

Statement at 39th session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 6: Consideration of UPR outcomes – Burkina Faso

Speaker: Etong Kame Adélaïde

Mr President,

ISHR takes the opportunity of the adoption of Burkina Faso's UPR report to congratulate the government on the adoption of a specific human right defenders protection law last year. With this enactment, Burkina Faso is one of three countries in Africa, with Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, to adopt such a law.

Equally, we commend the adoption of the new national human rights institution law and the election of its new members. To fulfil its mandate for the protection of human rights, the newly established Commission must fully comply with the Paris Principles.

While this is a significant step toward the protection of defenders in Burkina Faso, ISHR remains concerned by the absence of a provision providing specific protection to women human rights defenders.

Also, we encourage the government to effectively operationalise the protection mechanism through the subcommittee on civil and political rights of the national human rights institution. This mechanism will ensure the effective implementation of the law and should prevent, protect against and investigate all attacks and violations against defenders. Such a mechanism is essential to guarantee a safe and enabling work environment for defenders in Burkina Faso.

Therefore, ISHR further calls on Burkina Faso to:

- Ensure the full and effective implementation of the defenders law through the establishment of the protection mechanism.
- Provide the National Human Rights Commission with the necessary resources for it to be fully functional and able to fulfil its mandate as a defender protection mechanism.

I thank you.