



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 September 2023
English
Original: French

Human Rights Council
Fifty-fourth session
11 September–6 October 2023
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Burundi

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. Burundi would like to thank the member States comprising the troika, namely, Argentina, Bangladesh and Senegal, for the report and the 137 delegations that actively participated in the interactive dialogue on 4 May 2023 during the fourth cycle of its universal periodic review.
2. Burundi welcomes the 287 recommendations addressed to it, especially those concerning the promotion of socioeconomic development, the protection of the rights of children and persons with disabilities, the promotion of health-care services, disaster mitigation, the fight against sexual violence, and measures to reduce prison overcrowding and combat trafficking in persons.
3. Effective measures have been taken to protect the rights of all Burundians, especially the most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, persons in detention, returnees, women and children.
4. In the economic and social sphere, under the leadership of the President, the agricultural sector has been identified as a priority and a pillar of development in Burundi.
5. Specific financial institutions have been set up to promote the economic development of women and young people, namely, the Banque d'investissement et de développement pour les femmes, the Banque d'investissement pour les jeunes and a local support mechanism for young people.
6. The following recommendations are therefore accepted. Burundi will take all necessary measures to implement these recommendations through a national action plan, to be implemented until the next cycle, as they involve the promotion of socioeconomic and political rights that are more closely aligned with the Vision for Burundi: Emerging Country in 2040 and Developed Country in 2060. These recommendations are:
 - (a) **Recommendations 145.22; 145.23; 145.24; 145.25** on the ratification of conventions, as the ratification process for two conventions has been under way since 2019;
 - (b) **Recommendations 145.29; 145.30; 145.31; 145.32; 145.33; 145.42; 145.43; 145.44; 145.45** on cooperation with human rights mechanisms and requests for technical assistance, as Burundi already cooperates with such mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, through the submission of reports, and the Human Rights Council, through the universal periodic review, of which it has not missed a single cycle; Burundi has also increased the budget allocated to the committee responsible for drafting initial and periodic reports and following up on the recommendations of treaty bodies and the universal periodic review;
 - (c) **Recommendations 145.50; 145.51; 145.52; 145.53; 145.54; 145.55; 145.56; 145.57; 145.58; 145.59; 145.60; 145.61; 145.62; 145.63; 145.64; 145.78; 145.89; 145.90; 145.91; 145.92; 145.93; 145.100** on the legal, institutional and political framework, the national human rights action plan, the plan for implementing the national human rights institution and the equality and non-discrimination plan, as the Government has already begun revising outdated laws and regulations and is continuing to draft new laws and regulations promoting human rights; in this connection, Burundi regularly organizes capacity-building sessions for State and non-State institutions, holds round tables with development partners, validates the national policy on social protection and its implementation strategy, and increases the budget of the Independent National Human Rights Commission;
 - (d) **Recommendations 145.101; 145.102; 145.103; 145.104; 145.105; 145.106; 145.107; 145.108; 145.109; 145.110; 145.111; 145.114; 145.115; 145.116; 145.117; 145.118; 145.119; 145.120; 145.121; 145.122; 145.124; 145.125; 145.126; 145.127; 145.128; 145.129; 145.130; 145.131; 145.132; 145.133; 145.134; 145.135; 145.136; 145.137; 145.138** on good governance and corruption, the administration of justice, fair trials, and fundamental freedoms; in implementing these recommendations, Burundi will:
 - Continue to carry out capacity-building for judges and court officers, members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and other local bodies (persons elected at the level of the *colline* (hill) administrations, women and young leaders), and continue the good practice of holding dialogues between leaders and the public

- Provide the Commission with human, financial and technical resources and set up local agencies specializing in accountability, compensation, institutional reform and the planned management and restitution of land as a pillar of transitional justice
- Increase the number of mobile legal advice centres and increase the salaries of judges and court officers to bring them into line with the actual cost of living
- Organize sessions on improving ethical standards for members of the judiciary
- Guarantee the financial autonomy of courts and tribunals
- Define specific disciplinary measures for judges so that they may be applied by the courts
- Set up mobile legal clinics, a legal aid framework for vulnerable people and a national legal aid fund and mobilize funds from development partners to support the legal aid sector
- Set up an interministerial coordination body for legal aid services

(e) **Recommendations 145.141; 145.142; 145.143; 145.144; 145.145; 145.146; 145.147; 145.148; 145.149; 145.150; 145.151; 145.152; 145.153; 145.154; 145.155; 145.156; 145.157; 145.158; 145.159; 145.160; 145.161; 145.162; 145.163; 145.164; 145.165; 145.166; 145.167; 145.168; 145.169; 145.170; 145.171; 145.172; 145.173; 145.174; 145.175; 145.176; 145.177; 145.178; 145.179; 145.180; 145.181; 145.182; 145.183; 145.184; 145.185; 145.186; 145.187; 145.188; 145.189; 145.190; 145.191; 145.192; 145.193; 145.194; 145.195; 145.196; 145.197; 145.198; 145.199; 145.200; 145.201** on trafficking in persons, contemporary forms of slavery, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to health and the right to education; to implement these recommendations, the following measures will be taken:

- The law will be strictly enforced, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be implemented, and legal and judicial support will be provided to victims of trafficking in persons.
- Summits bringing together development partners and accredited consular bodies in Burundi will be organized.
- Competent and qualified teachers will be recruited and provided with logistical support tailored to their needs.
- The performance of teachers and administrative staff will be monitored more closely.
- Health-care facilities will be provided with the necessary equipment.
- The working and living conditions of health service providers will be improved.
- Operational plans to meet the needs of the public will be developed.
- Projects that generate foreign currency for the country will be launched.
- A mechanism for following up on achievements, with periodic audits, will be set up.
- A study of vulnerabilities will be conducted and a database of the most vulnerable persons will be created.
- Workshops on behavioural change and self-development will be held.
- Funds for social programmes will be mobilized and the budget allocated to the Social Protection Support Fund will be increased.
- Agricultural inputs will be subsidized and techniques for preserving and processing agricultural products will be improved.
- Modern agricultural methods that meet sustainable development challenges will be adopted.
- Subsidies for the health sector will be strengthened and free health care will be extended to victims of road accidents.

- Implementation of the “Zero Nyakatsi” (zero straw houses) policy to eliminate straw houses will be expedited.
- Special measures to promote access to social services for members of the Batwa community will be implemented.

(f) **Recommendations 145.202; 145.203; 145.204; 145.205; 145.206; 145.207; 145.208; 145.209; 145.210; 145.211; 145.212; 145.213; 145.214; 145.215; 145.216; 145.217; 145.218; 145.219; 145.220; 145.221; 145.222; 145.223; 145.224; 145.225; 145.226; 145.227; 145.228; 145.229; 145.230; 145.231; 145.232; 145.233; 145.234; 145.235; 145.236; 145.237; 145.238; 145.239; 145.240; 145.241; 145.242; 145.243; 145.244; 145.245; 145.246; 145.247; 145.248; 145.249; 145.250; 145.251; 145.252; 145.254; 145.255; 145.256; 145.257; 145.258; 145.259; 145.260; 145.261; 145.262; 145.263; 145.264; 145.265; 145.266; 145.267; 145.268; 145.269; 145.270; 145.271; 145.284; 145.285; 145.286; 145.287** on human rights and the environment, the economic and political crisis, natural disasters and other emergencies, women and girls, the rights of the child, persons with disabilities, refugees and asylum seekers; Burundi has taken the following measures to implement these recommendations:

- Continuing to implement the reforestation project and financing other initiatives for protecting the environment
- Demarcating residential areas to reduce the risk of natural disasters and taking steps to protect riverbanks
- Setting up a fund to help victims to relocate and to boost their resilience
- Monitoring and assessing plans to tackle the negative effects of climate change
- Identifying high-risk areas and developing areas that face a high risk of landslides
- Developing a national strategy for the socioeconomic reintegration of disaster victims
- Continuing to implement laws protecting women against all forms of discrimination
- Increasing the capital of the Banque pour l’investissement et les développements de la femme
- Organizing awareness-raising campaigns on women’s leadership and adopting reforms to promote women’s participation in decision-making bodies
- Implementing the National Gender Policy Action Plan and developing the National Strategy to Combat Gender-based Violence
- Establishing links between community-based women’s solidarity groups and financial institutions
- Expediting the revision of the Persons and Family Code and developing the National Family Protection Strategy
- Operationalizing the action plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security
- Adopting the Child Protection Code and digitizing the civil registry system
- Raising parents’ awareness and investing in girls’ education
- Taking steps to implement the National Policy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Raising vulnerable groups’ awareness of their rights and implementing the Declaration on Minorities

7. The recommendations of which Burundi has taken note have been grouped together by subject area. They are:

(a) **Recommendations 145.1; 145.2; 145.3; 145.4; 145.5; 145.6; 145.7; 145.8; 145.9; 145.10; 145.11; 145.12; 145.13; 145.14; 145.15; 145.16; 145.17; 145.18; 145.19; 145.20; 145.21** on the ratification of conventions, because they are inappropriate;

(b) **Recommendations 145.27; 145.28; 145.34; 145.35; 145.36; 145.37; 145.38; 145.39; 145.40; 145.41; 145.46; 145.47; 145.48; 145.49** on cooperation with human rights mechanisms and requests for technical assistance, as Burundi continues to collaborate with these mechanisms by producing and submitting initial and periodic reports to treaty bodies and through the universal periodic review;

(c) **Recommendations 145.65; 145.66; 145.67; 145.68; 145.69; 145.70; 145.71; 145.72; 145.73; 145.74; 145.75; 145.76; 145.77; 145.79; 145.80; 145.81; 145.82; 145.83; 145.84; 145.85; 145.86; 145.87; 145.88; 145.94; 145.95; 145.96; 145.97; 145.98; 145.99** on the death penalty, liberty and security of person and international humanitarian law, as the death penalty was abolished in Burundi as part of the reform of the Criminal Code; the recently promulgated Act No. 1/27 of 29 December 2017 amending the Criminal Code does not provide for the death penalty, which has been replaced with life imprisonment. Furthermore, some mechanisms are relying on biased, politically motivated reports. It is very troubling to see the defence and security forces being confused with, or lumped together with, young people affiliated with political parties. In the field of justice, the judiciary is fulfilling its key functions. Burundi has also set up several mechanisms to promote and protect human rights;

(d) **Recommendations 145.112; 145.113; 145.123; 145.139; 145.140; 145.282; 145.283; 145.26; 145.253; 145.272; 145.273; 145.274; 145.275; 145.276; 145.277; 145.278; 145.279; 145.280; 145.281** on fundamental freedoms, marriage and family rights, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex persons as they are contrary to Burundian morals, culture, beliefs and customs.

8. In all, 204 recommendations were accepted and 83 were noted.
