

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BURKINA FASO- ADDENDUM

DENMARK

- What initiatives does the government of Burkina Faso foresee to improve the prisoners' conditions?
- Does the government of Burkina Faso intend to modify the status of the National Commission of Human Rights so it is in accordance with the Paris principles on human rights?
- What measures does the government of Burkina Faso intend to take to promote the independence and inefficient judiciary?

GERMANY

- Germany notes with appreciation the efforts made to improve the ratio of children and young people attending primary and secondary education. Education is a key factor for development and a major HR issue. Germany would like to know what impact these measures have had so far and whether the aim of universal school attendance in the primary sector by 2015 will be achieved.

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 63 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering the recent cooperation of Burkina Faso with the special procedures (Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (2-9 February 2005) and Independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights (23-27 April 2007)) – would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NETHERLANDS

- With reference to decree 2001-593/PRES/PM/MJPDH of November 2001, could the government of Burkina Faso clarify how many people have actually been able to benefit from judicial assistance, and how many of these cases have effectively been tried? Considering that there is on average one magistrate per 55 000 inhabitants, could you indicate for how many cases per year a magistrate effectively passes judgement? Could you provide information on the average time persons spent in custody before being heard and sentenced?
- Could the government explain the functionality of the National Commission for Human Rights, in particular with regards to its independence and its autonomy? Are the activities of the Commission financed from the government budget and, if so, is this budget commensurate with the role and

responsibilities of the Commission, and does the Commission actually receive its full budget at the start of the fiscal year?

- Could the government elaborate, in the context of women's rights, on the success of the government's actions to combat female genital mutilation? Is the percentage of women affected effectively decreasing?
- Could the government explain why Burkina Faso has not yet ratified the optional protocol of the 1999 Convention against torture, considering that such ratification would permit the establishment of independent monitoring committees on torture? What are the impediments for ratification?

SWEDEN

- The constitution of Burkina Faso states that the judiciary shall be independent. However, reports have indicated that this independence has not always been respected in military courts and legal processes related to political issues. Concerns have been raised in regard to impunity and corruption that obstruct the rule of law. The Ministry for Human Rights in Burkina Faso has adopted a strategy for 2008-2010, which foresees a process by which individuals can report human rights violations. Can the government elaborate on what has been done so far regarding this strategy? What are the intended measures to end impunity and to ensure the independence of the judiciary?
- Burkina Faso has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. However, women's rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, seem not to be fully respected in Burkina Faso. Areas of concern are rape including marital rape, polygamy, and women's limited right to inheritance. What initiatives does the government intend to take in order to strengthen and respect the rights of women in accordance with CEDAW?
