

BURKINA FASO: NO BACKTRACK ON HUMAN RIGHTS!

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: SUBMISSION TO THE 44TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP, 6 NOVEMBER 2023

SUMMARY

This submission was prepared for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Burkina Faso on 6 November 2023. In it, Amnesty International evaluates the implementation of recommendations made to Burkina Faso in its previous UPR, including in relation to the protection of women's rights, the abolition of death penalty, the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and the protection of human rights defenders.

It also assesses the national human rights framework about the adoption of a law amending the Criminal Code that threatens freedom of expression, the establishment by decree of a Special Forces unit as part of its security and defence forces raising concerns about impunity, and the setting up of a legal aid fund for indigent litigants.

Regarding the human rights situation on the ground, Amnesty International raises concerns about abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law related to the conflict, the violations of the rights of detainees, of the right to education, the rights of women and girls and to the freedom of expression.

It ends with a set of recommendations to Burkina Faso which, if implemented, would contribute to improving the human rights situation.

FOLLOW UP TO THE PREVIOUS REVIEW

1. Burkina Faso supported 184 recommendations and noted 20 others during its previous review by the UPR working group.¹ Among the issues it committed to implement, were the total abolition of the death penalty in its legislation,² the establishment of a financially autonomous National Human Rights Commission conforming to the Paris Principles,³ the adoption of the law on violence against women,⁴ the strengthening of the strategy, legislation and national plans to combat practices that violate the rights of women, especially Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage,⁵ the prevention of torture and ill-treatment,⁶ the improvement of detention conditions⁷ and the full respect of human rights during military operations.⁸
2. Regrettably, Burkina Faso noted 20 recommendations including raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for women,⁹ the prohibition of corporal punishment of children¹⁰ and the criminalization of the recruitment and use of persons under 18 years in the national armed forces.¹¹
3. On 27 June 2017, Burkina Faso adopted a law on the protection of human rights defenders which provides legal protection for the conduct of their activities¹².
4. Burkina Faso also amended its Criminal Code in May 2018 and abolished the death penalty as sentence for crimes in the civilian courts. However, the abolition is limited, as the death penalty remains a sentence that can be imposed by military courts.
5. Despite its commitment to do so, Burkina Faso has not revised its Personal and Family Code to remove articles that discriminate against women, nor has it ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.¹³

THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

6. In May 2021, Burkina Faso established a Special Forces unit, as part of its security and defence forces. The June 2021 decree¹⁴ which outlines the statute of these Special forces (Article 10) stipulates that they cannot be pursued by courts for any actions taken during their operations. This immunity clause violates the rights of victims to justice and reparation.
7. In July 2019, Burkina Faso amended its Criminal Code by adopting a new law No.0442019/AN, which contains broad offences that violate the right to freedom of expression and could be used to arbitrarily harass or intimidate human rights defenders and journalists.¹⁵ Article 312-11 criminalizes any acts that may “demoralize security forces” with a minimal sentence of one year and a fee amounting to XOF 10 million (USD 16273) maximum, while other articles restrict access to, or dissemination of, information relating to military operations or weapons, to protect public order or the integrity of the military operations.
8. The same amendment to the Criminal Code also stiffened the penalties for FGM. Practitioners of FGM face a possible sentence of between six months to three years and of fines ranging from XOF 500,000 to 3,000,000 (USD 809 to USD 4852). In case of death of the victim, the sentence varies from five to 10 years. The maximum sentence and fines are prescribed by the law for medical practitioners guilty of these harmful practices.¹⁶
9. Since 2016, Burkina Faso has set up a legal aid fund for indigent litigants but the availability of funding and the criteria for eligibility should be extended to refugees, asylum seekers, and foreign nationals facing criminal proceedings.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ON THE GROUND

Violations and abuses of human rights in relation with the conflict

10. Since 2017, at least 4,801 Burkinabè civilians have been killed during the conflict by various parties, according to data from the Armed Conflict Location Events Database.¹⁷

Violations by security forces

11. In the conduct of counter-insurgency operations, defence and security forces of Burkina Faso and their partners, committed violations of international humanitarian law.
12. Over several days beginning on 1 January 2019, suspected members of Koglwe'ogo (a self-defence armed group) attacked several villages in the Centre-North and Sahel regions, beginning in Yirgou (Sanmantenga province, Centre-Nord) but also in Kaya and Boussouma, (Centre-Nord), Arbinda, Kelbo and Djibo (Soum province in Sahel region), killing at least 49 civilians, mainly Fulani. Sixty-six other persons remained unaccounted for after the killings, which were in retaliation to the assassination of the village chief of Yirgou and five other villagers, by suspected members of Ansaroul Islam on 1 January.¹⁸
13. On 5 February 2019, the government announced the "neutralization" of 146 "terrorists" in the northern provinces of Yatenga and Loroum. Investigations by the Burkinabè Movement for Human and Peoples' Rights (MBDHP) showed that in Kainh, Daybara, Somé and Banh, 60 civilians were killed by the military, some of which may qualify as extrajudicial executions.¹⁹
14. On 8 March 2020, suspected Koglwe'ogo members raided the villages of Barga, Dinguilha and Ramdolla (Nord region) killing at least 43 inhabitants and destroying buildings.²⁰
15. On 9 April 2020, members of special military unit arrested and executed 31 persons during a patrol in Djibo.²¹ Although the government announced an investigation into the killings, which likely constitute war crimes, no further information about the investigation was made public.
16. On 30 December 2022, members of the Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland – government auxiliary forces, attacked two neighborhoods with a majority of ethnic Fulani populations in the town of Nouna, Kossi province killing at least 27 civilians.²² The Office of the Prosecutor of Nouna announced an investigation into the killings.

Abuses by armed groups

17. In June 2021, an unidentified armed group attacked positions of the Volunteers for the Defence of the Homeland, an auxiliary force to the military, at the entrance of the town of Solhan, Yagha province, before overrunning the town and indiscriminately killing residents. At least 132 people, including civilians, were killed during the attack, 40 wounded and 707 households displaced.²³
18. On 11 June 2022, the Islamic State in the Sahel (ISS) attacked the town of Seytenga [Seno province] killing at least 86 residents, including civilians, according to the government.²⁴
19. The Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (GSIM) blocked access and commercial supply to several cities in northern and eastern Burkina Faso. In February 2022, GSIM cut access to the city of Djibo in response to the government's prohibition of the movement of persons and goods from Djibo to areas under GSIM's influence. GSIM also attacked and destroyed civilian objects including water infrastructure affecting more than 300,000 residents.²⁵ Traders and others who attempted to supply food to the city were threatened with violence by armed groups, leading the government to deploy armed escorts to assist them to enter Djibo. On 26 September 2022, a civilian supply convoy for Djibo, escorted by the military, was attacked by armed assailants at Gaskindé. Following the attack, 50 people remained unaccounted for. According to the government, the bodies of 11 soldiers were found after the attack.
20. These unlawful killings by GSIM and the ISS against civilians constitute war crimes under international law.

Women and girls' rights

21. In June 2019, the Burkina Faso government committed to provide free sexual and reproductive health services, including contraceptives and medical consultations.²⁶ This decision aimed to remove some of the barriers that women and girls face in accessing sexual and reproductive health information, goods, and services.
22. In June 2021, the NGO Doctors Without Borders reported a rise in sexual violence in the regions affected by the conflict. Alleged cases of sex being exchanged for food aid by local NGOs facilitating IDPs' access to humanitarian aid were also documented in the city of Kaya, in Sanmatenga, the province hosting the largest number of IDPs in Burkina Faso.²⁷

Right to education

23. The state of conflict affected the right to education of millions of children in Burkina Faso, by rendering schools non-functional in several regions. Armed groups such as Ansaroul Islam and the Islamic State in the Sahel continue to target schools, teachers, and communities hosting schools, which they deem as "un-Islamic".
24. According to data from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 1.08 million children were out of school, and 6,383 schools were non-operational in Burkina Faso as of 31 January 2023.²⁸

Right to justice, truth, and reparation

25. In April 2022, a military court in Ouagadougou, found former president Blaise Compaoré and his former head of security, Hyacinthe Kafando, guilty of the murder of President Thomas Sankara and 12 other government officials in 1987. They were sentenced to life imprisonment in their absence, along with General Gilbert Diendéré, former Chief of Staff to the Armed Forces. The court also convicted eight other defendants with sentences ranging between three and 20 years' imprisonment; a further three individuals were acquitted.²⁹
26. In May 2022, a Ouagadougou High Court found General Gilbert Diendéré also guilty of complicity in the unlawful arrest and aggravated abduction of student union leader Boukary Dabo in 1990 and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of XOF 1 million (USD 1618). These crimes had led to the death of Boukary Dabo. Two other accused in the same case were sentenced to 10- and 30-years' imprisonment respectively and ordered to pay damages.³⁰
27. The Current Criminal Code of Burkina Faso does not guarantee legal counsel to people arrested and detained for terrorism charges. Detainees could apply for a state fund to pay for representation, but the law does not mandate for the court to appoint a lawyer when the detainees fail to find one. This loophole constitutes a risk to the fair trial standards.

Freedom of expression

28. Following the attack against the town of Solhan in June 2021, the Higher Communications Council suspended the Omega media group's radio and TV programmes for five days for "misreporting" the attack after it claimed that armed group ambushed IDPs from Solhan on the road to Dori. In a letter, the Council also threatened Radio France Internationale with suspension for their coverage of the attack and the government's response to it.³¹
29. On 8 February 2019, the High Authority for Communications summoned Adama "Damiss" Ouedraogo, editor of the newspaper "Le Dossier" after the journal shared on social media a voice audio disputing the government's narrative about the "neutralization of 146 terrorists" in the communes of Kain, Bomboro and Banh and qualifying the deaths as "extrajudicial killings".³²

Torture and other ill-treatment

30. On 11 May 2020, gendarmes, accompanied by volunteers, arrested 25 people at a market in Kpentchangou town in the Eastern region. The next morning, twelve of them died in their cells at the Tanwalbougou gendarmerie post. The gendarmerie denied responsibility, but the survivors, who were released in June, said that the 12 men had died following severe beatings in detention.³³ The Prosecutor of Fada Ngourma announced an investigation on 13 May³⁴ but no one has been prosecuted for these deaths more than two years later.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE STATE UNDER REVIEW

Amnesty International calls on the government of Burkina Faso to:

Violations by security forces

31. Ensure that all persons suspected of responsibility for serious abuses or violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the context of the conflict since 2016, including crimes under international law, are prosecuted through the ordinary courts, and tried in proceedings that meet fair trial standards, without recourse to the death penalty.

Abuses by armed groups

32. Protect civilians at the frontlines and expedite investigations linked to the abuses by armed groups

Women and girls' rights

33. Reform the Family Code to raise the legal age of marriage for girls from 17 to 18 years, without exception, traditional or otherwise, and to lift all discriminatory provisions.
34. Strengthen public awareness campaigns against female genital mutilation.
35. Implement the National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence, including by improving holistic access to justice for survivors including provision of support services, providing targeted training and capacity building for law enforcement and justice officials, and allocating sufficient resources to enable key ministries to implement the Plan of Action.

Right to education

36. Support right to education by allocating more resources to alternative forms of schooling, especially for children among the IDP population, and by strengthening the institutional capacity of the education system in host communities.
37. Establish a national plan to protect schools, children, teachers from attacks by armed groups, and develop effective measures and mechanisms to prevent attacks and threats of attacks against schools and the civilian nature of education infrastructure.

Right to truth, justice, and reparation

38. Ensure fair trial rights of all people, notably those arrested for terrorism charges, including
39. Ensure all persons suspected of having committed crimes against civilians are trialled by civilian courts.
40. Ensure justice and accountability for serious violations and abuses of international human rights and international humanitarian laws in the past.
41. Revise Article 10 of the Statute of Special Forces in Burkina Faso, by removing the provisions that grant Special Forces immunity from prosecution for actions taken during their service.

Freedom of expression

42. Cease harassment and intimidation of journalists and media covering the conflict

43. Revise the Criminal Code to ensure its provisions (including Article 312-11) could not be used to arbitrarily harass or intimidate human rights defenders, journalists, and limit press freedom, and hinder access to information.

Torture and other-ill treatment

44. Expedite the investigation into the death of detainees at the gendarmerie post of Tanwalbougou in May 2020, and bring to justice respective of fair trial standards, all those responsible for these deaths in detention.
45. Ensure that all detainees are informed of their rights, and kept in humane conditions, by reducing overcrowding, ensuring access to adequate medical care and that they are not subjected to any hardship or constraint other than those necessitated by their deprivation of liberty.
46. Investigate promptly, impartially, independently, and effectively all reports of torture and ill-treatment, bring to justice respective of fair trial standards all agents responsible for these violations to the rights of detainees, and provide reparations to those whose rights have been violated.

Death penalty

47. Totally abolish the death penalty by also removing it as a sentence before military courts before the mid-term review.

ANNEX 1

KEY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR FURTHER REFERENCE

Burkina Faso. L'abolition de la peine de mort, une victoire de haute lutte, 1 June 2018, [amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2018/06/burkina-faso-abolition-of-death-penalty-a-hardwon-victory/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2018/06/burkina-faso-abolition-of-death-penalty-a-hardwon-victory/)

Amnesty International appelle le Burkina Faso à protéger les défenseur-e-s des droits humains et à mettre fin à la pratique des mariages précoces et forcés, 25 September 2018, [amnesty.org/fr/documents/afr60/9145/2018/fr/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/documents/afr60/9145/2018/fr/)

Burkina Faso. Il est urgent de protéger les filles contre les MFG et le mariage forcé, 10 October 2018 : [amnesty.org/fr/latest/press-release/2018/10/burkina-faso-urgent-need-to-protect-girls-from-and-forced-marriage/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/press-release/2018/10/burkina-faso-urgent-need-to-protect-girls-from-and-forced-marriage/)

Burkina Faso : « Le nouveau code pénal pourrait conduire jusqu'à dix ans de prison pour diffusion d'information sur les opérations militaires », 17 June 2019, [amnesty.org/fr/latest/press-release/2019/06/burkina-faso-le-nouveau-code-pourrait-conduire/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/press-release/2019/06/burkina-faso-le-nouveau-code-pourrait-conduire/)

Burkina Faso. La lutte contre le terrorisme ne doit pas servir de prétexte pour réprimer la liberté d'expression et d'information, 5 March 2019, [amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2019/03/burkina-faso-la-lutte-contre-le-terrorisme-ne-doit-pas/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2019/03/burkina-faso-la-lutte-contre-le-terrorisme-ne-doit-pas/)

Burkina Faso. Les récits de témoins confirment que le massacre de Barga a été perpétré par un groupe armé, 20 March 2020, [amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2020/03/burkina-faso-witness-testimony-confirms-armed-group/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2020/03/burkina-faso-witness-testimony-confirms-armed-group/)

Afrique. Les conflits armés et la répression orchestrée par les autorités favorisent les violations des droits humains, 7 April 2020 [amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2020/04/africa-armed-conflicts-and-state-repression-fuel-cocktail/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2020/04/africa-armed-conflicts-and-state-repression-fuel-cocktail/)

« Ils en ont exécuté certains et emmené d'autres avec eux ». Péril pour les populations civiles dans le Sahel, 10 June 2020, [amnesty.org/fr/documents/afr37/2318/2020/fr/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/documents/afr37/2318/2020/fr/)

Burkina Faso: Après le massacre de Solhan, la protection de la population doit être la priorité, 7 June 2021, AFR 60/4249/2021, [amnesty.org/fr/documents/afr60/4249/2021/fr/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/documents/afr60/4249/2021/fr/)

Burkina Faso. « Les auteurs présumés des tueries de Nouna doivent faire face à la justice », 10 January 2023, [amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2023/01/burkina-faso-perpetrators-of-nouna-killings-must-face-justice/](https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2023/01/burkina-faso-perpetrators-of-nouna-killings-must-face-justice/)

ANNEX 2

MATRIX OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS CYCLE, WITH COMMENTS ON PROGRESS

Recommendation	Position	Full list of themes	Assessment/comments on level of implementation (As of February 2023) ¹
Theme: A12 Acceptance of international norms			
125.1 Maintain a positive dynamic of ratification of international treaties (Azerbaijan); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A12 Acceptance of international norms Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
125.128 Reinforce the policies and programmes designed to combat the social exclusion of people accused of practising witchcraft (Israel); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A12 Acceptance of international norms Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
126.1 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile) (Costa Rica) (Spain) (Togo); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	A12 Acceptance of international norms D1 Civil & political rights - general measures of implementation D23 Death penalty Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
Theme: A24 Cooperation with special procedures			
125.2 Continue cooperation with the special procedures (Morocco); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A24 Cooperation with special procedures Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
Theme: A27 Follow-up to Universal Periodic Review (UPR)			
125.6 Intensify its efforts in the implementation of pending recommendations (Nigeria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A27 Follow-up to Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
125.7 Consider the establishment of a national coordination mechanism for drafting reports, follow-up and implementation of recommendations, in line	Supported	A27 Follow-up to Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Affected persons: - general	Fully implemented

¹ Where Amnesty International has assessed a recommendation as “Not implemented”, the organization has not received any information suggesting that progress has been made towards implementation

with the elements of the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Uruguay); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125			
Theme: A28 Cooperation with other international mechanisms and institutions			
125.3 Continue the work with Human Rights Council bodies to protect and implement human rights (State of Palestine); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A28 Cooperation with other international mechanisms and institutions Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
Theme: A41 Constitutional and legislative framework			
125.8. Finalize and adopt the new constitution to further safeguard the human rights of its people (Botswana); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - general	Not implemented. The Constitution was drafted, a referendum date announced but it was never adopted.
125.9. Ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 061-2015 / CNT with the participation of different social stakeholders (Canada); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
126.9 Finalize and adopt the draft law revising the Act No. 010-2009, as follow-up to the recommendations in paragraphs 135.44, 135.54 and 135.61 of the report of the Working Group on its second review cycle (Haiti); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
125.10. Implement the law creating the National Human Rights Commission and allocate it the necessary resources, according to the Paris Principles (Costa Rica); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) Affected persons: - general	Not fully implemented
125.96 Redouble efforts to implement the Law on violence against women, and ensure sufficient financial resources so that	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework B51 Right to an effective remedy	Partly implemented

victims can have access to justice and psychosocial rehabilitation measures (Chile); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125		F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	
125.162 Revise its regulation and administrative practices to protect the human rights of migrant workers and incorporate in its domestic law the principle of non-refoulement (Honduras); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment G4 Migrants Affected persons: - migrants	Not implemented
125.62 Effectively apply national legislation on human trafficking and on child labour and exploitation (Switzerland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
125.151 Ensure the effective implementation of laws relating to child trafficking, child labour and the exploitation of children (Brazil); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
125.101 Implement the strategy, legislation and national plans to combat practices that violate the rights of women, especially female genital mutilation and forced marriage (Cabo Verde); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.109 Strengthen the implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices, in particular child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation (Rwanda); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women - children - girls	Partly implemented (para 8)
Theme: A42 Institutions & policies - General			
125.23 Continue to strengthen further national human rights	Supported	A42 Institutions & policies - General Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented

institutions and mechanisms (Nepal); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125			
Theme: A44 Structure of the national human rights machinery			
125.24 Allocate sufficient human and financial resources towards a sustained implementation of the domestic normative framework on human rights (Philippines); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A44 Structure of the national human rights machinery Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
Theme: A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)			
125.11 Provide the National Human Rights Commission with sufficient financial and human resources, in line with the Paris Principles, in order to ensure its autonomy and independence (Georgia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
125.12 Make the National Human Rights Commission fully operational and provide it with sufficient financial and human resources, in line with the Paris Principles (Germany); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A45 National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
Theme: A51 Human rights education - general			
125.86 Continue its efforts to uphold human rights education through training, capacity-building and awareness-raising (Mauritius); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A51 Human rights education - general E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
125.89 Expand human rights education and awareness-raising activities (Nepal); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A51 Human rights education - general E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
Theme: A54 Awareness raising and dissemination			
125.90 Step up its efforts to heighten human rights awareness among its people (Philippines);	Supported	A54 Awareness raising and dissemination Affected persons: - general	Not implemented

Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125			
126.31 Step up efforts to protect the rights of persons with albinism, including through public raising-awareness campaigns (Botswana); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	A54 Awareness raising and dissemination B31 Equality & non-discrimination Affected persons: - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not implemented
126.32 Continue awareness-raising actions to help change negative attitudes towards persons with albinism (Central African Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	A54 Awareness raising and dissemination B31 Equality & non-discrimination Affected persons: - minorities/ racial, ethnic, linguistic, religious or descent-based groups	Not implemented
125.49 Take measures to promote human rights training for security forces (Italy); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	A54 Awareness raising and dissemination F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Not implemented
Theme: B41 Right to development			
125.26 Continue to implement measures to achieve equitable redistribution of the benefits of growth (Cuba); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B41 Right to development Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
Theme: B51 Right to an effective remedy			
125.44 Investigate credible allegations of human rights abuses and violations, and hold those responsible accountable (United States of America); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy Affected persons: - general - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
125.55 Strengthen measures to ensure access to justice, including by increasing the number of judicial venues (France); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy Affected persons: - judges, lawyers and prosecutors	Not implemented
125.126 Guarantee access to justice for women and girl victims of violence as well as to elderly women accused of witchcraft, ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and sanctioned (Gabon); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy Affected persons: - general - women	Partly implemented
125.33 Ensure that all reports of alleged torture and ill-treatment are investigated by an independent and impartial body and the perpetrators prosecuted, and ensure that victims receive	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment Affected persons:	Not implemented

full redress and rehabilitation (Zambia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125		general - persons deprived of their liberty	
125.45 Investigate allegations of physical abuse by jailers and hold the perpetrators accountable, as efforts to improve access to justice will reduce prison overcrowding (United States of America); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy D26 Conditions of detention Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
125.140 Develop and implement a strategy to guarantee that women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, have effective access to justice, political and public life, education, income-generating activities and health care, including sexual and reproductive health-care services (Mexico); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy E41 Right to health - General E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general - women - girls - persons with disabilities	Not implemented
125.138 Develop and implement concrete policies to ensure that women and girls have easy access to justice, education and health-care systems, particularly those with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general - women - girls	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.111 Ensure that people who continue to practice female genital mutilation are held accountable and prosecuted as a means to deter perpetrators (Australia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B51 Right to an effective remedy F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women - girls	Not implemented
Theme: B52 Impunity			
125.43 Investigate all allegations of human rights abuses by self-defence groups and bring suspected perpetrators to justice (Ghana); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B52 Impunity Affected persons: - general - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
125.46 Enhance measures to guarantee the furthering of judicial investigations and sanctioning the perpetrators of all human rights violations (Argentina); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B52 Impunity Affected persons: - judges, lawyers and prosecutors	Not implemented
125.48 Bolster mechanisms to prevent human rights violations by security forces (Austria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B52 Impunity Affected persons: - general - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
126.18 Honour its role as guarantor of security, without being replaced by self-defence groups, and ensure respect for human rights in its territory, including by the security forces,	Supported	B52 Impunity Affected persons: - general	Not implemented

and ensure an end to impunity (Spain); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1			
125.32 Undertake immediate and effective action to prevent all forms of torture and ill-treatment and to ensure thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all acts of torture committed by government officials, with the aim to end impunity (Netherlands); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B52 Impunity D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment Affected persons: - general - media - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
Theme: B53 Support to victims and witnesses			
125.98 Establish a sufficient number of drop-in centres and shelters for women and girl victims of violence (Gabon); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B53 Support to victims and witnesses Affected persons: - women	Not implemented
Theme: B71 Human rights and the environment			
126.10 Implement the Environmental and Social Management Plan and enforce the Mining and Environmental Code (Kenya); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	B71 Human rights and the environment Affected persons: - general	
Theme: B8 Human rights & counter-terrorism			
125.30 Ensure full respect for human rights by the defence and security forces, including in their struggle against terrorist groups (France); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B8 Human rights & counter-terrorism Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
125.51 Ensure that security force operations within the framework of combating extremism and terrorism are implemented in strict compliance with human rights (Canada); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	B8 Human rights & counter-terrorism Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
Theme: D23 Death penalty			
126.12 Abolish officially and ultimately the death penalty (Cabo Verde); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	D23 Death penalty Affected persons: - general - persons deprived of their liberty	Partly implemented (para 4)
126.13 Complete the process of abolishing the death penalty (Central African Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	D23 Death penalty Affected persons: - general - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
Theme: D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment			
125.34 Intensify efforts for addressing allegations of torture by law enforcement agents (Ukraine); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Partly implemented (para 29)
125.35 Make operational its National Observatory on the Prevention of Torture as soon as possible (Switzerland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment Affected persons:	Implemented (Part of the NHRC)

		- persons deprived of their liberty	
125.36 Operationalise the National Observatory for the Prevention of Torture (Uganda); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Implemented (Part of the NHRC)
125.37 Pursue efforts to regulate self-defence groups, sometimes accused of torture, violence and racketeering (France); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Partly implemented (para 15, 16, 29)
125.38 Conduct thorough investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment in detention centres (Luxembourg); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment D26 Conditions of detention Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Partly implemented (para 29)
Theme: D26 Conditions of detention			
125.40 Improve the conditions of prisoners (Iraq); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D26 Conditions of detention Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
125.41 Combat prison overcrowding and take all measures necessary aimed at improving detention conditions (Luxembourg); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D26 Conditions of detention Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
125.42 Implement a comprehensive plan to end overcrowding in prisons (Zambia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D26 Conditions of detention Affected persons: - persons deprived of their liberty	Not implemented
Theme: D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking			
125.60 Step up its endeavour to combat trafficking in children and women and to strengthen the existing anti-trafficking policies (Indonesia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking Affected persons: - women - children	Partly implemented
125.61 Deploy further efforts to stop trafficking in women and children (Iraq); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking Affected persons: - women - children	Partly implemented
125.147 Continue to fight against child trafficking (Senegal); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking Affected persons: - children	Partly implemented
125.149 Ensure that the capacity of the National Council of Children is strengthened in order to intensify efforts aimed at combating trafficking of children, protecting children from sexual abuse, corporal punishment and the worst forms of child labour as well as to end early and forced marriages (Namibia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking E32 Right to just and favourable conditions of work F13 Violence against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection	Partly implemented

		F32 Children: family environment and alternative care F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	
125.154 Ensure the enforcement of existing laws relating to child trafficking, child labour and the exploitation of children (Maldives); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	Partly implemented
125.157 Guarantee the rights of children using more resources to stop their exploitation and trafficking of children (Spain); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D27 Prohibition of slavery, trafficking F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	Partly implemented
Theme: D29 Domestic violence			
125.143 Continue to fight discrimination against women through concrete measures and continue to fight all forms of violence, notably domestic violence (Tunisia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D29 Domestic violence F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 3, 8)
125.108 Strengthen measures aimed at combating gender discrimination in all spheres and to adequately protect women from all forms of violence and abuse, including female genital mutilation, marital rape, domestic violence and social exclusion for alleged witchcraft (Namibia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D29 Domestic violence F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 3, 8)
Theme: D31 Liberty and security - general			
125.50 Strengthen security and civil protection (Sudan); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D31 Liberty and security - general Affected persons: - general	
126.20 Take meaningful steps to improve civilian security and access to the formal judicial system, while building trust in formal law enforcement to prevent the proliferation of vigilante groups (United States of America); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	D31 Liberty and security - general Affected persons: - judges, lawyers and prosecutors	Not implemented
Theme: D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion			
125.112 Ensure implementation of the National Plan against Female Genital Mutilation and feminine excisions, and bolster efforts to prevent such practices, by raising awareness among various communities in the country, in particular with regard to tribal leaders, religious leaders, men and boys, as well as by raising awareness and education of girls (Austria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion E51 Right to education - General F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women - children - girls	Partly implemented (para 8)

125.125 Promote outreach among local communities, traditional and religious authorities, as well as among parents, to ensure the universal implementation of a minimum age for marriage at 18 years for both men and women (Austria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - women	Not implemented
Theme: D51 Administration of justice & fair trial			
125.54 Continue efforts to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (France); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial Affected persons: - judges, lawyers and prosecutors	Partly implemented
125.57 Intensify efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during its previous review that relate to ensuring the independence and effectiveness of the judicial system (Sweden); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial Affected persons: - judges, lawyers and prosecutors	Partly implemented
Theme: D8 Rights related to marriage & family			
125.118 Amend the Individuals and Family Code to set 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls (Zambia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	D8 Rights related to marriage & family F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - girls	Not implemented
126.29 Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women in the Individuals and Family Code and increase to 18 years the legal minimum age of marriage for men and women, without exception (Belgium); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	D8 Rights related to marriage & family F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - women	Not implemented
Theme: E41 Right to health - General			
125.75 Consider allocating adequate financial resources to improve health-care infrastructure, midwife training, maternal health and access to emergency obstetric care (Ghana); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General Affected persons: - general - women	Implemented (para 8)
125.80 Continue efforts to ensure universal access to quality health services (Saudi Arabia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented
125.79 Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health services (Australia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services Affected persons: - general	Implemented (para 8)
125.81 Increase women's awareness of the Reproductive Health Act and ensure access to health services for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS (South Africa); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services Affected persons: - general	Partly implemented (para 8)

		women girls	
126.23 Ensure maternal, sexual and reproductive health care for women by applying standard methods (Afghanistan); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.76 Adopt legal and political measures to ensure that women and adolescents have access to sexual education and to free and women- and adolescent-friendly reproductive health-care services (Honduras); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.74 Pursue steps to expand access of the population to high-quality health-care and education services (Djibouti); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: general	Partly implemented
125.82 Improve access for all to high quality health care and education services (Viet Nam); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: general	Partly implemented
125.158 Step up efforts to address prejudices against children with disabilities, to ensure that such children have access to health care and inclusive education (Bulgaria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - persons with disabilities	Not implemented
125.142 Continue efforts in the area of promoting the rights of women by formulating and implementing strategies that protect women and girls, notably with disabilities, and guarantee their access to education, work and health care (State of Palestine); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E41 Right to health - General E51 Right to education - General F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: general women persons with disabilities	Partly implemented (para 5, 8)
Theme: E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services			
125.78 Continue efforts to fight maternal mortality and ensure that care centres are provided with necessary equipment and medication (Luxembourg); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.122 Effectively address the high prevalence of early pregnancies by working with children, parents, teachers and other stakeholders (Slovenia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services Affected persons: - children	Partly implemented (para 8)
Theme: E51 Right to education - General			
125.83 Continue implementing the Plan for Strategic Development of Basic Education and the Literacy Plan, to undertake further measures to improve the quality and	Supported	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - persons living in rural areas	Not implemented

infrastructure of schools, particularly in rural areas (Bulgaria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125			
125.84 Further continue the implementation of access to education for all through the policy aimed at strengthening infrastructure in urban and rural areas (Ethiopia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - persons living in rural areas	Not implemented
125.87 Strengthen efforts to ensure universal access for all to quality education (Saudi Arabia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
125.95 Include human rights concepts in school curricula (United Arab Emirates); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
125.121 Allocate sufficient resources to programmes to combat early pregnancies and to support young mothers to stay in school (Mexico); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
125.137 Dismantle barriers to girls' access to education by raising awareness of the importance of education for women (Iceland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - general - women	Implemented (para 20, 22). There are continuous awareness campaigns on girl education in Burkina Faso
125.159 Take further measures to encourage the inclusion of students with disabilities in the education system (Qatar); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General Affected persons: - persons with disabilities	Not implemented
125.88 Make effective the provision of free primary education (Togo); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General E52 primary education Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
125.85 Continue its efforts in enhancing access to education for all, particularly access to secondary and higher education, including in the rural areas (Indonesia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General E55 higher education Affected persons: - persons living in rural areas	Partly implemented (para 20, 22)
125.131 Continue efforts to ensure education for girls and gender equality in the education sector (Tunisia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: - general - girls	Not implemented
125.153 Strengthen the efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of children, with a focus on the right to education and the fight against child labour (Italy); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	E51 Right to education - General F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	Not implemented

Theme: F11 Advancement of women

125.136 Continue to advance the economic empowerment of women and girls through the creation of income-generating activities (Ethiopia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F11 Advancement of women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 20)
Theme: F12 Discrimination against women			
125.130 Strengthen its action to fight discrimination against women (Côte d'Ivoire); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8, 20, 21)
125.141 Invest additional efforts into fighting all kinds of discrimination, in particular against women, by implementing special national strategies and concrete legal frameworks (Serbia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8, 20, 21)
125.104 Intensify its actions in favour of women's rights, by seeking the full implementation of the National Plan against Female Genital Mutilation, ending forced or early marriages, eradicating violence against women and achieving a greater presence of women in political and economic life (Spain); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women F14 Participation of women in political and public life F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8, 20, 21)
125.115 Promote the adoption of measures aimed at protecting the rights of women and intensify the efforts to combat early and forced marriages of children and early pregnancies (Italy); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F13 Violence against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.120 Increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years and request that legal guarantees be granted for the succession of a married woman after the death of her husband in order to combat discrimination against women (Democratic Republic of the Congo); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F12 Discrimination against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 2, 5, 8)
Theme: F13 Violence against women			
125.97 Enhance efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, within a comprehensive strategy, including clear goals and timelines (Brazil); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women - girls	Partly implemented (para 1, 3, 8)
125.99 Adopt a comprehensive strategy and action plan for prevention of all forms of violence against women, with a particular focus on the eradication of customary practices that are harmful to women, such as female genital mutilation and forced marriages (Montenegro); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)

125.100 Redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, in particular combat the practice of female genital mutilation (Uruguay); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.102 Continue to work to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (Congo); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.103 Redouble efforts towards eradication of female genital mutilation (Mozambique); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.105 Continue the efforts necessary to combat female genital mutilation (Egypt); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.110 Eradicate female genital mutilation and bring perpetrators to justice (Sweden); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women - girls	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.113 Take urgent measures to put an end to harmful traditional practices to women, such as forced marriages (Costa Rica); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
125.116 Take all measures to fight early and forced marriages (Luxembourg); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women - girls	Not implemented
125.127 Redouble the efforts to effectively protect women accused of witchcraft (Congo); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Not implemented
125.106 Redouble its efforts to eradicate the practice of genital mutilation of women and girls and other harmful practices, and share with other countries its best practices in the implementation of its legal framework to address the root causes of this practice (Honduras); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women D25 Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment A3 Inter-State cooperation & development assistance Affected persons: - women - girls	Partly implemented (Para 8)
125.47 Adopt the measures necessary to strengthen investigations and sanctions against the perpetrators of child marriage and female genital mutilation (Argentina); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F13 Violence against women F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - general - women - children - vulnerable persons/groups	Not implemented
Theme: F14 Participation of women in political and public life			
125.135 Continue efforts to improve women's participation in decision-making (Egypt); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F14 Participation of women in political and public life Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (Burkina has adopted a law on gender parity in elective offices since 2009, but these quota are unevenly implemented)

125.139 Continue efforts to improve the participation of women in decision-making process (Maldives); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F14 Participation of women in political and public life Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (Burkina has adopted a law on gender parity in elective offices since 2009, but these quota are unevenly implemented)
125.145 Continue to enhance the role of women in strengthening democracy and ensuring sustainable development (Azerbaijan); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F14 Participation of women in political and public life Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (Burkina has adopted a law on gender parity in elective offices since 2009, but these quota are unevenly implemented)
Theme: F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection			
125.117 Materialize its intention to harmonize the legal age of marriage to 18 years in order to combat early forced and child marriages (Canada); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
125.119 Raise to the age of 18 years the minimum age for marriage (Central African Republic); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
125.123 Set the minimum age of marriage for both girls and boys at 18 years and take firm legal action to prevent children from becoming victims of child, early and forced marriage (Sweden); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
125.124 Continue efforts deployed to fight against early marriage and take all measures necessary to ensure the full deployment of programmes in this area (Tunisia); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - general - children	Not implemented
125.148 Fast-track the implementation of the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage for the period 2016–2025 (Netherlands); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
125.150 Allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of the national plan and strategies to combat child marriage (Afghanistan); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
125.156 Make every effort to protect children in gold panning sites (France); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
126.27 Establish comprehensive mechanisms to fight early forced marriage by, inter alia, raising the minimum age for marriage, including for traditional marriages, for both boys and girls to 18 years and by making shelters available for people at risk (Germany); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - girls	Not implemented

125.152 Continue to make progress in protecting the rights of children, above all with regard to child labour in the mining sector and in sexual exploitation (Uruguay); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
Theme: F33 Children: protection against exploitation			
125.155 Continue efforts aimed at combating the use of child labour (South Africa); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	F33 Children: protection against exploitation Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
Theme: H1 Human rights defenders			
125.58 Take all measures to ensure that human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance and insecurity and that all allegations of such are subject to prompt, impartial and thorough investigation (Ireland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	H1 Human rights defenders Affected persons: - human rights defenders	Partly implemented (para 3 and 4).
Theme: S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment			
125.133 Continue to adopt measures that promote gender parity in socioeconomic activities (Angola); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 125	Supported	S05 SDG 5 - gender equality and women's empowerment Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented (para 8)
Theme: A12 Acceptance of international norms			
126.2 Ratify without reservation the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms A13 Reservations D1 Civil & political rights - general measures of implementation D23 Death penalty Affected persons: - general	
126.3 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with the ultimate aim of abolishing the death penalty in all circumstances (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms D1 Civil & political rights - general measures of implementation D23 Death penalty Affected persons: - general	
126.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal) (Spain) / consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms E1 Economic, social & cultural rights - general measures of implementation Affected persons: - general	
126.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal) (Spain); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	A12 Acceptance of international norms F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
Theme: A41 Constitutional and legislative framework			

127.4 Consider the adoption of a general law sanctioning acts of discrimination on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 127	Noted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)	Not implemented
127.5 Adopt comprehensive legislation to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 127	Noted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)	Not implemented
127.6 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Iceland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 127	Noted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
127.8 Criminalize the recruitment and use of persons under 18 years of age in the national armed forces (Zambia). Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 127	Noted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
126.25 Amend legislation to fight and legally ban the practice of female genital mutilation, other harmful customary practices and domestic violence against women, by inter alia revising the law to define marital rape and to establish an appropriate punishment (Germany); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework D29 Domestic violence F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Implemented (paragraph 8).
126.30 Revise current legislation in order to explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	A41 Constitutional and legislative framework F32 Children: family environment and alternative care Affected persons: - children	Not implemented
Theme: B31 Equality & non-discrimination			
127.7 Legally prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Iceland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4 - Para. 127	Noted	B31 Equality & non-discrimination Affected persons: - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)	Not implemented
Theme: D32 Enforced disappearances			
126.17 Adopt the measures necessary in order to guarantee that forced disappearances remain explicitly outside the scope of the competence of military jurisdictions in all cases (Argentina); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	D32 Enforced disappearances D51 Administration of justice & fair trial Affected persons: - disappeared persons	Not implemented
Theme: D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion			
126.26 Amend the Code of Individuals and Family to guarantee that the same minimum age for marriage of 18 years applies to men and women and includes all types of marriages, including religious and traditional marriages (Australia);	Noted	D42 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion D8 Rights related to marriage & family F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons:	Not implemented

Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1		women	
Theme: D51 Administration of justice & fair trial			
126.19 Strengthen the rule of law throughout the country by supporting the presence of national security forces trained in human rights and counter the presence of vigilante militias, including the Koglwéogo (Belgium); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial Affected persons: - general	Not implemented
126.22 Ensure that evictions result from a judicial decision, with rigorous procedural guarantees in line with international norms (Togo); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	D51 Administration of justice & fair trial B52 Impunity Affected persons: - judges, lawyers and prosecutors	Partly implemented
Theme: E41 Right to health - General			
126.24 Implement a strategy that ensures the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people by fighting against female genital mutilation and by reducing maternal mortality related to unsafe abortions (Belgium); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	E41 Right to health - General E43 Access to sexual and reproductive health and services F13 Violence against women Affected persons: - women	Partly implemented. The law has been amended to combat FGM, but the practice is still prevalent (para 8).
Theme: F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection			
126.28 Set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for women and men and for all forms of marriage (Ireland); Source of position: A/HRC/39/4/Add.1	Noted	F31 Children: definition; general principles; protection Affected persons: - women	Not implemented

¹ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Human Rights Council on its thirty-ninth session, UN Doc. A/HRC/39/2, 23 November 2018, paragraph 363

² UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Burkina Faso, 6 July 2018, UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 126.1 (Chile, Costa Rica, Spain, Togo)

³ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 125.10 (Costa Rica)

⁴ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 125.96 (Chile)

⁵ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 125.101 (Cabo Verde)

⁶ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 125.33 (Zambia)

⁷ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 125.45 (USA)

⁸ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendations 125.30 (France) and 125.51 (Canada)

⁹ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 126.28 (Ireland)

¹⁰ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 126.30 (Montenegro)

¹¹ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 127.8 (Zambia)

¹² UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendation 126.8 (Ireland)

¹³ UN Doc. A/HRC/39/4, recommendations 125.118 (Zambia); 125.161 (Austria) and 126.29 (Belgium)

¹⁴ Burkina Faso. 2021. Décret no 2021-0380/PRES/PM/MDNAC portant création des forces spéciales, 2 Juin 2021

¹⁵ Burkina Faso. 2019. Loi no. 044-2019/AN portant modification de la loi no.025-2018/AN du 31 mai 2018 portant code penal, 21 juin 2019

¹⁶ Burkina Faso. Loi no.2018-025 portant révision du Code Pénal. Articles 513-7, 513-8, 513-9.

¹⁷ Raleigh, Clionadh, Andrew Linke, Håvard Hegre, and Joakim Karlsen. (2010). "Introducing ACLED-Armed Conflict Location and Event Data." Journal of Peace Research 47(5) 651- 660. Dashboard:

acleddata.com/dashboard/#/dashboard/57E4FBCC6468FF66E7A1BC5DE2B7A376

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- ¹⁹ Mouvement burkinabè pour les droits de l'homme et des peuples. Que s'est-il passé à Kain-Ouro et environnants le 4 février 2019? (Rapport de mission), available at: kaceto.net/IMG/pdf/rapport_kain_1_la_bonne_version_sans_fond.pdf
- ²⁰ Amnesty International, "Burkina Faso: Witness testimony confirms armed group perpetrated mass killings", 20 March 2020, amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/03/burkina-faso-witness-testimony-confirms-armed-group/
- ²¹ Amnesty International, "They executed some and brought the rest with them": Human rights violations by security forces in the Sahel, Index: AFR 37/2318/2020, 10 June 2020, amnesty.org/en/documents/afr37/2318/2020/en/
- ²² Amnesty International, "Burkina Faso: Perpetrators of Nouna killings must face justice", 10 January 2023, amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/01/burkina-faso-perpetrators-of-nouna-killings-must-face-justice/
- ²³ Amnesty International, *Burkina Faso: In the wake of the Solhan massacre, the priority must be to protect the people*, Index: AFR 60/4249/2021, amnesty.org/en/documents/afr60/4249/2021/en/
- ²⁴ UNCHR/Projet 21, Note d'analyse de protection: urgence Seytenga, 30 June 2022, reporting.unhcr.org/document/2901
- ²⁵ Conseil Norvégien pour les Réfugiés/UK Aid. 2022. Sortir de l'impasse : quelle réponse humanitaire face aux villages encerclés dans le Sahel central?
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- ²⁷ Sam Mednick in The New Humanitarian, "Exclusive: sex for food aid claimed by women in Burkina Faso", 26 July 2021. thenewhumanitarian.org/investigations/2021/7/26/sex-for-food-aid-allegations-in-burkina-faso
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