered whether any procedural improvements were in the pipeline.

55. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that, pursuant to the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, any person who held a disability card and was living in a situation of poverty had access to free medical care. Holders of a disability card who had a certain level of financial resources obtained reductions in their medical costs. Disability cards were issued by the Ministry for Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and the Family on request, upon presentation of a medical certificate attesting to the person's disability.

56. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that there were currently more than 20,000 disability card holders in Burkina Faso. To obtain a card, applicants were required to submit, in addition to the application form and aforementioned medical certificate, two passport-style photographs and either a national identity card or birth certificate to the social services office closest to their place of residence. Applications were usually processed promptly, with some cards being issued in less than two weeks. To facilitate access to disability cards and prevent difficulties, a protocol containing guidance for doctors issuing medical certificates had been drawn up in consultation with various organizations of persons with disabilities and was now being circulated to all general medical practitioners and to doctors in regional medical centres and university hospitals.

57. **Mr. Kabue** said that clarification regarding the discrepancy between the figure of 20,000 cited and the figure cited in the replies to the list of issues, which stated that there were just under 10,000 disability card holders in Burkina Faso, would be appreciated.

58. On the issue of employment, he would be interested to know how effective the employment quotas established for persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors were proving and what the Government was doing to ensure the availability of modern, market-related vocational training for job seekers with disabilities that equipped them to meet employers' requirements.

59. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the number of disability cards issued had increased rapidly since the submission of the replies to the list of issues. There had been a few problems with the card issuance software but, once those had been resolved, the backlog had been quickly cleared and the time to issuance had been reduced.

60. Under article 30 of the Act on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 10 per cent of positions in the public sector and 5 per cent of jobs in the private sector were reserved for persons with disabilities. In the public sector, persons with disabilities could apply through special recruitment processes that had been adapted to take account of particular disabilities, as well as through the competitive recruitment processes open to all. No in-depth assessment of the success of the quotas had been carried out as yet. However, research exploring the employability of persons with disabilities had been conducted in 2020 and, after a number of problems had been identified, had resulted in a series of recommendations for improvement that were now being implemented. Appeals to private sector employers to prioritize the recruitment of persons with disabilities tended to prompt queries as to the cost of reasonable accommodation. The authorities countered those queries by explaining that such costs would be more than offset in the long term and that exclusion was more costly than inclusion. Vocational training for persons with disabilities was also helping to improve their employment situation; nearly 14,000 persons with disabilities had been enrolled in vocational and technical training institutions in the 2022/23 academic year, up from just under 9,000 in the 2017/18 academic year.

61. **Mr. Kabue** said that he would like information about any action being taken to ensure that persons with disabilities were able to participate in political processes and public life and to address the restrictions imposed on their right to vote and to stand for election under the Electoral Code. He would also welcome information concerning the application of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. The Committee had received reports that the production of materials adapted to the needs of persons with visual impairments had so far been left in the hands of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and that the NGOs concerned were not receiving any governmental recognition or support for those activities.

62. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that persons with disabilities were actively involved in society and the public life of the nation. Two members of the Transitional Legislative Assembly had disabilities, persons with disabilities held positions in the different ministries and institutions, and their contribution to the country's development was recognized and encouraged. A workshop to consider how their participation in electoral processes might be enhanced had been organized in 2023 and the recommendations resulting from that exercise were now being implemented. The indicators that were in principle monitored by the National Multisectoral Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities included the number of persons with disabilities on the



electoral register, the number who had stood for election, the number who had been elected to public office and the number of accessible polling stations. Owing to the security crisis, however, the delegation was unable to provide updated figures for those indicators at present. Additionally, the authorities had produced a guide for the participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes that had been disseminated among political parties and had organized an awareness-raising workshop at which members of the Independent National Electoral Commission had undertaken to endeavour to ensure that persons with disabilities had access to the relevant information and received the support necessary when standing for or holding office.

63. With regard to the application of the Marrakesh Treaty, while it was true that certain NGOs were actively involved in the production of materials, the Government also produced materials in large print and Braille, which to date had included adapted versions of the Convention and of the National Strategy for the Protection and Advancement of Persons with Disabilities.

64. **Ms. Gamio Ríos** said that she would appreciate information on the measures taken to deinstitutionalize persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, in line with the Committee's guidelines on deinstitutionalization, including in emergencies. She also wished to know whether the State party intended to amend legislation providing that persons with disabilities who could not be employed under normal labour conditions benefited from adapted employment or employment in sheltered workshops, since those provisions were contrary to the Committee's general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment.

65. **The Chair** said that information available to the Committee indicated that specialist teaching assistants for children with disabilities in inclusive education were paid for by the parents rather than the State; she wished to know why that was the case. Details would be appreciated of the measures taken to reduce regional disparities in the provision of inclusive education and to address the digital divide and ensure that educational technology was accessible to learners with disabilities in all locations. She would also welcome information on the efforts made to promote access to full-time employment for women with disabilities in all parts of the country and to eliminate the gender wage gap and ensure equal pay for work of equal value.

66. **A representative of the Burkina Faso Federation of Associations for the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, said that, in the 1980s, his country had undergone a democratic, popular revolution, which had resulted in a system that protected the weakest in society, including persons with disabilities. There was also a strong culture of solidarity among the people, which meant that persons with disabilities were generally well protected. Measures introduced in the areas of education and health care had improved the living conditions of persons with disabilities; although those measures were the minimum required, the State did what it could with the limited resources available to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Organizations of persons with disabilities undertook constant advocacy to ensure that the Government fulfilled its responsibilities in that area.

67. With regard to the question raised concerning persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities known as "errant persons", in fact persons with intellectual disabilities were often hidden away, rather than left to wander the streets.

68. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that, in keeping with national development policy, national strategies had been developed for different spheres. Those strategies took into account the issues of gender equality and disability during the decision-making, development, implementation and evaluation phases.

69. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the Government was working to tackle prejudice about disabilities and ensure that all children were enrolled in school. School staff received training on disability and every school had been provided with a budget of CFAF 5 million to support the most vulnerable children, including children with disabilities. Support staff assisted children with disabilities in schools, with most support staff provided by, and therefore paid by, the State. Other members of support staff were provided by NGOs or organizations of persons with disabilities. Educational materials were adapted and provided in audio or other formats to tackle the digital divide – an initiative that had first

been introduced during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic – and children with disabilities were provided with equipment to help them access adapted digital resources.

70. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that deinstitutionalization was the general rule in his country. In the event that a person with a disability was found on the street, solidarity courtyards provided emergency accommodation while longer-term solutions were found. Foster families had been identified and trained to host children with disabilities that were in difficulty in their own families.

71. **Ms. Dondovdorj** said that she wished to know whether the Government planned to assess habilitation and rehabilitation programmes and services for persons with disabilities to ensure that they allowed persons with disabilities to attain and maintain the fullest possible physical, mental, social and vocational abilities.

72. **Ms. Fernández de Torrijos** said that she wished to understand whether recruitment to civil service posts was sufficiently inclusive of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with visual or hearing impairments and persons with intellectual disabilities. She would like to know whether sheltered workshops existed in the State party and, if so, how many persons with disabilities worked in them.

73. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that, to support the habilitation and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, an orthopaedic and equipment centre, a rehabilitation centre and a habilitation and rehabilitation centre were located in different regions of the country. The reference centre for habilitation was located in Ouagadougou.

74. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that State resources had been made available for rehabilitation, including through the Equity Fund for Rehabilitation, and physiotherapists had been trained. Training had also been provided to the parents of children with cerebral palsy to support them in their caring role.

75. All persons with disabilities were eligible to be recruited for employment. The study on the employability of persons with disabilities had found that persons with all kinds of disabilities were able to work in a job of their choosing provided reasonable accommodation was made. Persons with intellectual or visual disabilities were recruited to civil service posts through a specific competitive recruitment process. No data were available on the number of persons with disabilities working in sheltered workshops. There was no difference in the wages paid to men and women with disabilities.

76. **Ms. Aldana Salguero** said that she would appreciate information on the specialized health-care services provided to persons of small stature. She wished to know how children who had been unable to attend school due to school closures and internal displacement were provided with an education.

77. **Mr. Makni** said that he wished to learn more about the disability card, including what health-care services it entitled the holder to receive, whether the card was provided free of charge and whether there was a disability assessment system. He would like to know whether there was a strategy to promote the right to employment of persons with disabilities and whether there were plans to establish a social protection system that would support the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

78. **Ms. Thongkuay** said that she would welcome information on the indicators and benchmarking in place to ensure that persons with disabilities did not experience discrimination in work and employment, including in terms of equal pay for equal work.

79. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that persons of small stature were considered persons with disabilities, and health-care services were provided to them as part of the overall care provided to persons with disabilities. Once such persons had acquired a disability card and had provided evidence of their poor financial situation, they benefited from care at public health-care centres. The disability card entitled holders who were not destitute to discounted medical services at public health-care centres, according to the level of disability. They also received a discount on prescribed devices, such as prosthetics and wheelchairs.

80. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the National Strategy for the Protection and Advancement of Persons with Disabilities included measures in the area of employment.

Recommendations resulting from research on employment and persons with disabilities were being implemented. There was no discrimination in terms of men's and women's wages.

81. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that there were organizations of persons of short stature, one of which had been established in 2012 and was working with the Government on an event to be held in October. Guidance on the assessment of disabilities had been developed and adopted in 2021.

82. **A representative of Burkina Faso** said that the protection of human rights and the establishment of the conditions for their full realization were at the core of the President's vision for the country and underpinned its Constitution and Transitional Charter, as well as its social values. Despite the challenges presented by acts of terrorism, her Government remained committed to the implementation of its international human rights obligations and the Convention, and the delegation had taken note of the comments made by the Committee. The re-establishment of security in the country was a necessary condition for progress to be made in that area. No effort would be spared, and her Government counted on the support of bilateral and multilateral partners to combat terrorism and promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

83. **Mr. Kouassi** (Coordinator, Country Task Force) said that he wished to thank the delegation of Burkina Faso for its frank cooperation and to acknowledge the presence in the room of representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities. Although a number of positive legislative provisions were in place for persons with disabilities, implementation remained an issue. Greater understanding of the Convention was needed to ensure its full implementation in the State party, including through domestic legislation. He expressed the hope that the security situation in the State party would stabilize.

84. **The Chair** said that she welcomed the constructive dialogue and the insight into the situation of persons with disabilities in the State party. She encouraged the Government to take all necessary measures to implement the recommendations that would be made in the Committee's concluding observations.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*