



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

Stefan Lee
New version

16th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

**Finland's questions and recommendations to Burkina Faso
22 April 2013**

Mr. President,

Finland wishes to thank Burkina Faso for the national report and its presentation today. Finland appreciates the Government's continuous efforts to protect and promote human rights as well as bringing up in the national report the constraints in the protection of the rights of the child and women's rights.

Despite the criminalization of FGM and various measures taken to combat the practice, such as the establishment of the National Council to Combat Female Circumcision, the FGM remains still widespread. Finland would like to hear what measures the Government is taking to bring the offenders to justice.

Finland recommends that in order to eradicate FGM, Burkina Faso increase public advocacy and training of judiciary and public officials, traditional leaders and parents, both men and women.

Finland welcomes the *de facto* moratorium on executions in Burkina Faso. In this regard, Finland would like to hear what steps the Government is currently taking to fully abolish the death penalty.

Finland recommends that Burkina Faso ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.