



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 April 2016
English
Original: French
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Fifty-eighth session

6-24 June 2016

Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports: (a) Reports submitted by States parties
in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant**

List of issues in relation to the initial report of Burkina Faso

Addendum

Replies of Burkina Faso to the list of issues*

[Date received: 18 March 2016]

I. General information

Question 1

1. In Burkina Faso, the legal status of international legal instruments is set out in article 151 of the Constitution, which stipulates that “duly ratified or approved treaties and agreements shall have primacy, once promulgated, over laws”. Thus, once they have been published in the Official Gazette, these instruments become part of the national legal order, and as such they can be invoked by citizens to support their claims before the courts. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is therefore directly applicable in Burkina Faso in that it meets the requirements of article 151.

2. The Covenant rights have been invoked before national courts.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



II. Issues relating to the general provisions of the Covenant

Article 1, paragraph 2: Right to dispose freely of natural wealth and resources

Question 2

3. Pursuant to the law, all mining projects are subject to prior review by the Minister of the Environment in the form of an environmental and social assessment. This assessment is confirmed by an environmental and social management plan that outlines all the impacts (including social impacts) and the various measures to be taken to offset, reduce or minimize each of these impacts, following a set timetable. These measures also relate to the rights of displaced persons for whom a resettlement action plan is carried out. The following monitoring mechanisms, which are provided for in environmental legislation, ensure that the rights of affected persons are protected:

- External oversight of the environmental and social management plan: this mechanism enables the State to verify that all developers respect their commitments and obligations to implement environmental and social measures (including measures related to population displacement) as well as State recommendations, for as long as the mine is in operation and even during the closure phase;
- External follow-up on the environmental and social management plan: this enables the State to verify the aptness and effectiveness of the environmental and social measures envisaged by the developer in the environmental and social management plan during the design phase and to make recommendations. These recommendations enable the developer to address any shortcomings by proposing more effective measures, or to propose new measures to offset impacts that were not foreseen;
- Environmental inspections: while the first two mechanisms might be seen as a form of support provided to mining developers, environmental inspections are often punitive. They serve to punish developers who do not honour their commitments or do not adequately implement State recommendations or the measures set out in the environmental and social management plan approved by the Ministry of the Environment.

4. In addition to article 30 of the Constitution, Decree No. 2012-482/PRES/PM/MCE/MEF/MATDS of 7 June 2012 establishes frameworks for dialogue on mining and quarrying in all regions of Burkina Faso. These frameworks provide a channel through which people can express their views and concerns about mining and quarrying projects. In addition, current holders of mining permits are subject to the provisions of Act No. 036-2015/CNT of 26 June 2015 (Mining Code of Burkina Faso). They are therefore required to contribute to the local mining development fund 1 per cent of their monthly revenue before taxes or 1 per cent of the value of the resources extracted each month.

5. The Environment Code also stipulates that, in addition to environmental impact assessments, public inquiries must be conducted on all projects (including projects involving the exploitation of resources) in order to ascertain the views of the parties concerned. These public inquiries also offer a way for the population at large to express their views on these projects.

6. Non-compliance with some of these provisions has led to a number of public demonstrations and has brought the work to a standstill in order to protest against:

- The exploitation of natural resources by mining companies, bringing of work by these companies to a halt and leading some to be closed down;
 - The felling of protected trees by a property developer in January 2016.
7. In cases where work on the project was blocked, work did not resume until after hard-fought negotiations had been held with the communities, fines had been paid and an environmental assessment had been conducted.

Article 2, paragraph 2: Non-discrimination

Question 3

8. The Silanko are an ethnic minority group living in Pensa in Sanmatenga Province and in the Centre-Nord region. The language they speak is Silanka. The 2016 action plan adopted by the Ministry of Culture includes actions to protect and promote the Silanko culture.

Question 4

9. The State has made a number of efforts at various levels to promote the rights of persons with disabilities:

10. At the institutional level, a permanent secretariat of the Multisectoral National Council for the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established in 2014, in addition to the already existing Directorate for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities.

11. In the field of health, since September 2013 the Government has taken social policy measures to provide care for ill persons with disabilities on an equal footing with the other targeted population groups, namely ill destitute persons.

12. In the field of education, the following measures are being taken:

- Parents of children with disabilities are supported by paying their school fees and providing them with school supplies;
- Financial support is provided to organizations of persons with disabilities for purposes of inclusive education;
- Stakeholders' capacity regarding inclusive education is being strengthened.

13. At the political level, there have been specific advocacy projects for the participation of persons with disabilities in elections, disability care, inclusive education and employment. This has made it possible for persons with disabilities to successfully participate in the various elections held.

14. At the economic level, the State has fully engaged with persons with disabilities by providing financial support for individual small-scale projects through social measures.

15. With regard to vocational training, employment and sport, the following measures have been taken:

- Technical and financial support has been provided to vocational training facilities for persons with disabilities;
- The civil service examinations have been opened to persons with disabilities;
- Sporting activities for persons with disabilities have been organized at the national level;

- Technical and financial support was provided to enable persons with disabilities to participate in the Special Olympics in Los Angeles in 2015.
16. With respect to mobility and transport, the following measures have been taken:
- Mobility aids have been provided to persons with disabilities and to organizations of persons with disabilities;
 - No charges have been imposed on purchases of mobility aids.

Question 5

17. In Burkina Faso, persons with albinism are not subject to physical attacks. They are, however, often victims of discrimination.

18. In order to eliminate discrimination and any physical attacks against persons with albinism, the latter, as persons with disabilities, enjoy the same benefits on an equal footing with other persons with disabilities. Furthermore, special actions have been taken in view of the specific nature of their disability (such as providing them with sunscreen and suitable clothing).

Article 3: Equal rights of men and women

Question 6

19. The need to combat discrimination against women has been taken into account when adopting and reviewing the following laws:

- Act No. 033-2012/AN of 11 June 2012 amending the Constitution, article 101 of which enshrines gender equality in the Constitution with a view to reducing inequality between men and women;
- Act No. 034-2009/AN of 16 June 2009 on rural land tenure, which enshrines the principle of equality between men and women in access to land in rural areas;
- Act No. 034-2012/AN of 2 July 2012 on agrarian and land reform, article 34 of which provides for fair and secure access to rural land for all parties;
- The Personal and Family Code, which is currently being reviewed with a view to eliminating provisions that discriminate against women.

20. In addition, with a view to increasing the representation of women in political and decision-making bodies, Burkina Faso has adopted Act No. 010-2009/AN of 16 April 2009 establishing quotas for legislative and municipal elections in Burkina Faso. Pursuant to article 3 of the Act, all political parties must ensure that each sex accounts for at least 30 per cent of the candidates on their electoral lists. Financial assistance is provided to any party or group of political parties that reaches or surpasses a minimum of 30 per cent for the representation of each of the sexes in the final election results (art. 6).

Question 7

21. With regard to eliminating stereotypes and practices that discriminate against women, the Government of Burkina Faso, with support from United Nations agencies, has developed a joint programme to combat violence against women and girls (2014-2015).

22. The activities carried out as part of the programme have had a positive impact on the general population in terms of:

- Changing attitudes through awareness-raising and communication activities on issues relating to violence against women;

- Building technical and material capacity among various stakeholders;
- Establishing frameworks for dialogue among the various stakeholders involved in this area.

Question 8

23. The measures taken to eliminate discrimination against women with regard to equal access to land can be summarized as follows:

- The adoption in September 2007 of the National Policy on Land Security in Rural Areas. One of the guiding principles of this policy is the mainstreaming of gender and of the needs and concerns of vulnerable groups, especially those that are disadvantaged, such as women and young people;
- The adoption on 16 June 2009 of Act No. 034-2009/AN, which establishes the system governing State land and land tenure in rural areas as well as land security for all stakeholders in rural land ownership;
- The establishment of rural land commissions in villages, which must include representatives of social and professional associations or groups of women;
- The training of municipal councillors as part of the Millennium Challenge Account, with the requirement of ensuring women's participation;
- The implementation of projects to help women acquire land titles (for example, the "land security" project carried out as part of the Millennium Challenge Account — Burkina Faso, which focused on issuing land security documents to women);
- The setting of quotas for the allocation of plots on developed sites in certain valleys;
- Information and awareness-raising activities for all stakeholders, including both men and women, on rural land tenure.

24. With regard to the prohibition of polygamy, Burkina Faso has undertaken a review of the Personal and Family Code. In December 2012, the Government conducted a study with a view to eliminating all discriminatory provisions from the Code. The study recommended that the provisions of the Code pertaining to polygamy should be repealed, and its findings were referred to the review committee for consideration. A national consensus is required, however, to repeal the provisions on polygamy. This issue is very sensitive, and the repeal has not yet garnered the consent of all sociocultural groups.

25. The actions being taken with regard to levirate marriage focus on raising awareness among the general public. Given the cultural nature of the practice, the impact of these actions in changing attitudes will be felt only in the long term. Nevertheless, the situation on the ground is that the practice is in decline.

Question 9

26. The measures taken to protect women against accusations of sorcery have had an impact on their situation in a variety of different ways.

27. Firstly, through the implementation of the 2012-2016 national action plan to combat the social exclusion of persons accused of sorcery, all stakeholders have been mobilized around the issue. Strategies to involve and gain the support of men and communities in the effort to eliminate social exclusion are promoted in collaboration with all stakeholders in the field. This is evidenced by the public statements issued by major figures such as His

Majesty the Mogho Naaba Baongho, the Supreme Leader of the Mossi,¹ calling on communities to abandon and eradicate this practice. Indeed, religious and traditional leaders play a major role in changing attitudes and behaviours among those communities.

28. Through the implementation of the road map for the rescue and reintegration of women excluded due to accusations of sorcery, most of the victims have received medical and psychosocial care. The road map has helped to mitigate and resolve some conflicts between the victims and their families or communities. To date, it has resulted in the rescue and reintegration of some 30 women accused of sorcery.

29. Lastly, Act No. 061-2015/CNT on the prevention, punishment and reparation of violence against women and girls and support for victims, adopted on 6 September 2015, protects women against accusations of sorcery. They now have the possibility of filing a complaint and instituting legal proceedings against their accusers.

Question 10

30. The Government has initiated policies and programmes to promote the economic empowerment of women. The achievements made through these programmes and policies are as follows:

Policies and programmes for the economic empowerment of women

- The implementation of the National Gender Policy has permitted the transfer of technology to associations through “Operation 100,000 Ploughs” and through the establishment of the women’s entrepreneurship fund;
- The National Strategy to Promote Entrepreneurship among Women, adopted on 24 June 2015 for the period 2016-2025, will make it possible to, inter alia, establish a fund to finance women’s entrepreneurial projects and to promote and enhance employment opportunities for women;
- Through the Special Job Creation Programme for Young People and Women, launched in February 2012, the Government has been able to provide women’s groups and associations with production and processing technologies as part of the Programme’s fourth area of action, which is aimed at the “economic empowerment of women”;
- The programme’s total annual cost is estimated at 11,086,137,000 CFA francs;
- A total of 6 billion CFA francs in special funds for women entrepreneurs and 4.5 billion CFA francs for the informal sector have been made available.

31. As at 15 November 2015, a total of 7,209,327,178 CFA francs had actually been disbursed. The next step will be to finalize the disbursements to the remaining beneficiaries who were late in joining and to implement the cost recovery arrangement.

¹ The Mossi are the largest ethnic group in Burkina Faso, and it is within this group that persons accused of sorcery face social exclusion.

III. Issues relating to specific provisions of the Covenant

Article 6: Right to work

Question 11

32. Assessment of the activities carried out in 2012 and 2013 shows that, in terms of employment, the Programme created 100,401 jobs, including 44,789 directly generated jobs and 55,612 indirectly generated jobs. With regard to youth employment, 37,971 posts were created for young graduates (in the form of internships and national volunteer positions). A total of 7,875 young people and women in both urban and rural areas received training. It is estimated that, in 2014, a total of 24,366 direct and indirect jobs were created.

Statistical data on jobless persons having availed themselves of the services of the National Employment Agency

	2012	2013	2014
Number of available posts identified	1 543	1 370	1 401
Number of jobseekers placed in internships	10 conventional placements and 1,453 through the Support Programme for the Socio-Vocational Integration of Graduating Students	94	103
Number of jobseekers trained in job search skills	1 485	360	934
Number of jobseekers trained in entrepreneurial skills	1 332	436	752

Unemployment rate by place of residence

	2007	2010 (ILO)	2010	2014 (ILO)	2014
Urban	8.6	9.2	19.4	7.1	13
Rural	2.2	0.2	1.1	6.4	14.5
Combined	3.3	2.2	5.5	6.6	14.1

Sources: The National Institute of Statistics and Demography 1994 and 1998 priority surveys, the 2003 National Survey on the Living Conditions of Households in Burkina Faso, the 2005 and 2007 Annual Surveys on the Living Conditions of Households (QUIBB) and the Ongoing Multisectoral Survey, 2014.

Question 12

33. The basic education curriculum is being revised to bring it into line with job requirements. The “curriculum reform” was undertaken in 2013, and the revised curriculum was piloted during the 2014/15 school year. This reform meets the requirements of the labour market with regard to the desired profile of persons completing their basic education, the organization of the curriculum into different subjects, the content itself, and the teaching and learning strategies, methodologies and processes used.

Question 13

34. The Act establishing the legal regime applicable to civil service employment and employees sets out the conditions under which a worker may be dismissed. Under the Act, pregnancy cannot be regarded as a ground for dismissal.

35. Article 4 of the Labour Code prohibits any discriminatory practices based on pregnancy. Under article 71 of the Code, any dismissal based on a worker's pregnancy or the birth of her child is regarded as an unfair dismissal. Articles 391 et seq. entrust the Labour Inspectorate with the task of monitoring the implementation of labour legislation.

36. Moreover, the safeguards referred to in paragraphs 81 and 82 of the report also apply in the event of discrimination against a pregnant woman.

Article 7: Right to just and favourable working conditions

Question 14

37. The Labour Code establishes safeguards that not only secure workers' employment but also protect them from abuses by employers.

38. Thus, article 137 of the Code sets out the statutory working time. Articles 155 et seq. establish leave entitlements. Article 182 prohibits wage discrimination on the basis of origin, sex, age or status. Articles 37 and 422 prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace.

39. A labour inspectorate has been established to ensure the effective implementation of these guarantees, and its powers are defined in articles 391 et seq. of the Labour Code.

Question 15

40. The intertrade minimum wage is established in article 187 of Act No. 028/AN of 13 May 2008 (Labour Code of Burkina Faso). It is based on, inter alia, the general level of wages in the country and the cost of living, and it takes economic factors into account. It is set by a national minimum wage commission and has undergone some changes. For example, prior to 2006 it was set at 28,811 CFA francs, and then from 2006 it increased to 30,684 CFA francs, which is the amount currently in force.

41. It should be noted, however, that increases in wage levels are not necessarily linked to increases in the minimum wage. Thus:

- Parties can increase wages on the basis of an individual work contract;
- The stakeholders in a given sector can set the desired levels;
- Pursuant to article 190 of the Labour Code, employers and workers (at the national level) can discuss wage levels through the joint parity commission on wage negotiations in the private sector. The commission's most recent session was held in 2012, when an increase of 4 per cent was introduced.

Question 16

42. Burkina Faso is not a country that experiences large-scale immigration, and therefore the exploitation of migrant workers is not a serious problem. However, all reported cases of exploitation lead to prosecution and conviction.

Article 8: Trade union rights

Question 17

43. Trade union rights enjoy special protection.

44. In addition to national armed forces personnel, paramilitary bodies (including the police and prison security guards) also do not have the right to strike. In the case of judges, the Act Regulating the Right to Strike provides that specific legislation may govern the exercise of this right.

45. In order to ensure that trade union organizations function effectively, the State grants them an annual subsidy so that they can successfully perform their role, without, however, undermining their independence. In 2007, the State also established a framework for regular dialogue between the Government and trade unions, so that labour issues may be resolved in collaboration with occupational circles.

Article 9: Right to social security

Question 18

46. The Government adopted the National Social Protection Policy through Decree No. 2012-1060/PRES/PM/MEF of 31 December 2012. The Policy provides, inter alia, for the extension of social insurance to all categories of workers and the expansion of the range of benefits to cover all social risks. To that end, training and awareness-raising meetings are organized for workers in the informal sector so as to promote voluntary insurance. In addition, awareness-raising sessions have been held on the importance of health insurance, and several mutual health-insurance enterprises have been established in various municipalities in the country.

Article 10: Protection of the family, mothers and children

Question 19

47. Burkina Faso has taken the following steps to address the problem of the worst forms of child labour.

48. At the legal level, Burkina Faso has ratified a number of international and regional conventions governing child protection. In 2008, the country also adopted the Labour Code, which sets the minimum age for any type of employment at 16 years and prohibits the worst forms of child labour. The Act on combating trafficking in persons and similar practices has also been adopted, which punishes the use of children in the worst forms of child labour. The decree listing the forms of hazardous work prohibited to children in Burkina Faso stipulates that work in artisanal gold mining and quarry sites is considered to be dangerous work.

49. At the institutional level, three technical directorates have been established to deal with the issue. These are:

- The Directorate to Combat Child Labour, established in 2006 within the Ministry of the Civil Service, Labour and Social Security;
- The Directorate to Combat Violence against Children, established in 2001 within the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity;
- The Directorate for Protection against Human Rights Violations, established in 2012 within the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and the Promotion of Civic Values.

50. In addition, a permanent secretariat of the National Council for Children was established in 2014.

51. As regards programmes, a national action plan to combat the worst forms of child labour was drawn up for the period 2011-2015.

52. At the sectoral level, the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in partnership with national and international NGOs, carried out a project called "Combating Child Labour in Artisanal Mines and Quarries: Understanding and Taking Action". This project was implemented in five regions (Sahel, Centre, Plateau-Central, Centre-Nord and Sud-Ouest) with the aim of combating child labour at 40 artisanal gold mining sites and quarries. According to the project assessment report, it resulted in the removal, rehabilitation and mentoring of 21,570 children (11,680 boys and 9,890 girls) by means of schooling, vocational training and support for income-generating activities.

53. In addition, outreach, dialogue and advocacy activities were conducted, targeting industrial mining companies, trade unions and gold mining associations and community stakeholders and focusing on their effective involvement in child protection. Visits and inspections by labour inspectors and by security forces were also carried out at gold mining sites to help reduce child labour in this sector.

54. With a view to strengthening the fight against the worst forms of child labour at artisanal quarries and gold mining sites, in September 2015 a national programme on the subject covering the period 2015-2019 was drafted and adopted. The programme is divided into three pillars, including one focusing on prevention of the phenomenon, which includes actions aimed at reducing the number of children who are tempted or driven to work in artisanal quarries and gold mining sites.

55. The protection component covers all actions taken as part of a systematic approach to the protection of children against violence with a view to helping families to reintegrate children into society and their families and rehabilitating children living and/or working on and around artisanal quarries and gold mining sites.

Question 20

56. As part of the efforts to combat violence against women and girls, on 6 September 2015 the National Transition Council adopted Act No. 061-2015/CNT on the prevention, punishment and reparation of violence against women and girls and support for victims. Article 14 (2) of the Act provides that, when rape is committed repeatedly on an intimate partner with whom the author maintains continuous and stable sexual relations, or when the partner exhibits any physical incapacity to engage in a sexual relationship, the penalty shall be a fine ranging from 100,000 to 500,000 CFA francs.

57. With respect to data on victims of spousal abuse, in 2015 the counselling centre run by the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and Gender registered 34 cases of abuse (all forms combined). The victims were given legal aid and follow-up, making it possible to put an end to the abuse and reintegrate some of the victims into their families. In 2014, the legal clinic run by the Association of Women Lawyers of Burkina Faso registered 247 cases, of which 14 were cases of domestic violence. In 2015, there were 268 cases, including 13 cases of spousal abuse. The table below indicates the number of cases in which legal aid was provided.

<i>Year</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
Number of cases referred to and dealt with by law firms	15	30	40

58. With regard to the impact of steps taken to ensure that gender violence is viewed as unacceptable to society in all circumstances, women victims of violence are no longer reluctant to approach State services to seek assistance.

59. The State has undertaken the following actions to combat violence against girls and ensure that they remain in school:

- Raising awareness among parents, teachers and students on the concept of gender and on school violence, particularly against girls;
- Distributing school supply kits to girls;
- Subsidizing girls' school fees;
- Building community homes for girls and providing support to private accommodation facilities for girls in some provinces.

60. These efforts have had the following impact on girls' education:

- At the primary school level:
 - An increase in the gross literacy rate from 83.8 per cent in 2010 to 96.2 per cent in 2015;
 - An increase in the gross enrolment rate from 71.2 per cent in 2010 to 83.9 per cent in 2015, with a gender parity index of 0.90 in 2010 and 1 in 2015;
 - An increase in the primary school completion rate (and thus a reduction in the number of dropouts) from 42.5 per cent in 2010 to 61.3 per cent in 2015, with a gender parity index rising from 0.86 in 2010 to 1.06 in 2015.
- At the post-primary school level:
 - An increase in the gross literacy rate from 29.5 per cent in 2010 to 40.3 per cent in 2014;
 - An increase in the gross enrolment rate from 28.6 per cent in 2010 to 38.4 per cent in 2014;
 - An increase in the post-primary school completion rate (and thus a reduction in the number of dropouts) from 14.3 per cent in 2010 to 22.3 per cent in 2014.
- At the secondary school level:
 - An increase in the gross literacy rate from 6.9 per cent in 2010 to 13.2 per cent in 2013;
 - An increase in the gross enrolment rate from 7.7 per cent in 2010 to 10.6 per cent in 2013;
 - An increase in the secondary school completion rate (and thus a reduction in the number of dropouts) from 6 per cent in 2010 to 6.8 per cent in 2015.

Article 11: Right to an adequate standard of living

Question 21

61. With regard to the fight against poverty, the Government has adopted and implemented a number of policies and programmes to benefit specific social groups:

The National Policy for Social Action

62. Social protection is the main focus of the country's strategy for accelerated growth and sustainable development for 2011-2015. In order to implement a national social protection system aimed at reducing poverty and hunger, a loan agreement was concluded between Burkina Faso and the World Bank. The funds received will be used for an initial investment in a cash transfer programme that has been designed to cover the entire territory in order to reach as many impoverished people as possible.

63. The World Bank will be providing Burkina Faso with International Development Association credits of US\$ 50 million, or approximately 25 billion CFA francs, to fund the social safety nets project (N.B., the overall project cost is 28 billion CFA francs, 3 billion of which will be covered by a national counterpart contribution).

64. Planned for a period of five years, the project will allow some 40,000 poor households to benefit from direct cash transfers. In addition, community-led activities will encourage such families to invest in their children's development and nutrition and in their own productive capacities.

65. The systematic targeting of households that are most in need is fundamental to any national social safety nets system. In Burkina Faso, that will entail prioritizing cash transfers in regions with the highest rates of chronic poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity, namely the Est, Nord and Centre-Est regions. Assuming an average of eight persons per rural household, approximately 316,000 inhabitants, 50 per cent of them women and girls, will directly benefit from the cash transfer programme.

The National Gender Policy and its action plan

66. The National Gender Policy has led to the implementation of specific measures aimed at accelerating women's empowerment. In that regard, measures have been taken to facilitate women's access to credit and employment.

67. For example, projects and programmes have been put in place to support women through the promotion of income-generating activities. At end December 2013, 51,294,047,935 CFA francs had been allocated to women through the Fund to Support Women's Income-Generating Activities, for the development of such activities.

68. In the private sector, microfinance institutions have been developed and the conditions under which women can access those bodies have been relaxed. Accordingly, 56 per cent of the total credit granted by microfinance institutions is allocated to women.

69. It is also important to note the allocation of credit to producers, including women and women's groups, through the Livestock Farming Development Fund. Monitoring activities were carried out at 2,523 feeding facilities, 609 (or 24.14 per cent) of which were owned by women. Those facilities produced a total of 30,981 animals: 5,754 cattle, 714 (12.41 per cent) of which were owned by women; 12,982 sheep, 2,615 (20.14 per cent) of which were owned by women; and 12,245 pigs, 3,032 (24.76 per cent) of which were owned by women.

70. The increase in initiatives to boost employability among young people and women through the establishment of specific programmes is one of the Government's preferred options for reducing unemployment among those groups. Accordingly, in addition to national funds and professional training centres, in 2011 Burkina Faso established the Special Job Creation Programme for Young People and Women.

71. Furthermore, there is a project in place to promote improved traditional poultry farming among women and young people, under which 10 women and 10 young people have been recruited in each municipality to take care of local poultry production. Each

person is provided with one hen-house containing a rooster and 10 hens, and production equipment. The total cost of the project is 5,000,500,000 CFA francs.

72. With regard to capacity-building among rural stakeholders, the following measures have been taken:

- The training of 14,647 persons directly involved in traditional poultry farming production, including 6,236 women and 6,759 young people;
- The training of 3,071 persons directly involved in pork production, including 1,336 women and 976 young people;
- The training of 2,413 persons, including 700 women (29 per cent) in the use and maintenance of biodigesters.

73. To improve employability and promote employment among women, homes for women and centres for the advancement of women have also been built by the Ministry for the Advancement of Women and Gender. More than 20,000 girls and women have been trained in skilled trades and literacy at the centres. The centres have provided women from a large number of municipalities with a learning environment and undoubtedly helped to improve women's literacy levels and encourage self-employment among women and girls.

74. It is also important to note the activities of the Employment Promotion Support Fund, the Informal Sector Support Fund and the Support Fund for Youth Initiatives, which have enabled women to become self-employed and improve their entrepreneurial capacities.

Question 22

75. With regard to the impact of projects, programmes, plans and policies relating to malnutrition, hunger and food insecurity, especially among children:

76. Activities relating to nutritional care are being conducted with children under 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women at all health-care facilities. The results of those activities among children under 5 are as follows:

Detection of malnutrition among children under 5

77. In 2014, the State provided health-care facilities with anthropometric testing equipment: 3,955 Salter scales, 2,069 baby weighing scales, 2,104 children's height charts and more than 50,000 Shakir strips.

78. At the national level, 220,283 (46.8 per cent) of the 470,214 cases of severe acute malnutrition expected to occur between January and end September 2014 were detected by the health-care facilities. That percentage varied from 10.1 per cent in the Centre region to 80.5 per cent in the Sahel.

Treatment of malnutrition among children under 5

79. In order to improve nutritional care, Burkina Faso has taken a number of measures, including the approval of the national protocol on the treatment of acute malnutrition and the scaling up of community-based management of acute malnutrition and the infant and young child feeding plan.

Performance indicators

80. An analysis of performance indicators relating to the treatment of acute malnutrition in Burkina Faso during 2014 illustrates a national improvement in the quality of nutritional care among children under 5. Performance indicators relating to the treatment of severe

acute malnutrition in outpatient facilities from January to September 2014 illustrate a recovery rate of 88.86 per cent.

81. With regard to the progress made in the fight against noma:

82. In 1999, the incidence of noma in hospitals in Burkina Faso stood at 15.1 per 10,000 hospitalizations, with a maximum prevalence of 81.35 per cent among persons aged between 1 and 5 years.

83. With regard to treatment, efforts are now being made at all levels of the health-care system.

84. Surgery to treat the effects of noma is organized by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). For complex cases, patients are sent to Europe for surgery, whereas straightforward cases are dealt with in Burkina Faso during surgical campaigns.

85. A national programme to combat noma has been in place since 2002. It receives technical and financial support from the Winds of Hope Foundation and the World Health Organization and from a number of NGOs and associations.

86. As a result of various noma awareness-raising activities, people are making increasing use of health-care facilities. Accordingly, in 2013, 200 noma cases were examined during outpatient consultations at basic health-care facilities, compared with 167 in 2012.

87. Furthermore, at the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly held from 20 to 28 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland, Burkina Faso advocated the inclusion of noma in the list of neglected tropical diseases.

Question 25

88. There is a current need for 30,000 new homes per year throughout the national territory of Burkina Faso. Fifty-seven per cent of that requirement is in the city of Ouagadougou (General Directorate for the Promotion of Homes and Housing, 2007).

89. The housing situation in the country is characterized by the discrepancy between rapid population increase in urban areas and the growing housing shortage. To address that issue, the Government of Burkina Faso launched the “10,000 social and affordable homes” programme in 2007. Under that programme, 10,000 social and affordable homes will be built and made available to the population. The homes are built on serviced sites, with the provision of basic amenities such as running water and electricity.

90. To date, housing has been created under the programme as follows: social and affordable housing created using annual State budget allocations; social and affordable housing created by the centre for the management of housing estates; and homes built within the framework of public-private partnerships, which is a new method of housing creation.

91. Between 2011 and 2014, 2,823 homes were built using annual State budgetary allocations.

92. Furthermore, the Government of Burkina Faso has been supporting self-construction. That approach aims to promote construction by offering architectural services to applicants. To that end, the office to support self-construction was established.

93. Alongside that programme, the private rental sector is continuing to play a decisive role. In 2015, in order to regulate the sector and protect tenants from exorbitant rents or excessive rent increases, the Government adopted a law on private tenancy leases in Burkina Faso.

Question 26

94. Prior to the expropriation of property, advance notice is given to all parties concerned in order to obtain a clearer idea of the persons and property affected. A consultation framework is also in place to ensure broad consultations and negotiations. Those consultations, which are conducted by the party carrying out the expropriation, are supplemented and verified by a State-organized public inquiry.

95. Homes are only expropriated following the construction of replacement housing or the provision of full compensation. Such measures are always taken in cases of population displacement resulting from a development project.

96. When they settled in a pastoral area, the residents of Kounkoufouanou were aware that they would have to move on, since the area has been delineated since 2007, when there was no one living on the site. When the community settled there, they promised that they would leave once requested to do so by the State. Discussions have been ongoing for eight years, during which time the community has been preparing to return to its original site.

97. With regard to poor people's access to justice, the Government has established a Legal Aid Fund. Through that Fund and under certain conditions, poor people are able to receive legal and judicial assistance in order to bring their case to court.

Article 12: Right to health**Question 27**

98. The implementation of the national health policy has led to the construction and equipping of 45 medical centres with a surgery unit and district hospitals, each with at least one doctor trained in basic surgery and district management. Specialist training for doctors and nurses has led to the improvement of technical resources; the number of specialist doctors working at regional hospital centres has increased from 6 to around 50 since 2001. Also, recruitment in the regions has increased the availability of certain human resources (midwives and skilled birth attendants, nurses) in areas with a chronic deficit and in rural areas. Thanks to the various policies to train and recruit health professionals, the number of doctors increased from 483 in 2009 to 800 in 2013, while the number of pharmacists rose from 88 to 207 and the number of nurses increased from 5,105 to 5,858.

99. In addition, there has been a significant improvement in the supply, distribution, availability and accessibility of health products and medical equipment in recent years. Medicinal products are imported by the Central Procurement Office for Essential Generic Drugs and Medical Consumables and a number of private wholesalers. In 2013, medical products were distributed by 693 private pharmacies and pharmaceutical depots and more than 800 essential generic drug depots located throughout the country, including in rural areas.

100. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a major public health problem in Burkina Faso. The main NCDs are cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic pulmonary diseases.

101. It should be noted that cancer is the third highest cause of morbidity and mortality after cardiovascular and infectious diseases. It accounts for 60 per cent of the State budget allocated to conducting medical evacuations out of the country.

102. Although there is a shortage of financial resources to address the still-heavy burden of communicable diseases, measures have been taken to reduce morbidity and mortality due to NCDs. Those measures include:

- The establishment in 2013 of a national programme to combat NCDs;

- The development of strategic plans relating to the fight against cancer (2013-2017) and mental health (2014-2018);
 - The development of a strategic plan for 2009-2013 to combat blindness, entitled “2020 Vision”;
 - The implementation since 2014 of the pilot phase of the “Mental Health for All” and “Ear Care for All” projects in the Centre-Est region;
 - The implementation in 2013 of a national study on the main common risk factors for NCDs.
103. The short-term objectives of the national programme to combat NCDs are as follows:
- Approval of the strategic plan to combat NCDs;
 - Development of the “2020 Vision” plan for 2015-2019;
 - Dissemination of various treatment guides;
 - Scaling up of the “Mental Health for All” programme throughout the country during the period 2015-2017.
104. Furthermore, it is important to note the ambitious project to build and equip the Ouagadougou Cancer Centre. The foundation stone-laying ceremony for the centre was held on 14 December 2015 and completion is scheduled for 2018.
105. Ultimately, the implementation of such measures to combat the overall increase in NCDs should produce the following results:

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Current status (%)</i>		<i>Targets (%)</i>
	<i>2008</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2019</i>
Prevalence of tobacco use		11.3	9.6
Prevalence of alcohol abuse		8.6	8.1
Prevalence of limited physical activity		17.7	16.6
Prevalence of obesity		4.5	4.5
Prevalence of high blood pressure		17.6	17.6
Prevalence of excessive salt consumption		-	-
Prevalence of diabetes		4.9	4.9
Availability of essential medicines and technologies for the treatment of NCDs		-	40.0
Availability of medical treatments and counselling for combating NCDs		-	40.0
Premature mortality among men under the age of 60 due to NCDs (percentage of total deaths from NCDs, 2008 WHO estimate)	61.3	-	53.6
Premature mortality among women under the age of 60 due to NCDs (percentage of total deaths from NCDs, 2008 WHO estimate)	45.1	-	39.9
Percentage of adults aged 25-64 with any one of the combined risk factors		2.7	2.7

Question 28

106. Steps taken to increase the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services for women:

- Implementation of quick-win measures:
 - Family planning;
 - Refocused prenatal care;
 - Skilled childbirth assistance;
 - Emergency obstetric and neonatal care;
 - Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission;
 - Vaccinations for pregnant women;
 - Prevention and treatment of obstetric fistula;
 - Screening and treatment of genital cancers;
- Additional measures:
 - Improvement of health coverage through the construction of health-care facilities (the theoretical average catchment area of such facilities was 7.49 km in 2009, as against 8.19 km in 2005);
 - Increased recruitment for basic training (midwives, birth attendants) and specialized training (gynaecologists and paediatricians);
 - Free preventive health care for children and pregnant women;
 - Eighty per cent State-funded subsidies for childbirth care and emergency obstetric and neonatal care;
 - Contribution from the State budget for the purchase of contraceptives;
 - Subsidies of 69-97 per cent for contraceptives, depending on the method of contraception;
 - Free universal distribution of mosquito nets treated with long-lasting insecticide;
 - Free vaccinations for pregnant women and children under the age of 1;
 - Regular public awareness campaigns in the national and local media;
 - Development of the contractual approach for improved community involvement in health-care activities to benefit women and children.

107. Main results achieved:

- The maternal mortality rate decreased from 566 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1993 to 341 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2010, or 12.5 percentage points per year;
- At the current rate of decline, the maternal mortality rate will stand at 284.6 deaths per 100,000 live births by the end of 2015, compared to the target of 141.5;
- The contraceptive prevalence rate rose from 14.7 per cent in 2003 (Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2003) to 15 per cent in 2010 (DHS 2010);
- The rate of unmet family planning needs decreased from 29 per cent in 2003 (DHS 2003) to 23.8 per cent in 2010 (DHS 2010).

Question 29

108. In order to combat violence against women and girls, including violence relating to their physical integrity, Burkina Faso adopted Act No. 043/96/ADP of 13 November 1996

on combating the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). The Criminal Code criminalizes that practice in articles 380 to 383.

109. To enable people to easily and anonymously report cases of FGM, a hotline (80 00 11 12) has been established by the Government through the permanent secretariat of the National Council against Female Genital Mutilation.

110. The above-mentioned Act is being implemented in practice. Accordingly, it can be noted that from 2008 to 2015, through the organization of mobile court hearings, there were 102 convictions or punishments relating to FGM cases, involving a total of 429 persons.

111. In addition, the defence and security forces are trained in conducting patrols to raise awareness of and deter the practice of FGM in collaboration with the decentralized services of the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity. In that regard, 264 gendarmes and police officers have been trained. In total, 1,276 patrols were carried out during the same period.

112. Despite the existence of the Act to prohibit FGM, obstacles to eradication remain. According to the findings of an evaluation of the national action plan for the elimination of female genital mutilation 2009-2013 that was carried out in 2014, the three main obstacles are as follows:

- The clandestine nature of the practice;
- The decreasing age of the victims (very young children);
- The cross-border nature of the practice (absence of laws prohibiting the practice of FGM in some neighbouring countries).

113. Those challenges are combined with a lack of commitment on the part of some leaders and very little involvement of the population.

114. To overcome the above-mentioned obstacles, considerable efforts have been made by the State, including:

- The proposal by Burkina Faso of resolution 67/146 and its adoption by the United Nations during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on 20 December 2012;
- The maintenance of the hotline for reporting cases of FGM;
- Continued awareness-raising patrols by the security forces in close collaboration with the decentralized bodies of the Ministry of Social Action and National Solidarity;
- Advocacy work with traditional, religious and political leaders;
- Advocacy at the international level;
- The integration of FGM-related modules in teaching syllabuses;
- The preparation of the 2016-2020 national action plan to promote the eradication of the practice of FGM;
- The organization of information and awareness-raising campaigns on the consequences of FGM and possibilities for compensation.

Question 30

115. All agricultural development projects potentially involving the use of pesticides include plans for the management of pests and pesticides. Those plans outline the types of pesticides that should be used, based on an approved list. Awareness-raising sessions are carried out, during which the use of biological pesticides is encouraged.

Question 31

116. Waste and sanitation issues are dealt with by four ministerial departments: the Department for the Environment, the Department for Agriculture and Water, the Department for Housing and Town Planning and, lastly, the Department of Territorial Administration (Town Councils).

117. The measures taken are as follows:

- Development of a project for solid waste management: the national project for the treatment and recovery of plastic waste (2014-2018). That project involves the nationwide collection of plastic waste products;
- Ongoing construction, under the above-mentioned project, of three plastic waste treatment centres, which carry out washing, sorting, pelletizing and recycling;
- Ongoing development of a pilot project for the environmentally sound management of e-waste: recycling or export to France;
- Ongoing development (in collaboration with the town council) of a household waste management project.

Articles 13 and 14: Right to education**Question 32**

118. Statistical data from the last five years:

(1) Primary level

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2012-2013</i>	<i>2013-2014</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>
Gross admission rate					
Boys	86.9	89.3	93.2	99	101.3
Girls	84.4	87.3	92.3	94.8	96.2
Total	85.7	88.3	92.8	97	98.8
Gross enrolment rate					
Boys	80.2	81.1	81.6	82.8	83.6
Girls	75	78.1	81	83.2	83.9
Total	77.6	79.6	81.3	83	83.7
Net enrolment rate					
Boys	62.6	63.2	63.5	64.7	65.9
Girls	59.1	61.1	62.8	64.2	65.5
Total	60.9	62.2	63.2	64.4	65.7
Primary education completion rate					
Boys	55.1	56.6	59.3	55.7	57.4
Girls	49.1	53.7	59.7	59.7	61.3
Total	52.1	55.1	59.5	57.6	59.3

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2012-2013</i>	<i>2013-2014</i>	<i>2014-2015</i>
Primary school certificate pass rate					
Boys	67.7	68.9	65.1	84.5	76.6
Girls	60	61.5	56.9	80.2	70.7
Total	64	65.2	60.9	82.2	73.5
Number of pupils disaggregated by sex					
Boys	1 163 784	1 225 032	1 276 330	1 337 654	1 395 418
Girls	1 041 511	1 118 999	1 190 049	1 256 370	1 311 385
Total	2 205 295	2 344 031	2 466 379	2 594 024	2 706 803
Number of pupils disaggregated by type of school					
Public	1 886 040	1 979 044	2 059 856	2 144 837	2 211 894
Private	319 255	364 987	406 523	449 187	494 909
Total	2 205 295	2 344 031	2 466 379	2 594 024	2 706 803

2) *Post-primary level*

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2012-2013</i>	<i>2013-2014</i>
Gross admission rate					
Boys	35.20	35.60	38.90	40.70	43.10
Girls	27.60	29.50	32.50	36.50	40.30
Total	31.40	32.60	35.70	38.60	41.70
Gross enrolment rate					
Boys	33.60	36.00	38.10	39.00	41.9
Girls	25.80	28.60	31.70	34.40	8.40
Total	29.70	32.30	34.90	36.70	40.20
Net enrolment rate					
Boys	17.5	19.50	20.80	23.00	23.80
Girls	3.30	15.50	17.30	20.00	21.90
Total	15.40	17.50	19.00	21.50	22.90
Post-primary education completion rate					
Boys	19.60	21.20	23.00	23.30	26.40
Girls	14.70	14.30	17.70	19.40	22.30
Total	17.10	17.50	20.30	21.40	24.30
Pass rate for the certificate of completion of the first stage of secondary education					
Total	30.8	30.6	52.3	22.6	28.7
Number of pupils disaggregated by sex					
Boys	242 971	273 141	302 200	304 966	
Girls	189 418	218 390	250 741	265 428	
Total	432 389	491 531	552 941	570 394	-

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2012-2013</i>	<i>2013-2014</i>
Number of pupils disaggregated by type of school					
Public					438 761
Private					223 062
Total					661 823

3) *Secondary level*

<i>Indicators</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>	<i>2011-2012</i>	<i>2012-2013</i>	<i>2013-2014</i>
Gross admission rate					
Boys	11.20	12.30	13.00	20.00	11.40
Girls	6.00	6.90	8.00	13.20	6.90
Total	8.50	9.60	10.50	16.60	9.10
Gross enrolment rate					
Boys	13.30	13.90	14.40	17.20	15.90
Girls	7.60	7.70	8.30	10.60	9.80
Total	10.40	10.70	11.30	13.90	12.80
Net enrolment rate					
Boys	3.40	3.60	3.70	5.00	4.50
Girls	2.20	2.10	2.30	3.30	2.90
Total	2.80	2.80	2.30	4.20	3.70
Secondary education completion rate					
Boys	8.60	10.20	10.50	11.40	11.00
Girls	5.40	6.00	5.60	6.60	6.80
Total	7.00	8.10	8.00	8.90	8.90
Baccalaureate pass rate					
Total	36.65	38.7	40.9	34.88	37
Number of pupils disaggregated by sex					
Boys	66 085	71 264	76 888	90 944	
Girls	38 915	41 373	46 508	57 842	
Total	105 000	112 637	123 396	148 786	-
Number of pupils disaggregated by type of school					
Public					65 944
Private					50 981
Total					116 925

Inclusion of marginalized and disadvantaged groups (children in rural areas and children with disabilities)

119. Children with disabilities are included in the education system under:

- Article 14 of Act No. 013-2007/AN of 30 July 2007 on education policy;

- Articles 9 to 15 of Act No. 012-2010/AN on the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Subprogramme 6, specific objective 1 of the Plan for Strategic Development of Basic Education 2012-2021.

120. Accordingly, the following measures have been taken:

- Establishment of the Directorate of Inclusive Education under Decree No. 2014-0375/MENA/SG/DGEB of 10 February 2014;
- Adoption in December 2015 of a national strategy for the development of inclusive education;
- Incorporation of inclusive education in the curriculum reform;
- Incorporation of inclusive education in initial teacher training programmes in national schools for primary education teachers;
- Implementation of communication plans.

121. With regard to marginalization in rural areas, the education system applies the fundamental principle of equality at all levels. Rural areas are treated in exactly the same way as urban areas. However, disparities exist between different localities, regardless of whether they are rural or urban. In order to address such issues, localities that are lagging behind are identified in so-called “priority municipalities” (43 municipalities located in eight regions) and are subject to specific measures to bring them up to the national average level (granting them priority for construction, staffing, the allocation of financial and material resources, etc.) That has improved indicators in those areas.

Elimination of direct and indirect costs relating to access to education

122. The measures taken includes:

- Free public primary education;
- Gradual reduction of enrolment fees at general post-primary level;
- Free provision of textbooks to all primary school pupils;
- Reduction of textbook rental costs at post-primary level;
- Allocation of free school meals in all public primary schools.

123. Those measures have helped children to access and remain in school and have improved academic performance. Enrolment rates at primary, post-primary and secondary level increased by 13.1, 10.3 and 8.1 per cent respectively between 2010 and 2015. Completion rates increased during the same period at primary, post-primary and secondary levels, by 7.2, 7.2 and 1.9 per cent respectively.

Question 33

124. Developments in literacy rates:

- The adult literacy rate (15 years and over) increased from 28.2 per cent in 2009 to 34.5 per cent in 2014;
- The literacy rate for women increased from 20.4 per cent in 2009 to 26.1 per cent in 2014.

125. Access to the full basic educational cycle for children who are not enrolled in school:

- The bridging system in non-formal education for adolescents (8-12 years) allows children who are not enrolled in school or who have left school early to continue their basic education at post-primary level by undergoing the assessment conducted at the end of the primary education subcycle;
- Similarly, the accelerated learning/bridging strategy developed by the Strømme Foundation and implemented by the State and the private sector allows children who are not enrolled in school or have dropped out of school to complete the various levels of primary education (levels 1-6) and pursue their primary and post-primary education.

Article 15: Cultural Rights

Question 34

126. Protection of the cultural heritage of minority groups:

127. From the outset, it should be noted that the Dioula, Peul, Lobi, Dagari, Bobo and Gurunsi are not minority groups in Burkina Faso. They are in fact sizeable populations.

128. With regard to the protection of cultural heritage, the following measures have been taken:

- The adoption and implementation since 2010 of the policy for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage;
- The implementation of a programme for the protection of cultural heritage and products of cultural and artistic value;
- The adoption and implementation of a strategy for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage;
- The maintenance since 2014 of an inventory of intangible cultural heritage;
- The adoption and implementation of the annual action plans of the Ministry of Culture.

129. In addition to the above-mentioned measures, the following steps are being taken with a view to preserving endangered minority languages:

- The use in national radio and television broadcasts of more than 17 languages, to ensure their protection;
- The recording and dissemination of radio programmes on the cultural heritage of certain minority groups;
- Cultural decentralization, which has enabled local focal points to identify endangered cultural heritage with a view to ensuring its protection and promotion.

130. The National Commission on Languages plans to carry out a language census (the last one having been conducted in 1970) with a view to identifying at-risk languages and ways of promoting them.

Question 35

131. Two key measures are envisaged for the improvement of coverage in the country: a contract with SONABEL (the country's national electricity company) and a contract with the Electrification Development Fund.

132. The contract between the State and SONABEL, which covers the period 2015-2019, aims to:

- Increase the electrification rate in new localities from 37 per cent in 2015 to 100 per cent in 2019;
- Increase the rate of establishment of new connections from 19 per cent in 2015 to 100 per cent in 2019.

133. In order to achieve those objectives, the following measures are envisaged:

- The construction of thermal power plants between 2015 and 2018, producing an additional 270 megawatts of thermal power;
- The construction of solar power plants between 2015 and 2017, producing an additional 143.45 megawatts of thermal power;
- The implementation of interconnections with neighbouring countries between 2016 and 2019, producing an additional 482 megawatts of thermal power.

134. With regard to improving access to the Internet, the State has planned the following measures:

- The establishment of the national fibre-optic backbone, a section of which will be deployed under the Government's G-Cloud project;
- The establishment of the virtual landing point (access to submarine cables and international bandwidth) and the national Internet exchange point.
