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Delivered by Chris Lamax

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland  
National Statement

Universal Periodic Review – Burkina Faso

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Thank you Mr President

The United Kingdom welcomes the delegation to Geneva and thanks them for their national report.

We note that Burkina Faso has maintained its moratorium on the death penalty since the last review. We would call on the government of Burkina Faso to go further and announce the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

We also acknowledge the Government's efforts in improving access to and public trust in the justice system but would like to see further concrete progress.

We would like to ask to what extent is the National Human Rights Commission now operational and how the government is helping it to fulfil its role?

Mr President,

In 2009 we asked Burkina Faso what steps had been taken to raise public awareness of human rights in particular on women's rights. We acknowledge efforts particularly in tackling cultural practices such as FGM. We endorse further community engagement to eradicate such harmful practices.

We would like to make two recommendations:

1. ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, with the ultimate aim of abolishing the death penalty in all circumstances.
2. that necessary legislative, administrative and financial measures be taken to ensure the independence of the judiciary, including ending administrative and financial control by the executive and ensuring that the Higher Council of the Judiciary is not under the authority of the executive

Thank you Mr President