1. Context

Located in the heart of West Africa, Burkina Faso has enormous potential in terms of natural resources, including mining, water, plant, fish, and wildlife. Similarly, according to the latest general population and housing census carried out in 2019, its population is essentially made up of young people (77.8% of the population is aged under 35).

Despite the significant progress made between 1995 and 2015, the highly promising development momentum is severely hindered by the multidimensional crisis following the terrorism that has plagued the Sahel in general and Burkina Faso in particular since 2015.

In terms of governance, Burkina Faso has undergone two major changes at the top of the State in the space of eight months, leading to the establishment of the Transition bodies and the adoption of the Action Plan for Stabilization and Development (PA-SD) in January 2023 as a framework for guiding the Transition’s priorities. The strategic objectives of that Action Plan are: i) to fight terrorism and restore territorial integrity; ii) to respond to the humanitarian crisis; iii) to rebuild the State and improve governance; iv) to work towards national reconciliation and social cohesion.

At the socio-economic level, as in other countries, economic growth in Burkina Faso has been severely affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, in an already difficult security context.

Despite the various crises (health, security, and environmental) facing Burkina Faso, its economy has remained resilient, with average annual growth of 5.2% between 2016 and 2022. However, it remains vulnerable to external shocks due to its low level of transformation.

Progress towards Agenda 2030

With a view to achieving the goals of the agenda 2030, in 2016 Burkina Faso began prioritizing targets and integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) covering the period 2016-2020. On the solid ground of SDGs domestication, the implementation of the PNDES resulted in appreciable progress in terms of sustainable development. However, the exacerbation of the security crisis and violent extremism, socio-political instability and the COVID-19 pandemic have undermined the results achieved². To curb the multidimensional crisis, Burkina Faso is placing peace at the top of its development agenda. Thus, the PNDES II 2021-2025 aims to make "Burkina Faso, a nation of solidarity, democracy, resilience and peace, transforming the structure of its economy to achieve strong, inclusive and sustainable growth". The PA-SD, which is its central instrument for operationalization during the current transition, is in line with the same dynamic.

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According to the 2023 Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the implementation of the SDGs, Burkina Faso has made significant progress towards achieving the SDGs on sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12), climate change resilience (SDG 13), environmental protection (SDG 15), the
creation of decent jobs (SDG 8) and the reduction of inequalities (SDG 10). On the other hand, Burkina Faso lags significantly behind in promoting clean energy (SDG 7) and ensuring people’s access to safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements (SDG 11). Significant delays are even more pronounced when it comes to achieving the targets of SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

However, according to 2021 projections of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), based on progress on the main indicators using the anticipated progress index without the effects of COVID-19, Burkina Faso would be in a good position to achieve better performance in 2030 on the SDGs: 2 (reduce hunger); 10 (reduce inequality); 13 (combat climate change) and 17 (strengthen partnership).

Therefore, in terms of Partnership, the country should step up its efforts, particularly in the People, Prosperity, and Peace pillars, while consolidating achievements in the Planet pillar and considering the multidimensional risks linked to the implementation of the SDGs by 2030 (security, geopolitical tensions, tighter financing, climate change, etc.).

To overcome these multifaceted challenges, opportunities are nonetheless opening for Burkina Faso. These include: national reconciliation; the existence of a fruitful inter-religious dialogue; a well-developed institutional and legal framework in terms of governance and human rights; abundant mineral resources; the demographic transition and dividend; promotion of the green economy; promotion of digitalization and innovation; regional integration (African Continental Free Trade Area - ZLECAF); cooperation and partnership, and the Humanitarian - Development - Peace Nexus approach, in a synergy of action by all of the state and non-state actors, and the identification of collective results for strengthened shared commitments. These include:

- Consolidating peace and social cohesion through inclusive and participatory local governance.
- Food and nutrition security.
- Access to quality basic social services.
- Inclusive, quality social protection.

2. Justification

In view of the above, Burkina Faso has decided to organize, with the support of the United Nations and technical and financial partners, a side event on the sidelines of the 78th General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2023 in New York.

The aim is to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the General Assembly to draw attention to the urgent need for action in Burkina Faso, and to mobilize donors and partners to accelerate the implementation of the PA-SD and its support instruments, including UNIDAP, with a view to achieving the SDGs in Burkina Faso.

The UNIDAP, which incorporates the four strategic priorities of the PA-SD 2023-2025, has set itself the task of leaving no one behind and reducing any risk of social divide that could further jeopardize social cohesion. It also aims to address multifaceted challenges through a humanitarian-development-peace Nexus approach.
3. **Objectives and results**

3.1 **Objectives**

3.1.1 **General objective**

The general objective is to draw attention to the urgent need for action in Burkina Faso, and to mobilize donors and partners for better implementation of the PA-SD and its support instruments, including UNIDAP, with a view to accelerating achievement of the SDGs.

3.1.2 **Specific objectives**

Specifically, this will involve:

- present and highlight best-practice processes and initiatives relating to UN-technical and financial partners-Government of Burkina Faso co-creation and instruments for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs: Flexible planning based on risk management, Joint dialogue committees, Nexus, Collective outcomes, Theory of change.
- identify socio-economic, internal, and cross-border challenges and opportunities to increase people's resilience through the implementation of the triple Nexus approach: Emerging challenges: migration-transhumance, economic transformation, social cohesion, cross-border security, peace, social cohesion.
- create new strategic, national, sub-regional and global partnership approaches to support the implementation of UNIDAP to achieve the objectives of the PA-SD.
- mobilize donors and technical and financial partners around the PA-SD and UNIDAP.

3.2. **Expected results.**

The following results are expected:

- Key processes and best practice initiatives related to UN-technical and financial partners Government of Burkina Faso co-creation are presented to the international community for better knowledge and understanding of Burkina Faso's programmatic framework in the context of security and humanitarian challenges.
- Socio-economic challenges and opportunities are identified internally, and a cross-border dynamic is launched to reinforce and improve ongoing processes for development and strengthening people's resilience in the face of crisis.
- New partnership approaches for cooperation are developed at strategic, national, sub-regional and global levels to support the implementation of UNIDAP to achieve the objectives of the PA-SD.
- Donors and technical and financial partners are mobilized around the PA-SD and UNIDAP.

4. **Participation and format**

The event will be attended by representatives of partner countries, United Nations officials, political decision-makers, specific groups (women and youth), technical and financial partners and academics.

The event will bring together a hundred people and will be organized in the form of a plenary session lasting an hour and a half (1H30), featuring statements from senior leaders, followed by a moderated debate. It aims to build support for collective action by governments, the international community, the private sector, and civil society organizations to accelerate the achievement of the objectives of national, regional, and international development agendas through greater multi-dimensional support to Burkina Faso and the countries of the sub-region.

The session will also be broadcast live on social media.
5. Date, time, place

Date: September 22, 2023
Time: 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm
Venue: Conference Room 7 at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

6. List of expected speakers

- Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso.
- Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabè Abroad.
- Minister of Economy, Finance and Prospective.
- UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator.
- Under-Secretary-General for the Coordination of UNS Development Activities.
- Technical and financial partners: Bilateral (2: Germany, USA, Japan) and Multilateral (World Bank, AfDB, IMF).
- National and International Private Sector: (CCI, SFI).

7. List of expected participants (100 people)

- Members of the Government of Burkina Faso
- United Nations system (Country Team and Headquarters)
- Member States of the United Nations
- Main technical and financial partners of the UN
- National and international private-sector entrepreneurs
- West African philanthropists: Dangote, Elumelu, ....
- Foundations: Bill & Melinda Gate, Warren Buffet, Rockefeller, Investment for Development...
- Burkina Faso delegation.

Draft Agenda

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>1:00PM-1:15PM</td>
<td>Welcome and lunch on site</td>
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<td>1:15PM-1:25PM</td>
<td>Opening ceremony</td>
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<td>Welcome remarks by the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso.</td>
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<td>A statement from the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.</td>
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<td>Opening remarks by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabè Abroad</td>
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<td>1:25PM-2:20PM</td>
<td>Financing the funding gap of PA-SD and UNIDAP</td>
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<td>Minister of the Economy: Presentation of the PA-SD and its integration in UNIDAP: Gap financing (15 min)</td>
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<td>UNS Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator: Co-creation process with UNIDAP as an accelerator for the SDGs (5 min)</td>
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<td>UN Under-Secretary-General for Development Coordination (5 min)</td>
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<td>Technical and financial partners: Bilateral (2: Germany, USA, Japan) and Multilateral (WB, AfDB, IMF) : (15 min)</td>
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<td>National and International Private Sector : (CCI, SFI) (6 min)</td>
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<td>2:00PM-2:40PM</td>
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<td>Exchanges and contributions from participants, Perspectives from technical and financial partners</td>
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<td>2:40PM-2:45PM</td>
<td>Conclusion and closing remarks</td>
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<td>Madam Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (2 min)</td>
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<td>Excellency Madam Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation and Burkinabè Abroad (2 min)</td>
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