

<p><b>Aide-memoire of an exploratory and cooperation mission to the Government of Burkina Faso</b></p>
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26-30 September 2016

Ouagadougou  
Burkina Faso

**DRAFT**

## **I. Introduction and background**

A mission of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) travelled to Ouagadougou from 26 to 30 September 2016 at the invitation of the Government of Burkina Faso through the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development. The mission was a reaffirmation of commitment by ECA to support member States, including Burkina Faso, in their development efforts. Indeed, ECA provides technical and financial support to 54 member States, in the field of capacity-building and undertakes consultations with them on macroeconomic policies, regional integration and trade, social development, natural resources, innovation and technology, as well as on gender and governance.

It was in that context that the mission gave a positive response to a request for technical assistance sent to ECA by the Burkina Faso authorities with respect to implementation of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development, which provides a national register of interventions by the State and by its partners during the period 2016-2020. The overall objective of the National Plan is “structural transformation of the Burkina Faso economy, for strong, resilient and inclusive growth that provides decent jobs for all”.

The mission was exploratory in nature, that is, its purpose was to collect information relevant to the request and to the specific needs of the country, with a view to establishing a formal plan of technical assistance from ECA to Burkina Faso.

The present aide-memoire provides a summary of the discussions held during meetings with each of the bodies concerned and notes the findings made and the needs identified.

## **II. Members of the mission**

The mission was composed of the following members:

- Mr. Sylvain Boko, ECA Principal Adviser responsible for Development Planning and Statistics, Head of Mission;
- Mr. Joseph Foubi, Head of Section, Subregional Initiatives, Subregional Office for West Africa
- Mr. Amadou Diouf, Economic Statistician, Subregional Office for West Africa
- Ms. Mama Keita, Economist, Macroeconomic Policy Division
- Ms. Iris Macculi, Economic Affairs Officer, Social Development Policy Division
- Ms. Claudine Sigam, African Minerals Development Centre
- Mr. André Nonguierma, Statistician, African Centre for Statistics
- Ms. Sokhna Ndoeye, African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

## **III. Introductory meeting and launching of the support programme**

The first meeting of the mission was held at the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development of Burkina Faso, and was chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry. Following this meeting, the head of the mission reviewed the main objectives of the mission with the Burkina Faso authorities.

The Secretary-General of the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development also informed ECA that, in July 2016, Burkina Faso had acquired a new medium-term development plan entitled “National Plan for Economic and Social Development” for the period 2016-2020. The ultimate objective of the National Plan was “structural transformation of the Burkina Faso economy, for strong, resilient and inclusive growth that provides decent jobs for all”. There was extensive involvement in the process for drawing up the new register of public policy interventions, which brought together all central government, sectoral and decentralized State actors, and all non-State actors, such as the National Assembly, civil society, the private sector, university lecturers and researchers and technical and financial partners, in thematic debates.

The National Plan includes a structural transformation plan which states how the country intends to reach this development objective; demographic transition and infrastructure development are important steps in this process. It also comes with a road map of strategic reforms and structural investments.

The mission was informed that a round table for funding the National Plan had been scheduled for December 2016.

Formulation of the National Plan is coordinated by the National Technical Secretariat of the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development (SCADD). The new organizational and institutional framework for implementation of the National Plan has been drawn up on paper<sup>1</sup> and it will become operational following the adoption of relevant legislation. A permanent secretariat of the National Plan will be established to achieve that end.

### **1. Management meeting with the Directorate General of the Economy and Planning**

With respect to practical planning of the mission, the Directorate General of the Economy and Planning (DGEP) of the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development submitted terms of reference and a programme of work to ECA indicating respectively the principal questions to be discussed during the mission and the principal national bodies to be met.

The meeting with DGEP began with a presentation on the different components of the structure: DGEP has a department for public investment which is responsible for monitoring and evaluating development projects and programmes while a separate department is responsible for programming and strategic planning. An office for population policy ensures that the theme of population is integrated in sectoral policies while a department for forecasting and macroeconomic policy is responsible for macroeconomics, for monitoring the economic situation and carrying out thematic studies. The department for monitoring and evaluation is responsible for monitoring and evaluating public policies and for implementing international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 and the Istanbul Action Plan.

The points identified by the Burkina Faso authorities with respect to the issues to be examined during the mission were:

- Validation of the terms of reference of the mission by both parties;

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<sup>1</sup> See page 53, section 3.3 of the National Plan document.

- Examination of the different fields of intervention for technical assistance, namely:
  - Elaboration of the country profile of Burkina Faso;
  - Compilation of quality statistics in a timely manner;
  - Compilation of the African Social Development Index (ASDI);
  - Compilation of the Africa Regional Integration Index (ARII);
  - Process of development planning for Burkina Faso;
  - Raising public awareness on Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 into the National Plan for Economic and Social Development;
  - Supporting the introduction of innovative financing in Burkina Faso and mobilization of internal resources;
  - Capacity-building of senior civil servants.

***Major challenges:***

DGEP highlighted a lack of capacity for formulating, monitoring and evaluating projects and the necessity of developing a pool of experts in this field that would enable it to support all ministries. The lack of expertise led to delays in project formulation and implementation. It would be useful to obtain a tool to enable formulation of public investment programmes. On that subject the mission indicated that its Subregional Office for West Africa was assisting Côte d'Ivoire in the development of a guide on formulating projects. Concerning monitoring and evaluation, the example of Senegal was mentioned with respect to the creation of a database in order to itemize all of the projects and ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation; such initiatives could prove useful in Burkina Faso. In addition, the challenges posed by limited capacity with respect to forecasting and the macroeconomic framework were highlighted.

DGEP also stated that, in the past, it had used the T21 model for policy simulation but that the version that it possessed did not reflect the update which had been recently introduced by the developers of the model in order to take into account the Sustainable Development Goals.

The major challenges identified during the meeting with DGEP were the following:

- (i) Lack of capacity with respect to forecasting and the macroeconomic framework;
- (ii) Lack of capacity for the formulation of sectoral projects and programmes;
- (iii) Need for tools for planning and monitoring and evaluation;
- (iv) Need for tools for formulating public investment programmes.

***Support needs:***

More specifically, DGEP noted a need for capacity-building for its senior civil servants with respect to the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of projects so that it could support ministries in each sector.

Managers in charge of the monitoring and evaluation of policies drew attention to the lack of a policy on the monitoring and evaluation of public policies and requested specific support with respect to: the formulation of a national evaluation policy; a policy evaluation guide; and the assessment of evaluation capacity.

The following needs were identified:

- (i) Need for capacity-building for senior civil servants in Burkina Faso with respect to project development, monitoring and evaluation so that they are able to provide support to managers in various sectors;
- (ii) Need for support in developing a national policy on evaluation;
- (iii) Need for support in developing a policy evaluation guide;
- (iv) Need for capacity-building in updating the T21 model.

## **2. Meeting with the Directorate General of Sectoral Studies and Statistics of the Ministry for Development of the Digital Economy and Postal Services**

### ***Observations:***

- (i) Three-year training plan currently under preparation;
- (ii) Science and technology park in Ouagadougou, known as the Ouaga Technopole, as a growth centre for the country;
- (iii) Call centre is planned as well as the creation of a school and training centre for information and communications technology;
- (iv) Plan to extend the inter-agency network (RESINA) project to communities.

### ***Major challenges:***

- (i) Lack of funding for structural projects such as the call centre, school and training centre, the Technopole, RESINA and the national optical fibre backbone project;
- (ii) Regulatory challenges (electronic signature, electronic payments, etc.);
- (iii) Rapid staff turnover.

### ***Support needs:***

- (i) Need for financing for projects under way and at the planning stage;
- (ii) Capacity-building on aspects linked to regulation and use of technologies for data collection.

## **3. Meeting with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography**

The meeting with the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) examined the development of the country profile for Burkina Faso and the issue of quality statistics.

The exchange of views was introduced by the head of the mission and additional remarks were made by ECA experts on the country profiles initiative and the development of quality statistics. It should be noted here that the purpose of the country profile, a new ECA flagship

publication, is to help countries to refocus their efforts on the areas of macroeconomic and social policy in order to achieve structural transformation in Africa. Twenty profiles of African countries had already been published by March 2016 and coverage of all African countries is expected to be complete by December 2017. ECA country profiles should provide periodic evaluations on the macroeconomic and social performance of member States and put forward appropriate recommendations on public policy and the pathway to structural transformation. They will also serve as a valuable and unique source of comparative data for universities, civil society and analysts.

Continuing on the theme of launching country profiles, the ECA mission highlighted the need for quality and up-to-date statistics for African countries, in the context of the re-appropriation by the continent of the development priorities advocated by ECA. In addition, priority must be given, both at national and international level, to the use of data derived from national sources and produced and communicated according to the best practices and standards in the field.

The view of ECA that priority that must be accorded to the compilation of quality statistics was widely shared by various speakers. They also gave assurances of their willingness to provide the support and collaboration necessary in order to compile the country profile. In that regard, DGEP had coordinated the collection of key data for the country profiles, with a data fulfilment rate of almost 90 per cent. The process for identifying the thematic analysis for the profiles is also well under way and four proposals for themes have already been listed. The mission was informed of the major initiative for organizing a general census of the population in 2017 and also of efforts under way to provide Burkina Faso with a mechanism for monitoring the benchmarking indicators for the National Plan for Economic and Social Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The ECA delegation plans to introduce the African Social Development Index, a tool designed by ECA in response to the need of African member States for an instrument to monitor and evaluate social policies in Africa. Following a life-cycle approach, the Index provides a means of measuring social exclusion in six key development areas, namely: survival; health; education; employment; means of subsistence; and a decent life after 60 years of age.

Following various meetings, senior staff of the department of demographics and social statistics of INSD confirmed the Institute's interest in collaborating with ECA on gathering data and the compilation of ASDI results for Burkina Faso. These results will then be analysed by the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development and the various ministries responsible for social affairs.

The ECA team would send the form for data gathering and the calendar for the compilation of ASDI to Burkina Faso and to the leadership of INSD and DGEP. It was also agreed that ECA would be available to organize a training workshop on using the African Social Development Index, which would make it possible to form a familiarization team for the Index at national level.

In addition to the above-mentioned constraints, INSD had accumulated good experience in conducting large-scale surveys and censuses. It would therefore be appropriate for a sectoral monitoring mission to be organized in order to carry out a more detailed evaluation of the national statistical system, its constraints, specific needs and the priority actions required for a support programme for compilation of statistics.

The ECA exploratory mission to Burkina Faso was able to make the following observations:

***Observations:***

- (i) There is a plan to organize the next general census of the population in 2017. It will be the fourth general census undertaken by the country, which now has proven experience in this field. The general census will benefit from technical and financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The census operations will be entirely digital with the use of mobile devices (tablets, smartphones, etc.) at all stages;
- (ii) There is a decentralized statistics system (i.e. statistics produced by all sectoral ministries);
- (iii) Process of adoption of the third national strategy for statistics development is under way and will be linked to the National Plan for Economic and Social Development;
- (iv) There is an initiative for revision of the basis on which gross domestic product (GDP) is calculated (currently 1999) – Africa Regional Technical Assistance Centre (AFRITAC)/International Monetary Fund (IMF) project;
- (v) There is a project to update the DevInfo human development database system to include the Sustainable Development Goal and National Plan for Economic and Social Development indicators;
- (vi) Proposal has been put forward for entrepreneurship and youth employment as a theme for the Burkina Faso country profile;
- (vii) There is a civil registration data recovery programme in partnership with the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization. The programme has begun a pilot phase with support from the European Union and France. The operation will only enable recovery and updating of 30 per cent of civil status records.

The mission noted the following major challenges with respect to statistics:

***Major challenges:***

- (i) Lack of financial resources for regular compilation and timely dissemination of data as a result of the less than optimal incorporation of statistical operations into programmes for public expenditure and investment;
- (ii) Use of new technologies in data collection;
- (iii) Lack of coherence in data due to the diverse structures compiling statistics;
- (iv) Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal indicators (DevInfo);
- (v) Delay in acquiring computer equipment for the general census. This results in a readjustment of the overall timescale for the census;
- (vi) Insufficient coordination of statistics results in a failure to finalize updating and adoption of the national strategy on statistics development;
- (vii) Lack of human resources both at the quantitative and the qualitative level;

- (viii) Census operators and personnel lack experience in the use of mobile devices and the associated applications (satellite images and the geographic information system, or GIS);
- (ix) Lack of equipment and human resources and insufficient allocation of resources for the operators of the national statistical system both in terms of compilation and dissemination;
- (x) Outdated basis for calculation of GDP, with 1999 as the year of reference as well as the delay in moving to the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA).

#### **4. Meeting with the Directorate General of Sectoral Studies and Statistics/Ministry of Trade and Industry**

With respect to industrial policy, the Ministry of Trade and Industry would like support in reviewing (or updating) the national industrialization policy in view of the numerous challenges that exist in the industrial sector, including the high business failure rate, an ineffective investment code and low productivity in the agroindustry subsector.

##### ***Observations:***

- (i) National strategy for processing local products is currently being drafted but the process has stalled because of lack of resources;
- (ii) National Strategy for the Promotion of Exports of 2012 is currently under review and will be accompanied by an action plan;
- (iii) Investment code is under review.

##### ***Major challenges:***

- (i) Lack of resources prevents publication of some of the data produced by the Ministry;
- (ii) There is an office for gender balance to promote women entrepreneurs but it is ineffective;
- (iii) There is a high rate of business failure;
- (iv) Investment code has little impact;
- (v) Low productivity in the agroindustry subsector.

##### ***Support needs:***

- (i) Need for technical support/expertise in the new office for the promotion of e-commerce, but there is a lack of expertise;
- (ii) Need for support in the development/revision of the National Industrialization Policy;
- (iii) Support for publication of statistics on commerce and the balance of trade;
- (iv) Support for completion of the national strategy for promotion of exports (developing a plan of action);



- (v) Support for strengthening of norms and quality standards with respect to promotion and competitiveness of national products;
- (vi) Support for the development of a charter for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises in order to reduce the informal economy;
- (vii) Need to share experiences of success with other countries which would encourage transformation in the private sector.

## **5. Meeting with the Directorate General of Sectoral Studies and Statistics/Health**

In the field of health, the Government has introduced a number of policies and programmes, including a National Policy for Social Protection, a social safety net, and a permanent secretariat for health insurance and universal health coverage is being rolled out.

The meeting with the Directorate General of Sectoral Studies and Statistics (DGESS) of the Ministry of Health had to be curtailed and it was agreed with the Directorate General that the Ministry's specific needs would be sent by email to ECA in the ensuing weeks.

### ***Observations:***

- (i) Study on chronic malnutrition (with a view to achieving the Global Targets 2025) is in a pilot phase in three regions. It is due to be rolled out from 2017;
- (ii) Survey on nutrition is conducted each year;
- (iii) Programmes and policies such as the National Policy for Social Protection, a social safety net, and a permanent secretariat for health insurance are being implemented while universal medical coverage is being rolled out.

## **6. Meeting with DGESS/Education (MENA)**

With respect to education, significant progress was welcomed: it had led to the regular compilation of statistics (for more than two decades), to a programme of free education up to the age of 16 years and to the gradual transfer of educational capabilities and resources to decentralized structures.

### ***Observations:***

- (i) Regular compilation of statistics (data has been available for over 20 years);
- (ii) Programme of free access to education up to 16 years of age;
- (iii) Gradual transfer of educational capabilities and resources to decentralized structures;
- (iv) Mismatch between employment and training;
- (v) Strong regional disparities in terms of access to quality education;
- (vi) Lack of personnel in technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

The Directorate General highlighted the following problems:

***Major challenges:***

- (i) Mismatch between employment and training;
- (ii) Significant regional disparities in terms of access to education (quality education);
- (iii) Strengthening of pilot phase in training;
- (iv) Lack of TVET personnel.

***Support needs:***

Need for support had been expressed in the following areas in order to address those major challenges:

- (i) Need for technical support on the major challenges outlined above in order to mobilize the human capital in Burkina Faso, which today has an extremely young population (almost half of whom are less than 15 years old) and which represents a considerable potential for growth in the years to come;
- (ii) Need for capacity-building in piloting training.

## **7. Meeting with the United Nations Development Programme**

Burkina Faso has taken significant steps to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals are properly reflected in the National Plan for Economic and Social Development. Indeed, with the assistance of French-speaking countries and the help of a tool developed by this organization, which enables priorities to be established from the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, the most relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets for the country have been identified and reflected in the National Plan. In addition, practical mapping efforts were undertaken and a document in the National Plan gives a table setting out the links between, first, the strategic goals and the results expected by the National Plan; and, second, the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides technical and financial support in order to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals; it is also working on how to incorporate and integrate the Sustainable Development Goals in Burkina Faso. A workshop will be organized on the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) reintegration and prioritization system.

With respect to integration of Agenda 2063 in the National Plan for Economic and Social Development, the Agenda was considered to be a reference document that would be used in developing the National Plan. The Burkina Faso authorities highlighted the fact that, just as in Agenda 2063, the National Plan promotes a vision of structural transformation in which regional preoccupations are also taken into account.

The United Nations system in Burkina Faso has established capacity-building programmes in the following areas: green economy; sectoral planning; and the links between poverty and the environment. It would be useful to explore opportunities for collaboration that

might exist between the United Nations system and Burkina Faso with respect to capacity-building programmes, in order to strengthen synergies.

***Observations:***

- (i) Contribution of the United Nations system to the development of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development and support for prioritization and integration of the Sustainable Development Goals in the National Plan (through the RIA system);
- (ii) Capacity-building programmes in the areas of the green economy, sectoral planning and the links between poverty and the environment;
- (iii) Sectoral studies carried out in the mining sector and the coherence of public and budgetary policies;
- (iv) In 2016, Burkina Faso had become a “delivering as one” country;
- (v) New United Nations Development Assistance Framework will be formulated for the period 2018-2020;
- (vi) Technical and financial support of UNPD in prioritizing the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (vii) Support of UNPD in the appropriation and integration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

***Challenges:***

Monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the preparation of the progress report to be submitted to the African Union could prove difficult for Burkina Faso if the integration of the goals and targets of the Agenda into the National Plan for Economic and Social Development is not carried out with clearly linked equivalences.

## **8. Meeting with SCADD**

The SCADD National Technical Secretariat gave the mission information that was useful in providing an understanding of the context in which the National Plan for Economic and Social Development had been developed. With respect to the performance of the Strategy, which is a medium-term plan in Burkina Faso for the period 2011-2015, it stated that results compiled in 2016 showed that poverty remained high at 40.1 per cent at the national level; and that in contrast with the goal of achieving economic growth of 10 per cent for the period 2011-2015, the level actually achieved was about 5 per cent. A certain number of factors and circumstances had contributed to the failure to reach the goals of SCADD, first and foremost the unstable sociopolitical context affecting the country with military mutinies, popular uprisings, political transition and a coup d'état, etc.

Institutional changes, such as the change in the structures and mandates of the ministries had also hindered implementation of SCADD. The gap in the alignment of the planning cycle with that of the budget constituted a major problem and had compromised the funding of development priorities since the latter had not always been incorporated in the budget. By way of illustration, in 2013, there had been the highest ever level of funding of SCADD priorities,

at a level of 66 per cent. Lastly, a lack of financial resources had also hampered efforts for effective implementation of the strategy.

The SCADD monitoring and evaluation mechanism functioned well, with quarterly and annual reviews; recommendations were made to the Prime Minister, who, in turn, issued instructions that were followed. However, the lack of regular statistics, on poverty among others, constituted an obstacle to effective monitoring of the strategy. In that regard, there was a case for carrying out an evaluation of the indicators produced by the national system for statistics and to assess how to compile the indicators that had not been compiled to date.

The SCADD National Technical Secretariat had piloted the development of the PNDES; and the results of SCADD had been incorporated in the new national plan.

***Observations:***

- (i) The SCADD National Technical Secretariat had piloted the development of a new medium-term development plan entitled the National Plan for Economic and Social Development for the period 2016-2020, for the structural transformation of the Burkina Faso economy and for strong, resilient and inclusive growth that would create decent jobs for all;
- (ii) The institutional mechanism and the monitoring and evaluation of the SCADD had worked well;
- (iii) Implementation of SCADD had encountered a number of obstacles:
  - (a) Political and social context in the country between 2011 and 2015;
  - (b) Lack of financial resources, which had impeded effective implementation of SCADD;
  - (c) Lack of regular statistics on poverty, which had impeded its effective monitoring;
- (iv) With the support of French-speaking States, the most relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals for the country were identified and incorporated into the National Plan for Economic and Social Development;
- (v) Mapping exercises were carried out;
- (vi) There was a table setting out the clear synergies between the strategic objectives and expected results of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (vii) Regional concerns from Agenda 2063 had been incorporated into the National Plan.

***Major challenges:***

- (i) Lack of alignment between the planning cycle and the budget;
- (ii) Lack of coordination between the budget and national priorities;
- (iii) Need to improve coordination between the priorities of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development and the budget;
- (iv) Need to mobilize financial resources for implementation of the National Plan;

- (v) Need for regular compilation of all of the indicators that are useful in monitoring progress achieved through implementation of the National Plan;
- (vi) Need to strengthen stability of the sociopolitical context in order to reduce the risks of disrupting implementation of the National Plan;
- (vii) Need to revise or develop sectoral and cross-cutting policies which require updating or have been recently formulated in order to implement the National Plan;
- (viii) Difficulties relating to monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the preparation of progress reports for the African Union resulting from failure to integrate the goals and targets of the Agenda into the National Plan by establishing clear links between the two instruments.

## **9. Meeting with the National Committee for Economic Policy**

### ***Observations:***

- (i) Brief overview of the performance of the country with respect to macroeconomic alignment in the subregion (West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS));
- (ii) Assessment of community-based initiatives involving Burkina Faso (the WAEMU) regional economic programme and the ECOWAS community development programme;
- (iii) Drafting of reports on a quarterly, half-yearly or multi-year basis in alignment with ECOWAS and WAEMU.

### ***Major challenges:***

- (i) Delays in implementing ECOWAS and WAEMU community projects;
- (ii) Lack of capacity of civil servants in public-private partnerships and in economic modelling;
- (iii) Lack of funding, despite support from WAEMU and ECOWAS.

### ***Support needs:***

- (i) Support for capacity-building, including through study visits (areas of support sought in: public-private partnerships, social accounting frameworks and T21);
- (ii) Need for support for the alignment of sectoral strategies and policies, grading of priorities and a macroeconomic framework.

## **10. Meeting with the Directorate General for modernization of civil registration**

### ***Observations:***

- (i) Overview of the system on civil registration;
- (ii) Plan of action 2012-2016 has been completed and the national strategy on civil registration 2017-2021 is currently being formulated.

***Major challenges:***

Sporadic compilation of civil registry statistics.

***Support needs:***

Advice on development and implementation of a national strategy on civil registration.

**11. Meeting with the Centre for Analysis of Economic and Social Policies**

The Centre for Analysis of Economic and Social Policies (CAPES) is a national body with knowledge of the local context which could be of use in the context of capacity-building programmes. It could be another potential partner with respect to capacity-building. CAPES organizes training for the public and private sectors and for civil society organizations.

CAPES has expressed an interest in cooperation on the application and use of the African Social Development Index as a tool for analysing and formulating inclusive public policies in Burkina Faso.

***Observations:***

- (i) Presentation of ECA initiatives (country profiles, African Social Development Index and the capacity-building programme);
- (ii) Information on CAPES activities, in particular carrying out thematic studies, capacity-building and training in the public and private sectors and civil society organizations as well as organization of science days.

**12. Meeting with DGESS/Ministry of the Environment**

The meeting took place at the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development. It was chaired by the Coordinator, representing the Permanent Secretary, who was travelling on official business, and with the participation of the directors general of the Permanent Secretariat.

After the customary presentations, the Coordinator of the Permanent Secretariat and the head of the ECA mission spoke in turn. Members of each delegation were then invited to speak to provide information on their areas of specialism.

The head of the ECA mission said at the outset that the mission was responding to a request from the Government of Burkina Faso, with respect in particular to capacity-building for implementation of the National Plan for Economic and Social Development.

The Coordinator explained that the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development was the body responsible for implementation of national policy on sustainable development in Burkina Faso. He added that Burkina Faso was committed to sustainable development and that its political commitment was shown in the adoption of a national policy on sustainable development in 2013 and of an outline act on sustainable development in 2014. The country is also committed to the implementation of international

conventions on the environment and had incorporated concerns on the environment and sustainable development into the National Plan for Economic and Social Development.

Burkina Faso had also noted that, by boosting the efficiency of production systems and promoting lifestyles, production and consumption that were more respectful of the environment, it could be possible to promote development that was more sustainable, responsible and equitable. The statement by the Coordinator was complemented by contributions from colleagues who were responsible for, among others: the Partnership and international conventions on environmental issues; environmental statistics; and capacity-building.

***Observations:***

- (i) Existence of a national policy on sustainable development with a strategy and a plan of action;
- (ii) The Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development fosters conventions on climate and the environment and has participated alongside the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development in developing the National Plan for Economic and Social Development;
- (iii) Development of a second national programme for the rural sector is under way;
- (iv) The Ministry has drawn up a training plan taking into account the needs expressed by the different departments;
- (v) There is a plan to establish 2000 eco-villages (a programme promoted by the president);
- (vi) Existence of an observatory on sustainable development and the environment;
- (vii) Definition of targets to limit land degradation within the framework of combating desertification;
- (viii) A national plan on adapting to climate change has been prepared.

***Major challenges:***

- (i) Problems in scaling up projects;
- (ii) Difficulties in formulating and obtaining information from some indicators;
- (iii) The statistical yearbook has been drawn up but resources are lacking for its distribution;
- (iv) Lack of public communication/awareness raising on the green economy;
- (v) The contribution of the environmental sector to the growth of GDP has not been sufficiently quantified;
- (vi) The budget allocation to the environment sector has been judged insufficient by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

### ***Support needs:***

- (i) Need for support in developing tools on taxation and environmental accounting;
- (ii) Training of statisticians and planners on sustainable development and environmental issues;
- (iii) Need for support for completion of the second national programme for the rural sector;
- (iv) Need for support in updating environmental data useful for planning purposes.

### **13. Meeting with the Ministry of Mines**

The mining sector is a growth industry in Burkina Faso and it occupies pride of place in the national plan for economic and social development. Since 2009, gold has been the top product exported from Burkina Faso, which makes the country the fifth largest producer and exporter of gold in Africa. According to IMF figures, the production of gold represented 71 per cent of the country's total exports in 2013 and it accounted for about 16 per cent of government revenue. Exports of gold brought in CFAF 168 billion in 2014, as against 191 billion in 2013, a reduction attributable to a fall in the price of gold. In 2015, the country extracted 36 tons of gold from nine mines in operation, up from five tons in 2007. This increase is explained by various factors, including an increase in the number of mines under operation thanks to a positive regulatory environment and to the development of infrastructures. Other mineral substances that are part of the mix are: diamonds, copper, zinc, lead, dolomite limestone, silica sandstone, kaolin, granite and some signs of uranium. Gold mining employs 5,000 people.

Alongside industrial mining operations, small-scale gold-mining operations are expanding rapidly. Women make up more than 50 per cent of persons working in small-scale and semi-mechanized mines in Burkina Faso.

A mining policy was developed in Burkina Faso in October 2013. The intention is to make mining a competitive sector and a catalyst for economic, social and sustainable growth by 2020. The country is a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and achieved validation in 2013.

The mining code of 2003 was revised in October 2015. The decree on the application of the new code is currently being validated. It should be noted that a participative approach allowed consultation with and integration of the concerns of different stakeholders in the management of natural resources. Indeed, civil society, which is very active in Burkina Faso, prompted the establishment of a mining fund for local development in the new mining code.

### **Challenges in the mining sector**

- (i) Recent sociopolitical crises which have swept through Burkina Faso have affected the mining sector in Burkina Faso and some mines have been targeted by arson attacks. Faced with this security threat, the Government has put in place measures to secure the mines and to protect investments. This has led to the establishment of regional consultations with the mines in the 13 regions of the country and to dialogue that will allow settlement of the concerns of local communities and populations living close to the mines and of the mining



companies; and to the creation of a national office for the security of mines (ONASSIM), the aim of which is to protect mining investments.

- (ii) With respect to small-scale mining at the heart of the rural economy, there are numerous challenges relating to the conflicts between the gold diggers and the mining companies (land disputes, sites invaded by the local population whenever gold is discovered), problems of an environmental nature, the absence of a legal and regulatory framework and a lack of data, which are all factors that make it difficult to implement a suitable policy.
- (iii) New structures have also been created, such as a standalone structure for small-scale mining in the form of the national agency for the protection of small-scale and semi-mechanized gold mining, known by the abbreviation ANEEMAS, the purpose of which is to train, regulate and monitor the activities of small-scale and semi-mechanized gold mines and to restore degraded sites. But implementation of these new structures and training officials who are able to mediate will necessitate capabilities which are severely lacking in the country. And when officials have been trained, there is the problem of retaining their talent.
- (iv) Diversification of production constitutes another challenge for Burkina Faso. Indeed, despite its significant mining potential, gold is the principal mining activity. Of the 18 mining concessions currently granted, 16 are concessions to mine gold, one is for zinc and one is for manganese. Furthermore, the mining sector remains closed and makes most of its purchases from foreign companies. Yet, goods and services represent 50 per cent of the spending of mining companies. This is a sector that is much more lucrative than the 12-15 per cent of taxes received by the Government. It is important therefore to increase the purchase of local goods and services. In order to achieve this, the Government would like to improve the capacities of local entrepreneurs so that they can meet the standards of the international mining industry and to create centres of economic growth in mining areas.
- (v) The lack of capacity was highlighted during the negotiation and review of contracts and the application of tax regimes that were appropriate in a transitional period. To date, there are more than 1,000 mining concessions and authorizations, of which 691 are permits for prospecting. In addition, five new mining companies have registered applications for operating permits. Until the decree for the new mining code is ratified, there is uncertainty over the code and the type of convention under which these new requests must be submitted.

These challenges have in part been mitigated by significant support from the World Bank, which has provided CFAF 16 billion. The purpose of this assistance is to strengthen the capacities of the principal structures, provide diverse training and improve logistics, in particular the number of vehicles. This support has also enabled the register to be updated in order to put in place more effective, efficient and transparent governance of the mining concessions and authorizations. The absorption capacity of Burkina Faso was put to the test when the technical assistance provided by the World Bank, which was due to have ended in 2016, was prolonged.

### ***Support needs:***

The request for support in respect of the mining sector concerns institutional and operational capacity-building in the country (human, technical and logistical resources) in the following areas:

- (i) Negotiation of mining contracts, including drafting of contracts and implementation and monitoring of mining contracts;
- (ii) Control of mining activities, which requires the capacity for inspection, analysis of reports, checking the figures announced by the mining companies. It also requires the capacity to monitor the obligations arising from local and national contracts;
- (iii) Improving geological understanding of the country's mining potential (by ensuring that the national office of mines and geology – BUMIGEB – has large-scale geological and mining maps) which would enable the introduction of a policy of diversification in production and reduce the imbalance in information;
- (iv) Support in acquiring equipment;
- (v) Capacity-building in the university and in training schools on the mining value chain.

The African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) in particular, and the other divisions concerned within ECA are equipped and ready to respond favourably to these needs.

It should be noted that the legal and regulatory framework in place in Burkina Faso was based on the vision for mining in Africa which is implemented by AMDC. Thus support should be provided for the negotiation of a model agreement and, in particular, the following elements:

- (i) Fiscal package with taxes and other charges, as well as a stabilization clause;
- (ii) Issues of local content, including employment, the participation of local people in the value chain, participation in local projects, local training and communal infrastructure;
- (iii) Environmental and social management including before, during and after the mining operation. This includes land management measures (competition with arable land), water (intensive use of water) and energy (since the mining sector is a high energy user), the arrangements for the closure of mines and management and compensation for persons affected by mining operations.

### **14. Meeting with DGESS/Ministry for the Advancement of Women**

Since gender is a cross-cutting theme, the Minister for Women advises the sectoral ministries in the formulation of policies that are gender-sensitive. Consequently, attention was drawn to the need for capacity-building of civil servants in the collection of data disaggregated by gender with a view to facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of policies. Note was also taken of the existence of a series of policy instruments put in place to strengthen gender equality in Burkina.

***Observations:***

- (i) Involvement of the Ministry in developing the National Plan for Economic and Social Development;
- (ii) Existence of a national strategy for the promotion of female entrepreneurship (2015);
- (iii) Existence of a 2009 law on quotas;
- (iv) Existence of a gender caucus in the Parliament;
- (v) Existence of a national policy on gender (2015);
- (vi) Existence of a framework for consultation on gender between the public sector, the private sector, civil society and technical and financial partners;
- (vii) Existence of gender units in each ministry;
- (viii) Existence of an integrated programme for women's empowerment;
- (ix) Development of an index on gender inequality, with the support of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

***Major challenges:***

Despite the existence of these legislative frameworks, DGEES highlighted a number of challenges:

- (i) Insufficient technical, financial, scientific and organizational capacities to implement gender policies and programmes;
- (ii) Need for disaggregated statistics on gender;
- (iii) Need to mobilize resources for programmes focused on gender awareness raising;
- (iv) Need for systematic integration of the issue of gender in all sectoral policies (gender mainstreaming);
- (v) Need to improve women's access to productive assets, such land and loans, despite the existence of a multitude of funding mechanisms;
- (vi) Social and cultural factors still inhibiting women's empowerment and representation in the country's decision-making circles;
- (vii) Need for mechanisms to combat various forms of violence against women and girls, particularly in the operation of artisanal mines.

In order to confront these challenges, the Ministry highlighted the need for support in the following areas:

***Support needs:***

- (i) Technical and organizational capacity-building for the collection and implementation of a data base that is disaggregated by gender;
- (ii) Support for resource mobilization and access to financing for women, particularly in rural areas;

- (iii) Support for taking women's issues into account in mining entrepreneurship.

## **15. Meeting with the Central Bank of West African States**

### ***Observations:***

- Active collaboration with the Government in developing the National Plan for Economic and Social Development;
- Support in implementing the National Plan, to be provided through the framework of the joint monetary policy;
- Compilation and regular dissemination of monetary statistics and the external accounts;
- Role of the currency issuing institution and monitoring of the banking system;
- Establishment of the WAEMU agency for mobilization of resources on the market for the benefit of member States;
- Existence of two strategies, on development and inclusive finance, and on the provision of funding to small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Contribution to and support for the national system for statistics;
- Member of the INSD national council for statistics and administration;
- Combating money laundering of the proceeds of terrorism;
- Mechanism for monitoring the receipt of export revenues;
- Active collaboration with INSD in the compilation and validation of macroeconomic statistics (Burkina Development Partnership, external accounts, etc.);
- Availability to participate in developing the Burkina Faso country profile.

## **16. Meeting with DGESS/Ministry of Agriculture**

### ***Observations:***

- (i) Existence of a national policy on land security in rural areas;
- (ii) Existence of a law on rural land;
- (iii) Existence of a national policy on food and nutritional security;
- (iv) Existence of a law on reorganization of agriculture and land;
- (v) Existence of a plan of action for provincial and regional councils on food security;
- (vi) Existence of a trade development strategy.

### ***Major challenges:***

- (i) Lack of qualified human resources and lack of financial resources;
- (ii) Recurring conflicts relating to land (among farmers, between farmers and stock breeders and within families);

- (iii) Application of the law on land throughout the country is hindered by lack of funds;
- (iv) Limited availability and accessibility to inputs and improved seeds;
- (v) Weak capacities through transformation and the creation of added value;
- (vi) Poor quality of processed products hinders competitiveness and export to external markets;
- (vii) Agriculture exposed to risks of climate and unpredictable weather (drought, variable rainfall, floods);
- (viii) Acceleration of the process of degradation of farm land due to the effects of climate change;
- (ix) Existence of rural land title deeds which might give access to microcredit but not to large bank loans.

***Support needs:***

- (i) Need for support for monitoring and evaluation of the second national programme for the rural sector, in particular for statistical analysis, expertise in results-based management, and the installation of a computer system;
- (ii) Need for capacity-building of technical capacities at many levels – in particular with respect to land management, managing the effects of climate change and the structures for food and nutritional security at local level;
- (iii) Support for improvement of the quality and processing of local produce;
- (iv) Need to strengthen the capacities of civil servants with respect to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Annex I. Action plan and timetable

Field of cooperation	Activities	Benefiting structures	Timetable	Division of ECA involved and partners	Status
<b>Planning and macro economic modelling / PNDES</b>	Capacity-building in order to update the T21 model	National Committee on Economic Policy/DGEP/ Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development	Jan-Feb 2017	MPD/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for capacity-building of civil servants in developing, monitoring and evaluating projects	DGEP/Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development	Feb-Mar 2017	CDD/IDEP/SRO-WA	
	Support in the development of a national evaluation policy	DGEP/senior officials in charge of monitoring and evaluation of policy	Mar-Apr 2017	CDD/CAPES/SRO-WA	
	Support in creating a guide on policy evaluation	DGEP/senior officials in charge of monitoring and evaluation of policy	Mar-Apr 2017	CDD/CAPES/SRO-WA	
	Support in the evaluation of evaluation capabilities	DGEP/senior officials in charge of monitoring and evaluation of policy	Mar-Apr 2017	CDD/CAPES/IDEP/ SRO-WA	
	Support for capacity-building for resource mobilization and innovative funding for the PNDES	DGEP/Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development	May-June 2017	MPD/CDD/IDEP/ SRO-WA	
	Support for the development of the programme for monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes such as the rural development programme	DGEP/Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Development	May-June 2017	CDD/RITD/SRO-WA	
<b>Statistics</b>	Promotion of the use of new technologies in operations for the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics	INSD	Jan-Feb 2017	ACS/SRO-WA	
	Training in the operation and use of mobile devices	INSD	Jan-Feb 2017	ACS/SRO-WA/IDEP	

	Training in census mapping (processing of satellite images and use of GIS to create census and/or counting zones)	INSD	Feb-Apr 2017	ACS/SRO-WA/IDEP	
	Providing advice and expertise from countries which have already used mobile devices (Brazil, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Morocco)	INSD	To be decided	ACS/SRO-WA	
	Assessing possibilities for sharing resources with countries which have already acquired mobile devices for use in previous censuses (Ethiopia, Morocco)	INSD	To be decided	ACS/SRO-WA	
	Improving Internet connection for the transfer of data to the central data bank during census operations	INSD	Jan-Feb 2017	ACS/SID/SRO-WA	
	Assistance in developing applications for use on census smartphones	INSD	Jan-Apr 2017	ACS/SRO-WA	
	Introduction of a dynamic quality control procedure during the general census	INSD	Jan-Feb 2017	ACS/SRO-WA	
	Improving devices and mechanisms for distribution and dissemination of the results of the general census on population and housing (for example a system for accessing results via SMS)	INSD	May-July 2017	ACS/SRO-WA	
	Support in raising awareness on the adoption of the law on the third national survey	INSD	To be decided	ACS/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Improving the national accounts (adopting 2008 SNA and changing the year on which the accounts are based)	INSD	To be decided	ACS/CDD/SRO-WA	
<b>Industrial policy</b>	Support for revision of the national policy on industrialization	Ministry of Trade and Industry	June-Aug 2017	RITD/CDD/SRO-WA	

<b>Trade</b>	Technical support for the promotion of e-commerce	Ministry of Trade and Industry	June-July 2017	RITD/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for the publication of statistics on trade	Ministry of Trade and Industry	To be decided	RITD/ACS/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for the completion of a national strategy on promoting exports	Ministry of Trade and Industry	To be decided	RITD/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Strengthening of norms and quality for promotion and competitiveness of domestic products	Ministry of Trade and Industry	Sept-Oct 2017	RITD/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Drawing up a charter for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises to reduce the informal economy	Ministry of Trade and Industry	Oct 2017	RITD/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Sharing successful experiences with other countries with respect to processing practices in the private sector	Ministry of Trade and Industry	To be decided	RITD/CDD/SRO-WA	
<b>Sustainable development and the environment</b>	Developing tools for taxation and environmental accounting	Ministries of the environment and agriculture/ National Council on Sustainable Development	Mar-June 2017	SID/ACS/MPD/SRO-WA	
	Training statisticians and planners on sustainable development and environmental issues	Ministries of the environment and agriculture/ National Council on Sustainable Development	June-July 2017	IDEP/ACS/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Capacity-building of civil servants on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals	Ministries of the environment and agriculture/ National Council on Sustainable Development	June-July 2017	IDEP/MPD/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for completion and monitoring and evaluation of the second rural sector national programme in particular in statistical analysis, expertise in results-based management and implementation of a computer system	Ministries of the environment and agriculture/ National Council on Sustainable Development	Feb 2017	MPD/ACS/CDD/SRO-WA	



	Updating of environmental data which is used in planning	Ministries of the environment and agriculture	Feb-Mar 2017	ACS/MPD/SID/CDD/SRO-WA	
<b>Land policy</b>	Technical support in respect of land policy	Ministries of the environment and agriculture	July-Sept 2017	RITD/CDD/SRO-WA	
<b>Mining sector</b>	Support for negotiating capability with respect to mining contracts	Ministry of Mines	To be decided	AMDC/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for control of mining activities	Ministry of Mines	To be decided	AMDC/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for improving geological knowledge concerning mining potential in Burkina Faso in order to establish a policy on diversification in production and to reduce the information imbalance	Ministry of Mines	Feb 2017	AMDC/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Capacity-building in universities and training schools on mining value chains	Universities and schools providing training on value chains in mining	To be decided	CADM/IDEP/CDD/SRO-WA	
<b>Advancement of women</b>	Technical and organizational support for data collection and the creation of a data base with disaggregation by gender in order to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of policies	Ministry for the Promotion of Women/DGESS	Sept-Nov 2017	SDPD/ACS/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for resource mobilization and access to funding for women	Ministry for the Promotion of Women/DGESS	Sept-Nov 2017	SDPD/MPD/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for taking into account women's issues in mining entrepreneurship	Ministry for the Promotion of Women/DGESS	Sept-Nov 2017	CADM/RITD/SRO-WA/CDD	
<b>Education</b>	To be decided	DGESS/Ministry of Education	To be decided	To be decided	
<b>Digital economy</b>	To be decided	Ministry of the Digital Economy	To be decided	To be decided	
<b>Civil registration</b>	Support for the development and implementation of a national strategy on civil registration	INSD	To be decided	ACS/SRO-WA/CDD	

<b>Agricultural sector</b>	Technical capacity-building with respect to land management, managing the effects of climate change and the structures responsible for food and nutritional security	Ministries of the environment and agriculture	Sept-Dec 2017	RITD/SID/CDD/SRO-WA	
	Support for improvement of quality and for processing of local produce	Ministries of the environment and agriculture	Sept-Dec 2017	RITD/SID/CDD/SRO-WA	

<i>Key:</i>	ACS	–	African Centre for Statistics
	AMDC	–	African Minerals Development Centre
	CAPES	–	Centre for Analysis of Economic and Social Policies
	CDD	–	Capacity Development Division
	DGEP	–	Directorate General of the Economy and Planning
	DGESS	–	Directorate General of Sectoral Studies and Statistics
	IDEP	–	African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
	INSd	–	National Institute of Statistics and Development
	MPD	–	Macroeconomic Policy Division
	PNDES	–	National Plan for Economic and Social Development
	RITD	–	Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division
	SDPD	–	Social Development Policy Division
	SID	–	Special Initiatives Division
	SNA	–	System of National Accounts
	SRO-WA	–	Subregional Office for West Africa