



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

Sixty-second session

14 January–1 February 2012

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict

List of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the initial report of Burkina Faso (CRC/C/OPAC/BFA/1)

The State party is invited to submit additional, updated information in writing (a maximum of 15 pages), if possible before 16 November 2012.

The Committee may take up any and all aspects of children's rights covered by the Optional Protocol during the dialogue with the State party. The present list of issues covers only priority matters on which the Committee would like additional information before the dialogue.

1. Please indicate what stage has been reached in the process of reviewing the Criminal Code and the Code of Military Justice with a view to incorporating the provisions of the Optional Protocol into domestic legislation. Kindly indicate, in particular, whether the State party intends to criminalize any act that has as its purpose or as its effect the recruitment or the attempted recruitment of persons under 18 years of age to take part in hostilities, in violation of national legislation (namely, Armed Forces Personnel Act No. 037-2088/AN of 29 May 2008), and to punish the perpetrators of such acts.
2. Kindly indicate whether the State party has statistics for periods after 2007, disaggregated by sex, nationality, ethnic origin and socioeconomic stratum, on the number of children who have been recruited to take part in or have otherwise been involved in hostilities in other States.
3. Please describe the monitoring mechanisms or methods for gathering information that the State party uses to ensure that no one under 18 years of age is recruited by the State party's Armed Forces, armed groups or private security organizations or forces to participate, either directly or indirectly, in actions forming part of armed conflicts in the territory of the State party or in the territories of neighbouring States.
4. Please indicate whether the State party has evaluated the impact of its training programmes for officers, non-commissioned officers and military personnel of other ranks. Also please indicate whether the State party plans to expand its training programmes to cover the principles and standards set out in the Optional Protocol and to offer these

programmes to persons who work for and with children, to children themselves and to the general public.

5. Kindly provide additional information about the Prytanée military secondary school in Kadiogo, which is administered by the Armed Forces. Please indicate, in particular:

(a) The number of students under 18 years of age who were enrolled between 2007 and 2012;

(b) The nature of the course content (how much of the curriculum is composed of academic courses and how much of it is composed of military training) and the measures in place to ensure that military training courses on the use of weapons are not offered to students under 18 years of age;

(c) Whether the students are considered to be members of the Armed Forces and, as such, can be mobilized in the event of an outbreak of hostilities;

(d) Whether students are subject to military discipline and disciplinary action; and

(e) Whether students have access to an independent complaints and investigation mechanism.

6. Please also indicate whether the State party has statistics, disaggregated by sex, nationality, ethnic origin and socioeconomic stratum, on the number of child refugees and asylum seekers who have been recruited to take part in or who have otherwise been involved in hostilities. Also please inform the Committee about the existence of any mechanisms for the early identification of child refugees, asylum seekers or migrants who may have been recruited or used in hostilities. Kindly provide information on the steps taken to contribute to their physical and psychological readaptation and to promote their reintegration into society.
