

Tuesday 16 January 2018

Joint press release on the 2nd session
of the Bilateral Commission for Cooperation between Burkina Faso
and the Principality of Monaco

Ouagadougou, 11 January 2018

In the context of strengthening friendship and cooperation between Burkina Faso and the Principality of Monaco, the second Bilateral Commission for Cooperation was held on 11 January 2018 in Ouagadougou.

The Burkina Faso delegation was led by H.E. Mr Alpha Barry, Minister of Foreign Affairs Cooperation and Burkinabe Abroad.

The Monegasque delegation was led by Mr Gilles Tonelli, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

At the opening of the Commission, the two delegation heads hailed the excellence and exemplary nature of cooperation between the two governments.

They noted the quality of the friendly ties maintained by H.E. Mr Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of Burkina Faso, and H.S.H. Prince Albert II, who was also in Ouagadougou.

Mr Barry and Mr Tonelli emphasised the pressing need to work to preserve and strengthen this friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Burkina Faso and Monaco.

The two sides also welcomed the good record of collaboration since the first Bilateral Commission for Cooperation.

In his speech, Mr Barry thanked his counterpart and the Monegasque Government for the various ways in which they had supported development in Burkina Faso. He also advocated the establishment of a mechanism for regular consultation between the two foreign ministries.

During the course of the Commission's work, the Burkinabe side presented the country's National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES), as well as business and investment opportunities in Burkina Faso.

For its part, the Monegasque side presented its cooperation strategy for 2018–2020. During the session, Mr Tonelli reiterated the importance of education: *"Today's young people are tomorrow's leaders. They are the life blood of the nation and an asset for the planet."*

Furthermore, the two sides discussed prospects for future cooperation.

At the end of the discussions, Burkina Faso welcomed the adoption of Monaco's cooperation strategy for 2018–2020, which focuses on priority areas for development including health, civil protection, education and vocational training, and socio-economic integration. These are very

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much in line with the goals set out in the PNDES.

With this in mind, Monaco expressed its readiness to support Burkina Faso by funding some development projects which have been jointly drawn up. The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on the *New Programme to Support the Education and Technical and Vocational Training Sector*.

The Bilateral Commission for Cooperation was held in a convivial atmosphere characterised by friendship and mutual respect.

On behalf of his delegation, Mr Tonelli reiterated to his Burkinabe counterpart his sincere gratitude for the warm and cordial welcome they had been given.

At the conclusion of the session, the two sides agreed to hold the third Bilateral Commission for Cooperation in Monaco in 2021. The date will be confirmed at a later stage.

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