

Conference Summary

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso 26-28 March 2002

From the 26 to March 28 2002, a national conference on the International Criminal Court was held in the "Amiso Hotel" in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. This conference was jointly organized by the Association of Women Lawyers of Burkina Faso (AFJ/BF) and the Inter-African Union of the Humans right (UIDH), with technical support from Human Rights Watch.

The opening ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Justice of Burkina Faso, in the presence of the Minister for Public Safety, the Secretary of State for the Promotion of the Humans Rights, the President of the Court of Justice of the UEMOA (Economic Union and Monetarist West African), and the Ambassador of Canada to Burkina-Faso.

This seminar gathered the experts of the government (particularly from the Ministries for Justice and the Foreign Affairs), NGO, the University of Ouagadougou, the Bar and the magistrature.

An expert of the ministry for the Justice of Niger came to share the experiment in his country whose Parliament has just approved the law of ratification of the Rome Statut. An expert of the government of Mali, which already ratified the Rome Statut, also taken part in work of this meeting.

In his speech on the opening of Ceremonie, the Minister of Justice reiterated the will of his country to take part in the setting-up and the work of the international penal Court.

The participants heard communications on the following topics: 1°) ' presentation of the Rome statute - crimes envisaged by the International Criminal Court and the procedure in front of it ', by Mr. Kassoum KAMBOU, Magistrate, secretary-general of the Burkinabé Movement of the Humans right -- MBDH;

2°) ' the participation of Burkina Faso in the PrepCom meetings, and the conference 'Ecowas' by Mr. Alain Edouard TRAORE, Lawyer and Adviser of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

3°) - ' the difference between the mechanism of the ICC and The Tibunals of Yougoslavia and Rwanda: by Mr. Gustave KAM, Magistrate;

4°) ' the incorporation of the crimes of the ICC in the National Legislation :, approach, procedure, obstacles' by Mr. Cheick OUEDRAOGO, Magistrate, president of the national Commission of codification;

5°) ' Mali experiences on the process of ratification' by Mr. Mohamed MAIGA, head of the Department of the International agreements, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Mali;

6°) ' the process in progress in Niger' by Mr. SIDIBE S. Dirarou, Magistrate, Secretary-general of the ministry for the Justice of Niger;

7°) ' European Union' s experiences in the implimentation and cooperation. presented by Mr. Pascal KAMBALE of Human Rights Watch.

These Recommandations has been taken by the Conference:

- Recommendation relating to the second reading of articles 313 to 316 of the burkinabé penal code;
- Recommendation on the ratification of the Statute of Rome by Burkina Faso;
- Recommendation on the adoption of the provisions allowing to ensure the protection of the victims and their families;
- Recommendation on the adoption of an additive law inserted in the penal code and the code of penal procedure to allow a full and whole cooperation between Burkina Faso and the CICC.