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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0468/2022**

14.10.2022

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation in Burkina Faso following the coup d'état (2022/2865(RSP))

**Pedro Marques, Hannes Heide, Maria Arena**

on behalf of the S&D Group

**B9-0468/2022**

**European Parliament resolution on the situation in Burkina Faso following the coup d'état  
(2022/2865(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions, in particular those of 19 December 2019 on violations of human rights including religious freedoms in Burkina Faso<sup>1</sup>, of 16 September 2020 on EU-African security cooperation in the Sahel region, West Africa and the Horn of Africa<sup>2</sup>, and of 17 February 2022 on the political crisis in Burkina Faso<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the communiqué of 30 September 2022 on the socio-political situation in Burkina Faso by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS),
- having regard to the statement by the chairperson of the African Union Commission of 30 September 2022 on the situation in Burkina Faso,
- having regard to the statement by the spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General of 1 October 2022 on the situation in Burkina Faso,
- having regard to the UN Security Council statement of 7 October 2022 on the situation in Burkina Faso,
- having regard to the ECOWAS protocol on democracy and good governance,
- having regard to the joint communication from the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 9 March 2020 entitled ‘Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa’ (JOIN(2020)0004),
- having regard to the resolution of 11 March 2021 of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and the EU on democracy and the respect for constitutions in EU and ACP countries,
- having regard to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular SDG 16 on the promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
- having regard to the Constitution of the Republic of Burkina Faso,
- having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 255, 29.6.2021, p. 45.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 385, 22.9.2021, p. 24.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 342, 6.9.2022, p. 290.

and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 (Cotonou Agreement)<sup>4</sup>,

- having regard to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance,
  - having regard to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
  - having regard to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, on 30 September 2022, members of the Burkina Faso military, led by Captain Ibrahim Traoré, carried out a coup d'état, overthrowing Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who had seized power in a coup on 24 January 2022 that ousted democratically elected President Roch Kaboré; whereas Captain Ibrahim Traoré announced that Burkina Faso's borders would be closed indefinitely and that all political and civil society activities would be suspended; whereas Captain Ibrahim Traoré announced the reopening of the country's borders and the end of the curfew on 2 October 2022;
- B. whereas, on 30 September 2022, ECOWAS 'condemned in the strongest terms' a coup deemed 'inappropriate at a time when progress has been made for a return to constitutional order by no later than 1 July 2024';
- C. whereas, on 30 September 2022, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission denounced an unconstitutional change of government and called on the military to 'immediately and totally refrain from any acts of violence or threats to the civilian population, civil liberties, human rights, and ensure strict compliance with electoral deadlines for the restoration of constitutional order by 1 July 2024, at the latest';
- D. whereas, on 1 October 2022, the spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General strongly condemned 'any attempt to seize power by the force of arms', called on all actors to 'refrain from violence and seek dialogue', and stated that 'Burkina Faso needs peace, it needs stability, and it needs unity in order to fight terrorist groups and criminal networks operating in parts of the country';
- E. whereas, on 2 October 2022, supporters of the new military authorities attacked the headquarters of the French Embassy in Ouagadougou; whereas several other French institutions and French businesses in the country were vandalised in the wake of the coup;
- F. whereas, on 2 October 2022, Captain Ibrahim Traoré accepted the conditional resignation offered by President Paul-Henri Damiba;

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<sup>4</sup> OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3.

- G. whereas, on 4 October 2022, after a meeting with an ECOWAS delegation, Captain Ibrahim Traoré stated his intention to respect the democratic transition timeline agreed between his predecessor and ECOWAS; whereas Captain Ibrahim Traoré also undertook to honour Burkina Faso's international commitments, particularly regarding the protection of human rights;
- H. whereas, on 7 October 2022, the members of the UN Security Council expressed serious concern about the unconstitutional change of Government in Burkina Faso, particularly given the serious regional security challenges in the Sahel; whereas on 7 October 2022, the 'assises nationales' were announced by presidential decree with the aim of designating a president for the transition;
- I. whereas Burkina Faso continues to face a dire security and humanitarian situation, with nearly one fifth of the country's population in need of aid; whereas, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as of June 2022, more than 1.5 million people have been displaced as a consequence of the worsening security situation in the country, over half of them being children;
- J. whereas the Government of Burkina Faso started a process of security sector reform in 2017 with the creation of a national council for defence and security with the aim of modernising and fighting corruption in the security sector;
- K. whereas the civilian population in the North-Central and Sahel regions faces daily threats of violence from non-state armed groups; whereas credible reports suggest that at least eight children recently died of malnutrition in the town of Djibo, besieged by non-state armed groups since May 2022; whereas the last convoy that attempted to deliver humanitarian assistance to the town on 26 September 2022 was attacked by armed groups, leaving 37 people dead, among them 10 civilians;
1. Condemns the coup perpetrated by the armed forces, the second military takeover in Burkina Faso in eight months; regrets that this action contradicts the provisions of the national constitution, is in violation of the country's regional and international commitments, and undermines the recent progress made towards an orderly return to the constitutional order by 1 July 2024;
  2. Calls for an end to the violence; calls on the new military authorities to meet their undertaking to honour the country's international commitments, including those related to the promotion and protection of human rights; remains extremely concerned that allegations of human rights violations continue to be reported;
  3. Stresses that an urgent return to constitutional order is imperative, including an immediate return to civilian government; calls on the new military authorities to meet their commitment to respect the timetable agreed with the transition authorities for a rapid return to the constitutional order and inclusive and transparent elections by 1 July 2024; expresses its support for election observers in the country;
  4. Urges the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) to engage in meaningful dialogue with all parties and to offer technical assistance to facilitate a national dialogue for a return to civilian rule;

5. Urges the new military authorities to immediately reverse the arbitrary decision to suspend all political and civil society activities; urges the new military authorities to involve civil society organisations in the search for solutions to the country's multiple problems and ensure that civil society is invited to participate in the 'assises nationales' actively and effectively;
6. Urges all relevant parties to respect freedom of expression and opinion and to allow journalists to carry on their investigative work in freedom and security;
7. Urges the new military authorities to conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all deaths and injuries related to the coup, including those occurring during looting and demonstrations, and ensure independent and impartial justice and accountability for victims and survivors;
8. Calls for the EU and its Member States to increase their financial support and humanitarian aid in order to meet the urgent needs of the people of Burkina Faso, and in particular the needs of displaced persons and refugees in neighbouring countries; calls on the new military authorities to support and facilitate the work of humanitarian organisations in Burkina Faso in order to guarantee unhindered humanitarian access and enable them to address the needs of displaced persons; expresses concern over the impact of security threats on the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation;
9. Is deeply concerned that the political and security instability and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso provide an opportunity for terrorist groups to wreak havoc;
10. Underlines that terrorism and instability across the Sahel region are challenging and undermining democratic consolidation and the rule of law; recalls that tackling the underlying causes of extremism and military efforts to restore government control across the region are essential to reinforcing the popular legitimacy of democratically elected governments;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the authorities of the Republic of Burkina Faso, the Secretariat of the G5 Sahel, the Co-Chairs of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the Pan-African Parliament, the Economic Community of West African States, and the African Union and its institutions.