

**BURKINA FASO**  
**Unity – Progress - Justice**



**PRESENTATION BY BURKINA FASO TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

First of all, please allow us, on behalf of our country's highest authorities, to salute the remarkable work by the International Labour Office (ILO) through its Subregional Office for the Sahel Region in support of our development initiatives and especially in the field of employment promotion and poverty reduction.

It is an honour and a real pleasure for us to share with all the participants of this Session the experience of Burkina Faso in dealing with employment and poverty reduction issues.

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country, highly dependent on the vagaries of the climate. Its estimated population of some 13 million people is predominantly rural. Agriculture, the main source of activity and incomes is still dominated by subsistence farming and traditional livestock farming, despite the existence of cash crops such as cotton, for which revenues remain precarious due to international market conditions. The urban economy is largely taken up by informal activities, while there are not enough modern structured activities. In any case, incomes in the country are still low and the country is suffering from a level of poverty which it is now seeking to reduce.

Since 2000, our country has made poverty reduction the central pillar of its economic and social concerns and its development efforts. This is now the setting for government thinking and action on employment.

The initiatives taken by our country to meet the challenges related to employment and economic and social development concern various areas contained in the Global Employment Agenda of the International Labour Office. This presentation does not pretend to cover all these areas but only a few specific aspects relevant to the agenda of the Session.

### **I. NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT POLICY (NEP)**

Employment lies at the heart of the concerns of the five-year programme 2006-2010 of the President of Burkina Faso, His Excellency Blaise Compaoré, which provides that the Government, with its development partners, will put in place ambitious job creation programmes and reduction of unemployment. These programmes are structured around six basic pillars:

1. job-creating growth;
2. productive investment;
3. employment in sectoral policies;
4. jobs linked to information and communication technologies;
5. employment in micro-projects and SME/SMI;

## 6. observation and monitoring of the labour market.

The promotion of vocational training, also included in the five-year programme, will seek, among other things, to promote the system of sandwich courses and adapt training to emerging occupations by making the education sector more vocationally oriented.

In addition, since the in-depth review of 2003, employment has become one of the four strategic pillars of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework (PSRP) which is accepted by all concerned as the chief point of reference for economic and social policies aimed at reducing poverty.

Although employment promotion and vocational training measures taken in the past had some impact on the growth in job opportunities, it should be noted that their effects were still inadequate given the scale of the challenges of employment and poverty in Burkina Faso. In 2003, total unemployment was estimated by the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) at 2.2 per cent. However, this figure conceals major disparities. Indeed, the unemployment rate in rural areas is ostensibly less than 0.5 per cent while it is 11.8 per cent for urban areas and 14.3 per cent in the two major cities of Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso. In the capital, unemployment primarily affects young people. Two thirds of the unemployed have a high level of education but at the same time make up the largest number of job seekers. Added to that is the high level of under-employment estimated at 40 per cent in rural areas and the fact that almost 90 per cent of the poor are in work. Of these, almost 95 per cent are self-employed working in agriculture.

In addition, future employment needs will be huge. According to data prepared by the INSD, the active population aged 15 years and over is expected to rise by 140,000 to 150,000 annually until 2010 and by over 160,000 annually between 2010 and 2015. However, job creation in recent years is estimated at around 20,000 jobs annually.

It is clear, therefore, that we are faced with a very large decent work deficit which calls for energetic mobilization of employment, and especially jobs for young people entering the labour market.

After five years (2001-2005) of implementing the strategic framework for employment promotion and vocation training, and in the light of the conclusions of the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union on employment and poverty reduction, our country was led to adopt a National Employment Policy (NEP). This is the task for which the Government is currently geared up, in collaboration with the social partners and civil society organizations. In this work, we have the benefit of technical and financial support from the International Labour Office (ILO). Formulation of the NEP project began in August 2006 and it was adopted by a national tripartite workshop in December 2006. The action plan for the

implementation of the NEP is now being finalized. The NEP together with its action plan will be submitted for adoption by the Council of Ministers by the end of 2007.

The national employment policy is the conceptual and practical framework for all national interventions in the employment field. Its goal is to increase decent work opportunities in order to reduce poverty in Burkina Faso. By so doing, it is answering the major challenge which is to improve the quality of new jobs in the labour market. Thus, the NEP has four strategic objectives:

- to create a link between employment policy and other national policies to clarify their interdependence and show the potential contributions of macro-economic and sectoral policies in creating and improving the quality of jobs (core elements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 of the Global Employment Agenda);
- to strengthen the dynamic of job creation by using specific means of action to stimulate employment and improve its quality, and which must be activated or promoted (core elements 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 of the Global Employment Agenda);
- to improve employability, i.e. improve access to employment through vocational training and make vocational more relevant to the reality of the labour market (core elements 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9 of the Global Employment Agenda);
- to improve the organization and functioning of the labour market in order to manage it better and ensure that it plays a more specific role in access to employment (core elements 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Global Employment Agenda).

## **II. LINKAGES BETWEEN THE NEP AND THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

By adopting the Sustainable Human Development Letter of Intent (LIPDHD) in 1995 which formed the basis of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework (PRSP) in 2000, the ambition of the Government of Burkina Faso is to focus the country's development strategy of promotion of human security. Since the in-depth review of the PRSP in 2003, employment has been one of the four strategic pillars of the PRSP, but it is still treated as a sector of government action rather than a cross-cutting imperative. Its role does not stand out sufficiently as a major lever in reducing poverty. Furthermore, the Priority Action Programme for the implementation of the PRSP 2004-2006 which is the key process for taking into account the sectoral policies in the PRSP and allocation of debt alleviation resources, does little to reflect these concerns.

An imminent review of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework and its Priority Action Plan is planned for the second quarter of 2007, thus making an important opportunity to consolidate questions of decent work in the development strategies

pursued by the country. Likewise, the review of the World Bank's Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC) will take place in Spring 2007.

The ILO provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Youth and Employment so that employment is integrated in the new Priority Action Plan, in particular by encouraging greater collaboration between our Ministry and the Ministry of the Economy and Development responsible for the implementation of the PRSP. In addition, work has been done to align the timetable for formulation of the Employment Policy with the review of the PRSP.

In the pursuit of efficient public spending, Burkina Faso is seeking to make the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) the prime tool for channelling resources better to the priority sectors. The ILO is working with the Ministry in formulating a sectoral MTEF for employment as well as a programme-budget with the support of the Ministry of Finance and the Budget. These budgetary planning tools are essential to the effective allocation of resources for the benefit of the NEP and its action plan.

The ILO is also assisting our Ministry to ensure that programmes are financed by the PRSC, which is currently under review, through continuous dialogue with the World Bank which is piloting this process.

Finally, a pillar and specific proposals have been developed in the NEP for strengthening the participation of the Ministry of Youth and Employment and the social partners in the PRSP. These activities will be implemented in the context of the ILO/France project on *Support for employment promotion and poverty reduction*.

Employment is also a priority area for UNDAF for 2006-2010. Concerned to ensure consistency and complementarity between the process of formulation of the NEP and UNDAF, and with a view to concentrating the limited resources allocated to employment questions on the priorities identified in the NEP, the ILO provided considerable technical support in formulating the programme document for the implementation of the pillar "Expanding employment opportunities and income generating activities". In addition, UNDP has expressed its interest in supporting the implementation of the NEP and as a priority the activities relating to publicizing and disseminating the NEP and the Action Plan at regional level and strengthening the relevance of vocational training to the labour market.

In order to facilitate and encourage the alignment of the development partners with the NEP, and with the support of the ILO, the process of formulating the National Employment Policy is coupled with the work of coordinating institutions intervening in employment questions in Burkina Faso (UNDP, World Bank, ILO, technical ministries and the Ministry of Youth and Employment).

## **II. THE STRATEGIC PILLARS OF INTERVENTION IN EMPLOYMENT AND WORK**

### **1- Promotion of private job creation activities**

In the context of the re-launch of the national economy, many measures and reforms have been carried out by our country to make the private sector the spearhead of Burkina Faso's economy with the objective of creating decent jobs for the people.

Thus, legislation and regulations were adopted and development programmes and projects and economic support were initiated to promote job creation through the development of enterprises. This legislation includes, among other things, the Investment Code and the Private Sector Development Policy Letter (PSDPL). The Private Sector Development Policy Letter seeks in particular to strengthen the capacities of enterprises by emphasizing workers' training and encouraging the creation and safeguarding of jobs. An action plan to implement this policy letter has been adopted by our Government.

The Burkina Faso House of Enterprise (MEBF) created in 2002 supports project promoters in formalizing their business through Enterprise Formality Centres (CEFORE). The time needed to obtaining the necessary permits thus fell from 21 to 7 working days. Together with the Enterprise Capacity Building Programme, which has been in operation since 2003, it plays a role in strengthening the capacities of job creating enterprises.

In addition, the Burkina National Employers' Council (CNPB) has clearly expressed the concerns and needs of the private sector in terms of the reforms and measures that should be introduced. There has been a variety of thinking on this theme and especially a study of the business climate based on a survey carried out in February 2006. There is a mechanism for promoting dialogue and cooperation between the State and the private sector which allows both sides each year to take stock of the actions taken and exchange views on the problem of finding a balance between the need to increase State revenues and encourage investment through an attractive tax system. Finally, various financial mechanisms (funds, micro-credit system) have been put in place to support enterprise creation.

However, the private economic landscape is not homogeneous. Consequently, it is essential to divide the problems and solutions into two major categories of private enterprise. On one side, modern enterprises which by their nature call for a type of action focussed on the infrastructural, institutional, regulatory, legal, financial, fiscal and technical training framework. On the other side, micro and small enterprises which require rather more direct support, closer and more personalized actions operating rather more in an informal world.

For modern enterprises, sectoral strategies obviously play an important role to the extent that they influence behaviour and sources of growth. However, the two main levers of action of the NEP are:

- firstly, cross-cutting reform in the framework areas already mentioned and for which effective dialogue and partnership between the State and the private sector can and must play a central role; and
- secondly, the support network in terms of services to businesses, the improvement of which is largely dependent on the organizational capacities of the private sector itself.

That being the case, a huge number of proposals have now been made and the chief problem is to give them some cohesion, evaluate their feasibility and take the necessary decisions. This is what the NEP seeks and encourages in this regard.

In the case of micro and small enterprises (MSE), the action taken is partly at policy level in the artisanal sector and partly in relation to the employment promotion mechanism that is gradually being put in place. Although primarily targeting self-employment, this mechanism also broadly affects MSE through interventions aimed at preparing for entrepreneurship, support for initiatives and access to financing. It should, however, be noted that the action aimed at MSE is somewhat disparate and needs clarity, unity and strengthening.

Thus, the government's framework of intervention is crucial and the action needed is more complex. The advantage in this area is, firstly, that there is already a mechanism targeted on promotion of self-employment and, secondly, that many of those intervening are interested in MSE. That is why the action strategy proposed by the NEP is based on four necessities:

- to clarify the global strategic approach to MSE and modes of intervention;
- to strengthen the existing mechanism and fill the gaps, including at the micro-financing level;
- to wide the scope of action at regional level;
- to provide clear, firm and active leadership in managing the action.

## **2- Targeted insertion action**

The NEP seeks to widen the scope to actions targeting employment promotion and to develop intervention in three directions:

### **1. Rationalisation and strengthening of the employment promotion mechanism**

The promotion mechanism currently in place has been built up over the years without really being part of global policy framework with precisely defined objectives. There are still gaps in the promotion mechanism in comparison with the need for a wide spectrum of actions and there is a need to ensure that the mechanism is more coherent



and efficient. Whence the need to supplement the mechanism and rationalise as far as possible, while giving it greater strength to intervene in terms of organization, resources and capacities.

## 2. Employment promotion of vulnerable social categories

This concerns primarily, but not exclusively, young people and women.

As regards young people, by the end of the first half of 2007, the Government will introduce a Youth Initiatives Support Fund (FAIJ) which seeks to improve access by young people to credit in general and in particular to ensure financing for young people with enterprise training. It is also envisaged this year to launch the training project for 5,000 young people a year in enterprise creation methods and the entrepreneurial spirit. Since 2006, the Government has also been providing traineeships for young people in enterprises. In most cases, the traineeship led to permanent recruitment. Strategically, however, the Government's action intends to develop in two directions:

- intensified action, affecting young people especially, by strengthening the organizational capacities and resources of existing institutions, and the expansion of the mechanism to cover outstanding problems and greater emphasis on regional targeting;
- more diversified action to adjust it to specific problems of different categories of young people, which means gaining a much more thorough understanding of the characteristics and needs of these categories and diversification of specific action programmes.

The principal measures taken to promote women's employment are the introduction of the Women's Remunerated Activities Support Fund (FAARF), the chief purpose of which is to promote access by women to credit and to provide them with training in managing their businesses better, and the project "Production and Training Centre for Girls" which is aimed at the social and economic promotion of girls in rural areas. However, the promotion of women's employment has not so far been the subject of structured action. Whence the following proposed measure:

- to obtain a better knowledge of the specific problem of women's employment;
- to define a strategy and lines of action;
- to generalise consideration of the gender dimension throughout the NEP.

Three other vulnerable social categories also drew the attention of the NEP:

- children, who must be protected against the worst forms of labour, in particular by appropriate legislation suited to the socio-economic context;
- disabled persons who are particularly disadvantaged in work and for whom positive discrimination measures must be envisaged;

- migrants with regard to the three aspects of the problem, namely emigration, immigration and repatriation, with a concern in all three cases to have a better grasp of the phenomena, define policies to manage them and better apply international recommendations for protection of this type of worker.

### 3. Promotion of highly labour-intensive work

With regard to the promotion of highly labour-intensive work, the strategy implemented by the NEP must take account of the lessons of past experience, the difficulty of achieving an active consensus and the heavy organizational demands of such an approach. Faced with these considerations, a progressive action strategy was adopted which provides the basis of universal or at least large scale intervention. Whence the following approach:

- the establishment of two pilot projects once consensus has been reached on the approach and the methods;
- choosing an organization which ensures the conduct of all components of the process;
- certainty of acceptance by order-givers and small and medium-sized enterprises in buildings and public works willing to play the game and organize themselves accordingly.

### **3- Skills development and employability**

While seeking to create decent work, the Government is conscious that this must be accompanied by an improvement in employability, especially the young.

It is in this regard that actions have been initiated to develop quality vocational training in line with the needs of the labour market as a normal and accelerated channel for the social and vocational integration of young people.

The actions taken in this context concern certification of vocational training to accredit and open wider perspectives for the young people trained. In addition, measures to increase the provision of training have been taken by the Government. In this regard, 13 regional centres and 7 provincial vocational training centres of the National Employment Agency have been created and equipped. This decentralization of training is intended to ensure better local coverage by the national training system and diversification of the provision of training to reach a larger number of young people. This national mechanism for increasing the provision of training will be strengthened by the extension and modernization of the evaluation and vocational training centre in Ouagadougou thanks to a loan from the Islamic Development Bank.

In addition, our country has received technical and financial support from the Republic of China to build four vocational training schools and 23 vocational training centres all equipped under the Programme to Strengthen Vocational Training.

The Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Support Fund (FAFPA) was set up with the support of the Burkina National Employers' Council (CNPB) to finance vocational training and apprenticeship activities. The Joint Committee on Vocational Training through Apprenticeship (CCFPA), with responsibility for examining questions relating to apprenticeship, was also established in the context of implementing the strategic paper on employment and vocational training adopted by the Government in 2001

Despite these efforts, a variety of challenges still remain to be addressed, among other things, to allow:

- training and availability of a skilled and competitive workforce, appropriate to the national economy and also able to prove their worth abroad, in a globalized economy;
- reconciliation of supply and demand for training, while anticipating evolution of the labour market and avoiding dysfunctional situations where there is abundant unskilled or low-skilled labour, while vacancies in certain sectors are unfilled;
- revision of training courses and programmes to adapt them to today's realities and align them with the needs of business.

To improve the skills of the poor, those living in rural areas or working in the informal economy, there is a need:

- to bring training provision closer to the target groups;
- to combine technical training with knowledge in basic subjects, entrepreneurship and preservation of the environment and health, so that work is not a source of destruction and disease;
- to support training by assistance with placement in employment, a bold policy of access to credit and teaching about saving.

The ILO is supporting our country in aligning employment and vocational training policies. It is also assisting us in the structuring of training and training mechanisms. Through its training centre in Turin, it is assisting with training of trainers and qualification of human resources. Through the GERME programme, it has developed modules for management training, entrepreneurship and support to those working in the informal sector. But these actions are *ad hoc* and need to be consolidated, sustained over time and expanded over a wider area.

## **4- Functioning of the labour market and decent work**

### **4.1- The labour market information system**

The labour market in Burkina Faso is not very well known, it is highly disparate and poorly understood in terms of the different sectors of employment. The market that is actually regulated and more or less organized concerns only two per cent of employment in the country, and barely twice that if the civil service is included. Intermediation between supply and demand is very limited. One of the NEP lines of action, therefore, is to improve the employment information system, which nowadays relies essentially on the major periodic surveys such as the population census and the Priority Survey on Household Living Conditions. The National Employment and Training Observatory (ONEF), established with ILO support, is a valuable tool for information on employment and training. It is essential to strengthen it by giving it the necessary legal conditions, information production objectives and action capacities to allow it to play a capital role in knowledge of the labour market. Thus, ONEF should be responsible for both the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of employment policies and programmes, and for the production of labour market indicators to provide information about a largely agricultural and informal economy.

### **4.2- The road to decent work**

Various actions have been taken to achieve the objectives of decent work as recommended by the international community through the ILO and which our country supports, among other ways, through the ILO projects and programmes in Burkina Faso such as PAMODEC, IPEC, LUTRENA, ILO/STEP, ILO/USDOL/HIV-AIDS and through direct technical and financial support for the implementation of our activities in the fields of work, social security, health at work and strengthening the capacities of all our social partners.

#### ***Regulation***

The regulatory framework of labour is highly structured and has just been revised. It essentially guarantees fundamental rights at work. However, its scope of application is limited and in some areas it is ignored or poorly enforced. Women in particular are still in a position of inferiority. Burkina Faso has ratified 35 International Labour Conventions, including the eight Fundamental Conventions of the ILO which have all been incorporated in national legislation. In the process of elaborating the Labour Code, the concerns of the social partners, expressed through their organizations, were taken into account, together with the provisions of the ILO Conventions, in particular C 138 and C182.

Several texts in application of the Labour Code were adopted in December 2006 by the Consultative Committee on Labour. However, despite the revision of the Labour

Code in 2004, by consensus between all the social partners and based on national and international approaches, some of the provisions are still considered rigid and contrary to the needs of labour market flexibility and the need for our enterprises to compete internationally. The criticized provisions are articles 102, 103 and 106 of the Code which will be re-examined with a view to amending or deleting them.

Improvements to the regulatory framework of labour, especially in application of the new Labour Code, International Conventions, and, more generally, potential improvements required to generate more and better quality jobs, are thus envisaged. The regulatory texts will be examined or prepared during the year taking account in future of the need for flexibility in the labour market and social justice including workers' safety and health. The ILO will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour in this work.

As regards collective bargaining, the trend is towards revitalizing this area. The collective agreement for the pharmaceutical sector was signed back on 1 February 2007. The collective agreement for banks and financial institutions is in course of preparation. Bargaining is also under way or envisaged in other sectors such as the press, bakeries, road haulage. This year, our country envisages the revision of the all-occupations collective agreement of July 1974.

### ***Social security***

Social security, which is generally weak, only affects the wage-earning sector, which is itself very small. In the context of drawing up the national social security policy, Burkina Faso benefited from technical and financial support from the ILO in organizing multisectoral meetings and workshops. These meetings were an opportunity to taken account of the concerns and expectations of the social partners and civil society.

Finally, the ILO provides Burkina Faso with constant support in training and capacity-building. In the social security sector, there have been many actions, among which mention should be made of the training grants for staff of the Department of Social Security and Mutual Organizations in 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2004.

### ***Social Dialogue***

The formulation of the National Employment Policy (NEP) and its action plan is based on a broad dialogue between the government, the social partners and civil society and resources persons. Social dialogue and the active participation of trade unions and employers is the basis of this work.

Thus in the process of formulating the NEP, workshops were held in the trade unions federations on the one side and employers' organizations on the other. These

workshops enriched the NEP project by taking into account the concerns of the social partners and also strengthened the capacities of the participants in the formulation of an employment policy. On that occasion, the trade union federations formed a working group on “Employment and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper” made up of two representatives from each trade union. The momentum was not lost, as the group met again to discuss the draft NEP action plan.

Finally, the participation of the social partners in validating the NEP in December 2006 was excellent both in quantity and quality.

Several activities were carried on by the Burkina National Employers’ Council (CNPB) and the trade union federations in the field of employment and vocational training, some with ILO support.

They included, among others:

- direction of the GERME programme (manage your business better) and training of several trainers;
- organization of seminars and workshops on human resources management, professional relations and communication in the enterprise, operation of a vocational training fund, elaboration of a training plan, organization of vocational training, certification of occupations and skills, the role and tasks of the social partners in job creation and vocational training, the employers’ rights and obligations under labour law;
- signing of a financing agreement for USD 75,000 to strengthen the technical capacities of FAFPA (training of advisers, study missions, elaboration of procedural manuals, production of promotional leaflets, etc.);
- conduct of a study on conditions for job creation in the private sector;
- elaboration of a guide to the procedures for the creation and operation of SME/SMI;
- establishment of a capacity-building programme for employers’ organizations in Burkina Faso, Mali and Mauritania;
- signing of a bipartite partnership agreement on vocational training between the employers organizations and the trade unions federations;
- participation in the national commission for certification of diplomas and skills;
- participation in the national commission on vocational training.

#### **IV. THE INFORMAL ECONOMY**

The informal sector in Burkina Faso contributes at least 20 per cent annually to GDP and helps to prevent unemployment by occupying a not inconsiderable proportion of the active urban population. It employs 12 per cent of the active population of the country’s population and 70 per cent of the active urban population.

Given the exceptional weight of the informal economy in income generation in Burkina Faso, the Government has tried to organize the sector, by creating a

Department on Support and Monitoring of the Informal Sector in the Ministry of Youth and Employment. The aim is to raise awareness among those working in the sector and mobilize around their interests in order to provide them with a better framework.

Training modules were elaborated and implemented locally. All of this has a positive impact on the sector which is becoming structured and participating more in the generation of the national wealth by absorbing a large part of the workforce, and thus reducing levels of unemployment and poverty.

An appropriate financial system to stimulate the informal economy was put in place consisting of the following mechanisms:

- 1) an Informal Sector Support Fund (FASI), a grass-roots financing mechanisms intended to promote micro projects. The FASI, created by decree in 1998, has up to now essentially financed micro enterprises in commerce and not enough in the productive sectors. Recovery rates are high, over 90 per cent.
- 2) An Employment Promotion Support Fund (FAPE), an intermediate mechanisms contributing to the financing of small enterprises.

The system has a dual logic: firstly, the priority target group of the mechanism is marginal to the traditional financial market; secondly, the approved FASI promoter has the possibility of accessing other means of credit as he grows. A geographical extension of the scheme is currently in progress. However, the sustainability of these mechanisms must be ensured.

## **CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES**

Employment continues to be a constant concern of the Burkina Faso Government. Far from being just a political speech, employment promotion is a central pillar of the five-year programme of His Excellency, the President of Burkina Faso, with the title « constant progress for a society of hope ». In the context of implementing the programme, the Government has initiated employment creation projects and programmes, some of which have already been submitted to the ILO.

Essentially, we should emphasize the following projects and programmes:

- the vocational training programme for 6,000 young people;
- the programme of social and professional integration of young graduates of our universities;
- the equipment programme for young people in rural areas;
- the programme of support to initiatives by young people in rural areas;
- Top job vacancies project.

In order to expand access by young people to micro-project financing, the Government will establish by the end of the first half of this year a Youth Initiatives Support Fund (FAIJ) which seeks to improve access by young people to credit in general and in particular to ensure financing for young people with enterprise training.

As regards perspectives, major undertakings will be developed by our country. This requires sufficient financial resources and strengthening national capacities to compete internationally.

Our country would also wish to request technical and financial support from the ILO to implement its national employment policy and the projects and programmes mentioned earlier to:

- strengthen national capacities by training those involved;
- carry out studies ;
- organize workshops to validate and disseminate the studies undertaken;
- institutional support for the development of institutions;
- social dialogue which, although effective, needs strengthening, especially in relation to the implementation of the NEP in which it has a role to play;

In addition, the projects and programmes implemented by the ILO in Burkina Faso must be continued and their actions intensified.

Finally, the ILO is requested to support us in our applications to donors to mobilize funds to implement the priority actions identified by our country in relation to employment and poverty reduction.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our gratitude to the ILO and all those partners who work together with us in our initiatives to achieve sustainable development.