



Inter-Parliamentary Union

THE DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING IN BURKINA FASO

National seminar for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

Ouagadougou, 21-22 September 2010



National Assembly of Burkina Faso

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Legislative, administrative and penal reforms

Excerpts from the Cotonou Declaration	Proposed measures of reform	Timeframe
<p>1. Strongly recommend that the protection of children be mainstreamed into debates on the laws governing State funds and commit ourselves, to that end, to mobilize the necessary resources to strengthen State and civil society mechanisms to combat trafficking in children, in particular basic social services such as counselling and reintegration and the repatriation of children rescued from traffickers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strengthen existing measures by establishing basic social protection - render existing structures operational by providing them with an operating mechanism and a budget - strengthen coordination between stakeholders; provide each <i>commune</i> with a local action plan 	Short and medium term
<p>2. Recommend that citizens be sensitized to the provisions in force in terms of civil status, and above all, the declaration and registration of births, and the collection of birth certificates issued since these documents are necessary both for travel authorizations and apprenticeship contracts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pursue ongoing reform - strengthen existing measures - pursue awareness-raising activities with the involvement of all stakeholders 	Ongoing

<p>3. Recommend the establishment of coherent legal frameworks by adopting or updating specific anti-trafficking laws, <u>making provision for related offences in the Criminal Code in keeping with international instruments, and for sanctions for traffickers</u>, harmonization of the Standing Orders of national parliaments to include the establishment of law subcommittees entrusted with following up enforcement of laws passed, the creation of finance subcommittees mandated to oversee implementation of the Finance Act, based on the model used at the Parliament of Gabon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adopt regulatory decrees and acts for the application of the Labour Code and the statute to combat trafficking in persons and similar practices - update the regulations on the movement of children - review the 1976 decision on apprenticeship contracts - no need to establish a specific subcommittee - matter dealt with by the competent standing committees 	<p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p>
<p>4. Recommend that an important portion of the State budget be allocated to enabling children to access education, developing professional training programmes for out-of-school children, promoting private initiatives through the granting of micro credits for micro projects, and sensitizing the population to family planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pursue ongoing reform of the educational system - step up reform with regard to micro credits - spur awareness of family planning 	<p>Long term</p> <p>Medium term</p> <p>Long term</p>
<p>5. Encourage the adoption and implementation, with the support of international organizations, of national training and sensitization programmes for all stakeholders involved in combating child trafficking and child labour, in particular parliamentarians and local councillors, magistrates, security forces, civil society organizations, social workers, labour inspectors and local government authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - help the competent ministries prepare the training programme - maintain training and awareness-heightening sessions for all stakeholders 	<p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p>
<p>6. Recommend that State and other agencies that award public contracts make specific mention in the relevant contracts of the fact that it is <u>prohibited to use child labour on pain of termination of contract or prosecution in accordance with prevailing laws</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the regulations on the subject and take appropriate measures to that effect 	<p>Short term</p>

Inter-institutional collaboration

Excerpts from the Cotonou Declaration	Proposed measures of reform	Timeframe
1. Appeal for the establishment of a forum with local councillors to follow up implementation of communal policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - add trafficking as an item to the agenda of the next annual forum of members of parliament and local councillors 	December 2010
2. Underscore the need to facilitate public debate on this problem in collaboration with pressure groups - teachers, the media and trade unions, including transport trade unions - to encourage decision-makers to take urgent and effective measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize public discussions involving the government, civil society, traditional and religious leaders and trade unions, and ensure coverage by all media and throughout the national territory 	Short term
3. Call for regular meetings among parliaments to assess the enforcement of national provisions on child trafficking issues through bilateral or multilateral agreements in order to strengthen the regional dimension of the fight against child trafficking based on deeper cooperation between national and regional parliaments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - call for regional (ECOWAS) and sub-regional (WAEMU Inter-Parliamentary Committee) parliaments to help organize meetings between parliamentarians on child trafficking with a view to harmonizing anti-child trafficking policies 	Short term
4. Recommend that a special committee composed of members of a cross-section of parliamentary committees be set up that will be mandated to visit at least once a year centres for children in difficulty, work with civil society and all the stakeholders involved in the fight against child trafficking, and lend support to the focal point with a view to implementation of this roadmap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - task the network of parliamentarians for the protection of child rights and the National Assembly committees to take account of matters pertaining to child trafficking and to organize missions and annual visits to the reception centres for children in difficulty, in cooperation with the other partners and with local officials 	Annual
5. Insist on the need for <u>parliamentary collaboration with all stakeholders, namely international organizations with a view to obtaining greater technical and financial assistance, the judiciary to ensure concerted action to crack down on traffickers, civil society, the private sector, in particular the tourism sector, to sensitize them to the code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the network and the National Assembly committees carrying out information missions to the partners should organize round tables on the issue with the institutions and recommend the establishment of a national fund to combat trafficking in children 	Short term