**UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review – 44th Session**

**Universal Period Review of Burkina Faso**

**6 November 2023**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Burkina Faso for its ongoing commitment to combat female genital mutilation by establishing pathways to report suspected cases. We welcome the implementation of a UN protocol ensuring the transfer of recruited children from military forces to civilian authorities.

Australia is concerned by reports of conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls and other violations of international humanitarian law. We are also concerned by unconstitutional changes of government in Burkina Faso.

Australia recommends **Burkina Faso**:

1. **Investigate allegations of conflict-related civilian killings and sexual violence and hold perpetrators to account.**
2. **Repeal laws that inhibit freedom of expression.**
3. **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes by removing it as a sentence before military courts.**

[120 **words]**