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## 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

### Oral intervention on the Universal Periodic Review of

**Burkina Faso**

18 September 2013

Speaker: Mr. Mewail Tesfamariam

Thank you Mr. President,

Allow me to first commend the Republic of Burkina Faso for its cooperation with the UPR mechanism and its willingness to implement many of the recommendations made in this cycle of the process.

RADDHO is also encouraged by Burkina Faso's readiness to increase its engagement with the international community in helping it improve the situations of human rights in the country.

Mr. President, as peace, stability and security constitute the key to democracy and good governance; we note with great appreciation the positive role Burkina Faso has been playing in contributing towards peace and stability in Western Africa. Hence, we encourage Burkina Faso to continue in this path of peace and constructive engagement with all neighbouring countries in promoting peace and stability.

Mr. President, in light of these positive signs, our organization is however concerned by the continuous violence and discrimination against women, including domestic violence and the abhorrent practice of Female Genital Mutilation in Burkina Faso, which persist to this day. We therefore call on the government of Burkina Faso to not only redouble its efforts in eradicating the harmful practice of Female Genital Mutilation, but to also promote education and increase the sensitivity of this harmful practice both in the rural and urban areas of the country.

We moreover call on Burkina Faso to exert its utmost effort in combating child trafficking and child labour in the country. In addition, we encourage Burkina Faso to increase its public awareness campaign about human rights, including promoting awareness by providing training to law enforcement institutions in the country.

In conclusion, RADDHO would like to extend its best wishes to Burkina Faso in its endeavour to achieve peace, and urge the authorities to do all most efforts in institutions building and full cooperation with all political parties, NGO'S and civil society.

Thank you Mr. President.