



# AUSTRALIA

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## Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 16th Session

### Universal Periodic Review of Burkina Faso

#### Statement by Australia



Australia welcomes Burkina Faso's commitment to regional peace and security, and appreciates Burkina Faso's role as chief peace negotiator for many of the major conflicts in the region, including Mali, and we support the efforts of the National Committee on Human Rights and the Human Rights Ministry to promote a culture of tolerance and peace.

Australia acknowledges the holding of peaceful elections in December 2012 and commends Burkina Faso for investigating perpetrators of election-related violence. However, Australia is concerned by reports of a lack of due process and allegations of arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment by Burkinabè security forces.

Australia commends Burkina Faso for not carrying out the death penalty since 1988, however **recommends that Burkina Faso formalise this approach by ceasing the imposition of death sentences and ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).**

While we acknowledge Burkina Faso's efforts to eliminate trafficking and exploitation of women and children, Australia remains concerned by new reports of such exploitative behaviour. Australia is supporting Burkina Faso to promote child rights and combat trafficking through the Australian Human Rights Grants Scheme, and **recommends that Burkina Faso take further strong measures to prevent trafficking and exploitation of women and children.**