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Cameroon

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I. Introduction and methodology

1. This Report was drawn up in preparation of the evaluation of Cameroon under the Fourth Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), under the supervision of the Interministerial Committee for monitoring the implementation of recommendations and/or decisions of international and regional mechanisms tasked with promoting and protecting Human Rights, chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government. It was drawn up in compliance with the General Directives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights contained in the Third Cycle of the UPR¹.

2. The Human Rights update contained therein is the result of discussions bringing together public administrations, independent administrative authorities, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), and Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC). These stakeholders met at a validation workshop held on 15 March and 4 May 2023 in Yaounde. During deliberations, focus was on the accepted recommendations, the position of the State that did not change concerning the recommendations noted but made commitments as well as rejected recommendations. In addition to the recommendations, major developments on other Human Rights issues were also examined.

II. Ratification of international instruments

3. The following instruments were ratified by decree:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities² (Rec. 10 to 12, 15 to 18, 31, 37 and 39).
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography³ (Rec. 2, 22 à 24, 31 à 35).

4. Government intends to implement the other accepted recommendations progressively (Rec. 3, 15, 16, 18, 25, 27 to 29, 31, 37 to 43), relating to the ratification of some conventions the process of which has begun.

5. With regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the deposit of ratification instruments is in progress (Rec. 14, 15, 17, 19 to 22, 25 to 27). The Child Protection Code under completion will take into account international standards (Rec. 30).

6. The international conventions ratified by Cameroon are internalised progressively (Rec. 44).

7. The Head of State has signed decrees to ratify international, regional and bilateral instruments. For some of the instruments, the ratification instruments have been deposited or *notes verbales* shared on the signing of the ratification decree. (Appendix 1)-

III. Promotion of human rights

A. Awareness-raising and capacity development on human rights (Rec. 47, 50, 53, 55)

8. In addition to activities on awareness-raising and training in Human Rights contained in Part IV (§15 and following), CHRC commemorated 122 African and universal Human Rights Days, published 52 declarations thereto, raised awareness on different Human Rights themes and trained 330 CSOs and 75 focal points of public administrations between 2019 and 2022 as part of the Project to Improve Conditions for Exercising Freedoms in Cameroon (PACEL).

9. Since support to CSOs is a National Development Strategy (NDS 30) directive, Government provided them support in the preparation and distribution of documents during

workshops they organised. Human Rights defenders are invited to workshops organised by administrations.

B. Consolidation of CHRC (Rec. 49, 57)

10. CHRC, set up by Law No. 2019/14 of 19 July 2019 to lay down the organisation and functioning of same, replaces the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms. The said Law steps up the missions⁴ of the institution and makes it the National Torture Prevention Mechanism. The CHRC, empowered to pool resources from partners, registered an increase in its budget allocated by the State, from CFAF867,928,304⁵ in 2019 to CFAF3,946,000,000 in 2023⁶.

C. Formal discussion platform between human rights defence organisations, the civil society and government (Rec. 54)

11. Discussions are underway to set up such platform. Human Rights defenders are involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of national laws, policies and programmes, and in activities on awareness-raising, training or reporting organised by the State.

D. Legislative and institutional initiatives for the full enjoyment of human rights (Rec. 53, 56)

12. Paragraph 385 of the National Development Strategy (NDS) 30 provides measures to promote Human Rights⁷. The legal framework of CHRC was amended to enhance its powers (§10). Amendment of the Civil Code and the Family Code are underway while the Child Protection Code is near completion. The provisions of Part IV focus on the laws enacted to consolidate Human Rights and on institutional and operational measures taken.

E. National Plan of Action for the promotion and protection of human rights 2015-2019 (Rec. 48)

13. At the end of the Plan Government conducted an evaluation of same in 2020. Since the Prime Minister, Head of Government has endorsed its update, measures are underway to pool subsequent financing.

F. Resource mobilisation and international assistance for capacity development in respecting human rights (Rec. 67)

14. In addition to support received from partners by Ministries involved in the promotion of Human Rights, CHRC received financing⁸ of CFAF655,000,000⁹ from the European Union as part of PACEL (2019 to 2020) that enabled it to address capacity development concerns and set up a Public Freedoms Observatory in Cameroon.

IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

A. Civil and political rights

1. Combating impunity (Rec. 102, 103, 112 to 116)

15. Besides awareness-raising activities, Government, by circular¹⁰, recalled its strategy against impunity, in particular concerning Defence and Security Forces (DSF). As part of this strategy, initial¹¹ and in-service¹² training in Human Rights (comprising lessons on management of public protests, prohibition on the excessive use of force, torture, summary

execution, arbitrary detention ...) were given to persons in charge of implementing the law. With regard to vision, the President of the Republic, Commander-in-chief of the Army, in his address at the graduation ceremony of the 37th Batch of students of the Combined Military Academy in February 2020 and to the nation on 31 December 2020 indicated that DSFs “are bound to respect Human Rights” in the discharge of their duties.

16. Investigations were conducted on allegations of violation of Human Rights, the authors prosecuted before the courts¹³ and disciplinary bodies, and the victims compensated. From 2020 to 2021, the DGSN opened 201 investigations following allegations against police officers. From 2018 to 2022, some 90 police¹⁴ and gendarme¹⁵ officers incurred disciplinary sanctions for the said violation.

17. It is worthy to mention judgments delivered against DSFs and armed gangs for crimes committed in Far North Region, North West Region and South West Region. In this regard¹⁶, crimes committed by DSFs in Zeleved resulted in a judgment delivered on 21 September 2020 by the Military Tribunal of Yaounde¹⁷, and the authors of the assassination of 7 students of Mother Francisca International Academy of Kumba were convicted and sentenced¹⁸ by judgment of 7 September 2021 delivered by the Buea Military Tribunal.

2. Right to participate in the management of public affairs

18. The decentralisation process with increased¹⁹ financing was completed with the setting up of the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development²⁰ on 2 March 2018, the enactment of Law No. 2019/24 of 24 December 2019 to lay down the General Code of Regional and Local Authorities, the opening of the National School of Local Administration²¹ in March 2020, the effective functioning of Regional Councils²² in January 2021, the appointment of the pioneer Public Independent Conciliators²³ in June 2021.

19. Inclusion (by taking into account gender, vulnerable persons, language of expression etc...) guides recruitment into the Public Service. In 2021, some 46% of public agents recruited were women and 19% of English expression.

20. With regard to political life led by Elections Cameroon, the resources of which were stepped up, the election of President of the Republic (October 2018), election of members of the National Assembly and council elections (December 2020) were effectively organised. Electoral disputes were examined by the competent bodies.

3. Situation in North West Region and South West Region

21. Government continued negotiations with a view to obtaining peace in the said Regions (Rec. 64, 65). In addition to the liberation of hundreds of separatists²⁴, a Major National Dialogue (MND) was organised from 30 September to 4 October 2019 to discuss the aspirations of the people. At the end of it, recommendations (Appendix 2) were made and implementation thereof is ongoing under the supervision of a Committee²⁵. In prelude to the MND, 18 official discussions were held by Government in Buea, Bamenda and Yaounde.

22. A National Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Committee (NDDRC) was formed by Decree No. 2018/719 of 30 November 2018, with reception centres in the said Regions²⁶. A Reconstruction and Development Plan of the said Regions under execution was adopted. The Plan, with a significant achievement rate as at end-June 2022 (Appendix 3), aims in particular, to restore social cohesion, reconstruct and rehabilitate basic infrastructure and revive local economy.

23. Concerning to the judicial response to abuse, see §16 and 17.

24. (Rec. 58, 63) Freedom of expression on the Human Rights situation in the said Regions is a reality. Subject to security measures, the United Nations and active institutions in the promotion and protection of Human Rights have access to the said Regions. The CHRC has a regional office in each of the said Regions. Experts from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights carried out a mission to said Regions from 5 to 26 September 2019 while agencies of the UN system such as the HCR have offices in the Regions.

25. Separatist leaders who were arrested in January 2018, later tried, convicted and sentenced²⁷, are detained at the Yaounde Main Prison where under the conditions provided

for by law, they can be accessed by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international institutions (Rec. 59). In December 2022, officials of the CHRC visited them.

4. Right to life, physical integrity and the right not to be subjected to torture

26. Cameroon is a *de facto* abolitionist State since 1989 given that the death penalty provided for in her legislation is only dissuasive (Rec. 92, 97, 99). By Decree No. 2020/193 of 15 April 2020, the Head of State remitted the death penalty to life imprisonment.

27. With regard to the right not to be subjected to torture (Rec. 106, 111, 112, 116, 117), prevention initiatives consisted in raising the awareness and training of staff in charge of law enforcement on the prohibition of torture and subsequent sanctions. Concerning repression, investigations were opened, prosecution conducted and sanctions delivered following allegations of torture. From 2018 to 2022, some 66 investigation reports on the said allegations were drawn up and forwarded for eventual prosecution before the courts. The case of Arsène MBANI ZOGO alias MARTINEZ ZOGO, a journalist can be cited²⁸.

28. The National Torture Prevention Mechanism²⁹ is operational³⁰ (Rec. 20, 21). In 2021 and 2022³¹, CHRC conducted 555 visits to places of detention. Government supported the institution in the discharge of its duties, in particular, by facilitating access of its members to places of detention and ensuring their security during investigations.

29. The 6th Periodic Report of the State of Cameroon on the Convention Against Torture submitted in January 2022 is clear on the measures taken in this connection.

30. In a bid to reduce the increasing number of road accidents, Government stepped up prevention initiatives³². Administrative and judicial sanctions were imposed on authors of such accidents in the transport sector.

5. Promotion of bilingualism (Rec. 61, 62, 66)

31. Law No. 2019/19 of 24 December 2019 to promote official languages, providing for the equal use of English and French, was enacted. The National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism was deployed, carried out campaigns against hate speech and monitored the implementation of the bilingualism promotion policy. In 2022, it monitored the implementation of the policy in 70 public structures in Yaounde, in many public offices and Councils in all the Regions.

32. The standards on non-discrimination, equality and inclusion³³ are applied with regard to access to employment and public services. Allegations of marginalization are addressed under the laws of the Republic. Concerning access to public jobs, Government takes linguistic specificities into account (§19).

33. Concerning access to education, the education system (primary and secondary levels) has 2 subsystems of equal status, English-speaking and French-speaking. It is worthy of note that 1,000 secondary school teachers trained in bilingual studies (English and French) were recruited in 2017 and 2018. Since December 2019, bilingualism offices were opened in regional delegation of secondary education.

34. Access to judicial services includes publication of documents in English and French, admission into the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) since 2017 and this, each year, of 30 pupil magistrates in the judicial section, 10 pupil magistrates in the audit section, 10 pupil magistrates in administrative justice, and 30 pupil registrars in common law (480 Pupil Magistrates and Registrars had graduated as at December 2022); the opening of the Common Law Division at the Supreme Court and Departments of English Law in State Universities etc.

35. Besides, in November 2019, the Head of State ordered the recruitment of 500 Translators and Interpreters over a period of 5 years (100 Translators and Interpreters per year).

6. Right to liberty (Rec. 101, 107, 109, 112, 117, 118)

36. Since this right is enshrined in legislation, arrest and detention can only be enforced on the grounds and procedures provided for by law. Participation in declared and peaceful public demonstrations is not one of such grounds.

37. Deprivation of liberty which is allowed only in official³⁴ places of detention, is closely monitored with regard to time limits, in particular, the time limit of remand in custody³⁵. Persons deprived of their liberty enjoy procedural and substantive³⁶ rights.

38. Illegal arrest and deprivation of liberty constitute the offence of false arrest (section 291 of the Penal Code (PC)). Related allegations lead to investigations and prosecution before the courts. In 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022, some 175 investigation reports were drawn up and sent to the courts for prosecution.

39. Judicial and administrative control of cells and prisons, inspections and visits to places of detention by the CHRC or by the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE)³⁷, applications for release on bail, by the judge on his own motion and *habeas corpus* are mechanisms to address illegal arrests and detentions. In 2022, some 29 applications for *habeas corpus*³⁸ were granted, in addition to the 311 granted by Examining Magistrates on their own motion and 532 applications for bail granted.

7. Homosexuality (Rec. 52, 74 to 82)

40. Cameroon has not changed her position with regard to the criminalisation of homosexuality. It is in line with the moral values of the Cameroon society of which the State is guarantor. This position is in compliance with the Preamble to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

8. Fair trial

41. There is no binding instrument that prohibits the trial of civilians by military tribunals (Rec. 96, 108), since the cardinal requirement is in compliance with the rules of fair trial. Cameroon has chosen to confer the trial of some specific offences on military tribunals, composed of military and civilian Judicial and Legal Officers, all trained at ENAM. Military tribunals do not have jurisdiction to try minors.

42. In a bid to facilitate access to justice (Rec. 99) in addition to the dissemination of texts and case-law in the 2 official languages, 25 localities³⁹ where new courts⁴⁰ could be set up have been identified since 2015; the Constitutional Council effectively opened its doors in February 2018⁴¹; legal aid Commissions approved more than 600 applications between 2018 and 2022; and the Commission for compensation of victims of illegal detention delivered some 40 rulings between 2020 and 2022.

43. With a view to enhancing the other aspects of the right to a fair trial (Rec. 99, 100, 113), the independence of the Judiciary was consolidated with an increase in the budget of MINJUSTICE⁴², effective monitoring of professional ethics and deontology of Judicial and Legal Officers by Inspectorate General for Judicial Services and disciplinary bodies⁴³, increase in staff strength⁴⁴ and development of their technical capacity⁴⁵. Besides, litigants consult lawyers whose number needs to be stepped up and their technical capacity developed.

9. Amendment of Law No. 2014/28 of 23 December 2014 on the suppression of acts of terrorism (Rec. 91 to 96, 100)

44. The said law is under amendment. Legal procedures initiated on the bases of this Law are in compliance with the rules of fair trial.

10. Right to freedom of expression, association and other rights (Rec. 51, 113, 120 to 126)

45. These rights are guaranteed. The restrictions provided for by law and likely to be challenged before the courts aim, pursuant to ICCPR standards, to protect public order, individual rights or guarantee the authority and fairness of the Judiciary. Staff in charge of law enforcement, including administrative authorities are trained on issues relating to such rights.

(a) Freedom of expression and protection of journalists

46. With regard to free and quality access to Information and Communication Technologies, Government continued to train stakeholders and develop communication infrastructure. Besides, it conducted more than 130 security audits and ensured security monitoring.

47. Press organs (700 newspapers, some 100 TV channels, 150 and about 50 community radios), freely accessible, carry out their activities of collecting, processing and disseminating information hitch-free, subject to their liability in the event of violation of the rules governing them. Between 2018 and 2022, the National Communication Council before which matters are brought by mainly individuals, issued 72 decisions, including 64 warnings and suspensions for breach of professional ethics. Besides, legal sanctions are applied for press offences.

48. In a bid to facilitate media deployment, the Press Card Commission issued 1,074 press cards and Government granted CFAF962,000,000⁴⁶ to private media houses through institutional support.

(b) *Freedom of association and assembly*

49. Subject to compliance with legal provisions, the right to freedom of association and assembly is guaranteed. The diversity of the association landscape shows that as at 31 December 2022, Cameroon had 329 political parties, 84 NGOs and, in the CHRC network, more than 715 CSOs, including 363 affiliated and 352 grouped in networks.

50. Government is not aware of any case of disappearance of a member of the opposition.

(c) *Protection of human rights defenders and other civil society stakeholders*

51. Under the laws on freedom of communication, association, assembly and demonstration, people can carry out their activities freely and without fear of reprisals. Since the instruments on safety and security apply to them, the enactment of specific laws to protect them is not relevant.

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to education

(a) *Access to free education (Rec. 148 to 151, 154 to 156, 160)*

52. The principle remains that of equality and non-discrimination in access to education. At all levels of education⁴⁷, Government enhanced education by developing school infrastructure, expanding the school map, revising syllabuses, granting subsidies to private schools, providing teaching aids and school textbooks, and consolidating staff strength.

53. These efforts resulted in an increase in the demand for education for both boys and girls⁴⁸, and enhancement of the quality of teaching and the high success rate in official examinations⁴⁹.

54. While maintaining free education in primary schools⁵⁰, compulsory primary education⁵¹ and the criminalization of interference with the right to education (Section 355-2 of PC), the State continued to support access to education for children from poor families in rural areas or minority groups, especially by providing them with school textbooks free of charge.

55. Although Cameroon has not ratified the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, she is party to instruments against discrimination⁵².

56. Adjustment measures taken following the Covid-19 pandemic are still implemented, whether in terms of the normative framework for school time or hybrid teaching⁵³.

(b) *The Case of Girls (Rec. 157 to 162)*

57. The first strategic thrust of the National Gender Policy⁵⁴ (NGP) gives priority to the enhancement of a hitch-free access of girls to education. In this regard, policies and incentives have been adopted to eradicate harmful practices such as child marriage, sexual harassment, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), rape of young girls in insecure Regions, incest and child labour. The following incentives were provided: scholarships for girls, textbooks and teaching materials, food rations, school and hygiene kits, internships as well as the construction of separate latrines for girls and boys and support in the establishment of birth certificates.

58. In a bid to enhance the schooling rate of girls and young women (§54), Government is stepping up awareness-raising in priority education areas⁵⁵ where the dropout rate is high due to strong attachment to tradition.

59. Combating child marriage (§57, 59, 60, 123, 129, 133 and 141), and enhancement of the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents (§75) help increase the schooling rate of girls (§54). In this regard, the *Association pour la promotion du développement social* organised training on early pregnancy and marriage in 5 secondary schools for 778 students and in 8 chiefdoms for 385 adults in the East Region between April and May 2021, as part of the *Initiative Jeunes 3+1* Project.

60. Irrespective of the perpetrator, sexual harassment and child marriage constitute offences (Section 302-1 and Section 356 of PC). In addition to awareness-raising, investigations are opened and sanctions applied⁵⁶. On 26 March 2020, for example, a contract worker and a Lecturer at University of Yaounde I were respectively excluded and suspended for acts of trafficking in grades and sexual harassment of female students.

(c) *The case of children from minority groups and in particular, indigenous peoples (Rec. 152, 153)*

61. Indigenous peoples (Baka, Mbororo, Bagyelis, Bedzang, etc.) are taken into account in the National Education Sector Strategy Document (2013-2020) as well as in the priority education areas mechanism. In July 2021, the Specific Education Plan for Indigenous Peoples was validated with a view to guiding initiatives to increase the schooling rate of children from such minority groups.

62. Similarly, the ORA (Observe, Reflect and Act) learning method is applied to the said children. Since 2014, teachers of national languages trained at the Higher Teacher Training College Yaounde are posted to schools in the areas where such peoples live. Incentives were provided for children of indigenous peoples⁵⁷.

63. In the 2017/2018 academic year, at the level of secondary education, the number of vulnerable children attending school (orphans, refugees, disabled) stood at 36,740 including 16,737 girls. In addition to internally displaced children, the number rose to 59,772 including 12,185 girls in the 2020/2021 academic year.

64. In 2021, some 4,025 indigenous children were enrolled in primary school and 1,760 in secondary school. In 2021 and 2022, some 978 students from Baka and Mbororo minorities passed the Primary School Certificate (CEP) and the First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) in the East Region.

2. Right to health

(a) *Promotion of the Health Sector (Rec. 138, 139, 143, 144)*

65. The Health Sector Strategy (2016-2027) sets guidelines for health sector development⁵⁸. The National Digital Health Strategic Plan-NDHSP (2020-2024) charts the course for improving the accessibility and quality of healthcare and services through the use of digital technologies. The Health Financing Strategy (2019-2027) focuses on demand financing to reduce direct payments by households and exorbitant health expenditure.

66. In addition to the enhancement of the technical platform of many hospitals and the increase of the budget of Ministry of Public Health⁵⁹, the number of health staff stood at about 55,000 including 39,720 public agents in September 2021, and the health map⁶⁰, from 5,817 health facilities at the end of the first half of 2018 to 6,317 in 2022.

67. The NDHSP, expected to contribute to the process of implementing universal health coverage (UHC) is still on. Phase I of the said coverage launched on 12 April 2023, allows registered persons and holders of a UHC card to have free access to preventive care and essential health services in approved health facilities.

68. Covid-19 tests were free of charge up till 15 June 2022. Malaria treatment for pregnant women and children under 5 years old, insulin for diabetic patients under 25 years old, tuberculosis treatment and antiretroviral therapies (ARVs) are still provided free of charge.

69. A register of licensed drugs⁶¹ was published in August 2021, and as at 2 December 2021, some 7,974 drugs were licensed.

(b) *Equal access to healthcare and combating discrimination against persons living with HIV-AIDS (Rec. 69, 140 and 145)*

70. Equal access to health care is guaranteed. The Penal Code punishes discrimination by reason of health status (Section 242). The fight against discrimination is included in the National HIV-AIDS and STIs Control Strategic Plan (2021-2023).

71. Challenges relating to the stigmatization and discrimination of key populations in health structures resulted in the opening of Drop-in centres, which offer a range of prevention and screening services.

72. In order to promote best practices with emphasis on combating stigmatization and discrimination, health staff and labour inspectors are sensitised and trained on the ethical and legal challenges relating to HIV/AIDS. A strategy document on HIV/AIDS control at the workplace is being drawn up. A comprehensive response plan on Human Rights-related obstacles that hinder access to HIV and tuberculosis control services in Cameroon (2020-2024) was adopted.

73. The human papillomavirus vaccine is administered to women to prevent cervical cancer. The coverage of this vaccine in 2021 stood at 18.2%.

(c) *Access to sexual and reproductive health education for women and girls especially in rural areas (Rec. 141)*

74. The second strategic thrust of the NGP is devoted to improving access of women and girls to quality health services, especially in reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 control, as well as other pandemics. Women and the girl child in primary and secondary schools⁶² are drilled on sexual and reproductive health.

(d) *HIV/AIDS control (Rec. 142)*

75. Cameroon is one of the 22 priority countries in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and is also party to the Global Alliance for the elimination of AIDS in children by 2030.

76. Almost all women who go to family planning services are drilled on prevention, HIV screening and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) as part of reproductive healthcare included in the Strategic Plan referred to above (§71). In 2018, about 90.55% of HIV-positive pregnant women received ARVs as against 91.5% in 2022. The percentage of pregnant women who know their HIV status stands at 99.7% in 2022.

77. In 2022, 17,586 exposed children (EC) were identified, 71.96% of who received ARV prophylaxis and 78.16% of HIV+ tested EC children who tested positive were put on ARV treatment.

78. Enhancement of the quality of life of infected persons is one of the priority goals of HIV/AIDS response. Cameroon has maintained the “Test and Treat” strategy that requires that anyone who tests HIV positive be put directly on antiretroviral treatment. On 4 April 2019, the Minister of Public Health signed a decision to provide HIV related services free of charge from January 2020⁶³.

79. Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), geared towards the vision of elimination by 2025, is a priority in the national response to HIV⁶⁴ infection. The following strides were made: the integration of SRMNIA⁶⁵ / HIV/PMTCT services, decentralisation and delegation of tasks, implementation of option B+⁶⁶, etc.

80. In 2020, PMTCT services were provided in 5,143 health facilities, i.e. a geographical coverage of 86.3%.

(e) *Reduction of Maternal Mortality (Rec. 146)*

81. In 2018, the maternal mortality rate stood at 406 deaths per 100,000 births, that is about 4,000 deaths per year. The Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Support Project was implemented with the technical support of UNFPA from September 2018⁶⁷ as part of the implementation of the 2016-2027 Health Sector Strategy.

82. In 2021, the proportion of women who benefited from prenatal consultation stood at 86.7% (of which 54% received at least 3 doses of intermittent preventive treatment) as against

64.9% in 2018. Regarding the provision of services to pregnant women, as at June 2021, the health voucher initiative which was launched in 2014 covered 250 health facilities in the Far North, North and Adamawa Regions had the following results: 721,363 prenatal consultations, 164,091 echographies, thousands of deliveries including 6,833 caesarean section for 289,722 health vouchers sold.

83. In 2021, some 103 women were treated for obstetric fistulas free of charge through reconstructive surgery.

3. Enhancement of the standard of living of the people and poverty reduction (Rec. 135 to 137)

84. Poverty reduction and enhancement of the living standard of the people are anchored on the NDS 30, one of the pillars of which is the increase in income through decent jobs, reduction of poverty and inequalities, and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Government initiatives were implemented through the following high-impact projects: Social Safety Nets Project⁶⁸, Labour-intensive Project⁶⁹, the National Community-driven Development Programme⁷⁰, Poverty Reduction Subprogramme⁷¹, Agricultural areas Development Projects⁷², the Three-Year Emergency Plan for the acceleration of economic growth⁷³ and the Agropoles Programme⁷⁴. In addition, municipal and regional development plans adopted by Councils include the promotion of endogenous development.

85. At the operational level, Government strategy centred on the promotion of *made in Cameroon* products, and the use of import-substitution is based on the direct distribution of foodstuffs to the most vulnerable population, organisation of promotional sales campaigns, and combating fraud.

86. With the construction of some overarching infrastructure in particular, drinking water supply increased from 77% in 2018 to 80% in 2022 and the rate of access to electricity⁷⁵ from 62.66% to 67% in the same period. Concerning sanitation, 10,673 latrines were built for 10,313 households. An inventory of the water and energy supply is attached hereto (Appendix 4).

87. In a bid to reduce the effects of the high cost of living, salaries of State employees were adjusted upwards by 5.2% on 31 January 2023, and on 21 March 2023, the Guaranteed Minimum Wage was also raised.

4. Right to work

(a) Gender equality in the labour market⁷⁶

88. The constitutional principle of equality and non-discrimination applies to the labour market. The principle is also contained in the General Rule and Regulations governing the Public Service, the Labour Code, as well as in the National Employment Policy (2020-2027)⁷⁷ and its Priority Plan of Action, which aim to make Cameroon a nation where every citizen of working age can access a decent job without discrimination.

89. The Penal Code punishes whoever denies a person access to employment by reason of their gender (Section 242), thereby consolidating the approach of the Labour Code (Sections 4 and 168) and Ordinance No. 73/17 of 22 May 1973 to lay down the organisation of social welfare as amended by Law No. 84/6 of 4 July 1984 (Section 180).

90. Statistical data on the employment of women are contained in the section devoted to women's rights (§98 and following).

(b) Working conditions of women (Rec. 131).

91. In addition to gender equality in the labour market (§89 and following), measures on the working conditions of women (maternity leave, night work, salary, etc.) are provided for by the law on labour and social security. Moreover, negotiations of collective agreements in different fields take into account the status of women. Cameroon is a party to ILO Conventions 3 and 89 on maternity and night work.

(c) Promotion of employment of youths and women (Rec. 134)

92. Employment promotion tools, including laws and public policy documents enshrine the gender and youth dimension. One of such policy documents is the National Employment Policy, one of the priorities of which is to increase decent employment opportunities and income-generating activities, in particular for women, youths and vulnerable groups.

93. Training⁷⁸ and support to professional integration are areas of this approach. In this regard, Law No. 2018/10 of 11 July 2018 on vocational training in Cameroon, makes vocational training for employment (including young people and women), a national priority. That is why on 13 January 2023, the Ministry of Higher Education published a circular on the national student-entrepreneur status aimed at supporting students with projects.

94. From 2018 to 2022, the number of private vocational training centres increased from 317 to 672. As at the first quarter of 2023, the number of public vocational training structures stood at 298. The National Employment Fund carried out different employment operational actions, including for youths and women. Such actions included intermediation, placements, salaried jobs, training and establishment of activities (Appendix 5).

95. Specific actions carried out by Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training focused on the economic and professional integration of youths through financing their training, direct financing of some 11,300 innovative individual projects as part of the Three-Year Special Youth Plan, support to initiatives under the Assistance Programme for the Return and Integration of Young Cameroonians from the Diaspora, support in collaboration with the IOM for young returnees from abroad in distress and the registration of more than 77,300 youths under the platform of the National Youth Observatory, aimed at permanently informing them on job offers.

96. In the agricultural sector, in 2021, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development carried out capacity development of 824 youths, granted 497 productive credits, encouraged the establishment of 502 agro-pastoral enterprises, and provided advice to 15,504 producer organisations.

C. Other rights**1. Women's rights**

97. In a bid to better address issues relating to the rights of women and girls, the State stepped up her response arsenal. At the strategic level, Cameroon continued to institutionalise gender by enshrining it in policies, programmes, projects and services⁷⁹. At the normative level, Circular No. 2/22/c/MINESEC/CAB of 22 April 2022 on the procedures for handling cases of student pregnancy in Government and Private Secondary Schools was published. At the institutional level, Gender Focal Points were designated in the different administrations and public structures⁸⁰. The specifications relating to their activities of the focal points defined with a view to promoting gender equality within these various structures.

98. Besides, on 17 January 2023, the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), with an increased budget⁸¹, officially launched the revival and extension of Gender Based Violence (GBV) platforms to all Regions.

(a) Combating discrimination against women (Rec. 70 to 73, 85, 88 to 90, 181)

99. In addition to the Constitution, the principle of equality and non-discrimination is enshrined in a number of texts and policies such as the NDS 30, with goal No. 5 focused on gender equality, and the NGP in goal Nos. 4 and 5. The integration of the principle of equality and non-discrimination is carried out gradually and takes into account the situation of elderly or disabled women (§135 and following, 140).

100. CSOs support the State in the judicial protection of women through awareness-raising, reporting and protection activities.

101. Concerning discriminatory provisions against women, some courts apply the non-discriminatory provisions of CEDAW and the MAPUTO Protocol to mitigate these provisions⁸².

102. The technical capacity of stakeholders involved in combating discrimination against women are regularly developed. Thus⁸³, with the support of UN Women, MINJUSTICE, in 2021 and 2022, organised educative talks and mobile clinics on GBV, capacity development workshops for Judicial and Legal Officers, Lawyers, health staff and CSOs from South West Region, North West Region, Far North Region and Littoral Region on GBV in a crisis context.

(b) *Participation of women in public life and equal access to employment (Rec. 127, 128, 130, 132, 133)*

103. The consideration of gender in public policies has improved access of women to employment and their participation in public and political life. In 2022, 48% of those recruited by the Ministry of the Public Service and Administrative Reform were women.

104. With regard to political life, during the 2018-2022 legislative period, the Senate had 26% of women as substantive Senators, including 5 among the 17 members of the Bureau. Following the March 2023 election, this percentage rose to 33%. The number of women in the National Assembly increased from 56 out of 180 in 2013 (31.11%) to 61 in 2020 (33.89%).

105. Concerning the right to vote, there were 38% of registered women at the end of the annual registration on the electoral registers on 31 August 2022.

106. At the local level, the representation of women in municipal councils increased from 6.7% in 2007, to 6.94% in 2013, then to 10.83% in 2020. In the Regional Councils, there are 210 women out of a total of 900 Regional Councillors, representing a rate of 23.4%.

107. The Government reshuffle on 4 January 2019 led to an increase in the number of women from 10 to 11 out of the 65 ministerial positions filled, representing 16.92%.

108. At the Ministry of Territorial Administration, the number of female Subdivisional Officers increased from 13 in 2019 to 20 in 2023. There is one female Senior Divisional Officer, 17 female Assistant Divisional Officers, 56 Assistant Subdivisional Officers, 13 female Heads of Division and Inspectors in the Governor's Office. In diplomacy, there are 3 women ambassadors and a consul general.

(c) *Combating violence against women (Rec. 163 to 166, 171 to 181, 188, 190)*

109. To prevent such violence, measures taken focused on training and awareness-raising of families and corporate stakeholders, including religious and community leaders.

110. Criminal law, under various types of offences against bodily integrity and liberty and peace of persons (Sections 275 and following, Sections 291 and following of PC), criminalises violence, including domestic violence, against women and girls and men. Consequently, female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage or rape (Sections 277-1, 296 and 296 of PC) constitute offences.

111. Rape is punishable regardless of the perpetrator, even between spouses, since marital status is not an excuse. With regard to awareness-raising carried out by Government and her partners⁸⁴, victims of rape, including married women are encouraged to report rape, relying on the above provision of the PC.

112. Criminal law directly or indirectly punishes other gender-based violence, as well as traditional and discriminatory practices relating to marriage (breast ironing, widowhood rites, etc.) once acts relating thereto take a criminal dimension (Section 275 and following of PC).

113. Cases of violence referred to above result in investigations, prosecution and conviction as the case may be. Thus, from 2018 to 2022, some 932 investigation reports were drawn up on rape and 542 convictions established (Appendix 6).

114. The State set up integrated care services for survivors (including internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees and host population), through holistic⁸⁵ support, capacity development of social workers and consolidation of the functioning of safe areas in all the 10 Regions of the country. In 2021, survivors, including some 1000 women, received support in dignity kits and economic kits.

115. To better support victims of GBV in monitoring their cases, new Gender-desks and Child-desks were set up in police stations and gendarmerie brigades, bringing the total number to 47.

(d) *Women empowerment (Rec. 169)*

116. Women empowerment is an essential component of the NGP. Government continued to develop the managerial capacities of women and girls through the Women's Centres that have increased from 108 in 2018 to 110 in 2022. State programmes such as the PEA-JEUNES aim to support the development of businesses managed by women, through micro-credits grants.

117. CSOs also help empower women through training in income-generating activities.

118. In the agricultural sector, the execution of a number of development⁸⁶ projects and programmes enabled rural women to receive subsidies. In addition, emphasis was laid on training women in ICT⁸⁷.

119. With regard to property rights, an increasing number of women obtained land titles, from 3,770 in 2018 to 3,955 in 2022.

120. Concerning entrepreneurship, 32.7% of businesses are promoted by women.

(e) *Access of women to justice and legal resources (Rec. 170 and 182)*

121. State actions focused on the following: granting of legal aid to indigent women⁸⁸; mapping of service providers, including legal services related to GBV; the organisation, in 2022, of mobile legal clinics on GBV (§103); support for non-governmental initiatives aimed at giving women access to legal aid and services; increasing the involvement of women in the judicial system⁸⁹.

2. Rights of the child (Rec. 86, 87, 157, 184 to 187)

122. While highlighting prevention of violence, prosecution of perpetrators and rehabilitation of victims, with focus on regions experiencing crisis, the State improved the institutional, strategic and normative⁹⁰ child welfare system. In this regard, the following measures were taken: continued implementation of the National Child Protection Policy Document (2017-2026), adoption of a budgeted multisector plan of action to eradicate child marriage in Cameroon (2020-2024) as well as the signing of Order No. 62/CAB/PM of 23 June 2020 to form the National Committee against Child Labour, and Decision No. 000465/D/MINMIDT/SG/DAJ of 30 August 2021 to prohibit access of minor children to mining sites.

(a) *Birth registration*

123. In a bid to bring Cameroon closer to achieving universal birth registration, multifaceted measures taken by Government (Appendix 7) and her partners made it possible to step up the registration rate of children under 5, from 62 % in 2018 to about 70% in 2022.

124. CHRC and MINPROFF help in awareness-raising and judicial support actions on birth registration as much as several CSOs like the *Wissâmatê* association which distributed 120 birth certificates to children in Ombessa Council, on the occasion of the International Day of the Rights of the Child on 20 November 2022. MINPROFF granted FCFA 270,000,000 to 21 councils for the establishment of 26,696 birth certificates in 7 regions in 2022.

(b) *Child protection code*

125. The process of finalising the said code was initiated by MINJUSTICE in January 2023.

(c) *Right to nationality*

126. The Nationality Code does not contain any discriminatory measure on the acquisition of the nationality of children based on the marital status of their parents.

(d) Combating child abuse

127. With regard to prevention, awareness-raising and training⁹¹ activities on combating child abuse were organised by Government, CSOs and international organisations.

128. Such activities focused on forced or early marriage, recruitment into armed groups, the worst forms of child labour, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment or even corporal punishment. The activities targeted law enforcement officials, as well as community and religious leaders.

129. NDDRC regional centres that take care of ex-combatants, including children recruited by armed groups, provided accommodation to 1,255 as at 31 December 2022 as follows: 7 in Buea, 41 in Bamenda and 1,207 in Mora.

130. In a radio statement of 16 January 2023, Government reiterated the prohibition of all corporal punishment in schools, enshrined in the law on education orientation. In a broader spectrum, the PC provides for punishment for threats to physical integrity (Section 275 and following of PC), including those committed against children. Section 350 increases penalties for murder, aggravated injury, assault occasioning death committed against children.

131. With regard to repression, in addition to disciplinary measures taken against public officials, police investigations were opened on cases of child abuse and the perpetrators punished⁹². From 2018 to 2022, some 938 preliminary inquiry reports were drawn up on kidnapping of minors, preliminary inquiry and trial were conducted in 808 cases, and 310 persons convicted.

132. It is worthy of note that, in its Communication No. 18/Com/2/202, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, indicated by Decision No. 1/2022 that Cameroon has available and effective remedies to combat child marriage. The Penal Code (Section 356-2 and 3) increases the penalty in the event of marriage to a person under the age of 18. As part of the ongoing amendment of the civil legislation, international standards on the minimum age for marriage age will be taken into account.

133. With regard to holistic care, psychosocial support and mental healthcare are provided by Government and her partners to child victims of abuse, as well as to their parents. Thus, since 2018, Plan International Cameroon has provided such support to more than 1,600 children and parents.

3. Rights of persons with disabilities (Rec. 68, 70, 73 and 193)

134. By enhancing the normative and institutional⁹³ framework on the rights of persons with disabilities, Government maintained the major thrusts of its policy in the area, including prevention of disabilities, rehabilitation, socio-economic integration, inclusion and the fight against discrimination. The strategic framework was also consolidated through the National Policy Document for the Protection and Promotion of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2021).

135. At the operational level and with regard to education, employment and empowerment, in addition to exemption from fees in public schools and universities, pupils and students receive academic aid, while exemption from customs duties and taxes are granted persons with disabilities involved in business, and projects are financed under the programme to support the socio-professional integration and reintegration of vulnerable people. Moreover, teachers with disabilities are recruited.

136. The national inclusive education policy is under validation. Between 2016 and 2022, under the auspices of the Ministry of Basic Education, 70 schools were upgraded to inclusive schools.

137. The disability data collection and analysis system was modernised and the disability card computerisation project continued. The technical platforms of the National Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, the Rehabilitation Institute for the Blind in Buea and the Production Centre for Disabled Women “*Bobine d’or*” were modernised.

138. Equipment is granted to persons with disabilities.

139. Out of the 77 focal points trained by the CHRC (§8), 2 were women with disabilities.

4. Rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups (Rec. 68, 70, 71, 127 and 194)

140. Actions geared towards minorities, and particularly indigenous⁹⁴ peoples and the elderly, have been orientated, in addition to combating discrimination, awareness-raising⁹⁵ and training, towards socio-economic inclusion, access to basic social services such as education, governance, inclusion in legislative and policy reforms, land rights and the fight against early marriage. Special measures targeted women and children.

141. With regard to public life, some 58 indigenous people were elected at the legislative and municipal elections of 9 February 2020.

D. Cross-cutting issues

1. Right to peace and security, living together and protection of involuntarily displaced persons (Rec. 195 and 196)

142. The main threats to peace, security and living together remain instability in some neighbouring countries, attacks by non-State armed groups, in particular *Boko Haram*, in Far North Region and militias of secessionist movements in North West Region and South West Region, as well as inter-communal clashes and hate speech.

143. Priority was given to consensual solutions. In support of this approach, the legal framework on the promotion of official languages was consolidated (§31); the criminal law on hate speech was toughened with, in particular, the enshrining of the offence of insult to the tribe or ethnic group⁹⁶; NDDRC was opened (§22); and the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons scaled up.

144. In addition to the judicial response (§16 and 17) and actions to maintain or restore order, a set of measures were taken for asylum seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons, geared mainly towards settlement, protection, provision of basic social services, protection and empowerment.

145. Special measures were further taken for women and girls (§ 98 and following).

146. In line with the setting up of conditions conducive for maintaining or restoring peace, a Reconstruction Plan for Far North Region was adopted on 26 September 2021 with reconstruction, the development of infrastructure, support for socio-economic activities and adaptation to climate change as major thrusts. Similarly, a Reconstruction and Development Plan for North West Region and South West Region was adopted (§22). A 2017-2020 Humanitarian Response Plan was implemented to meet the assistance needs of refugees and internally displaced persons in Adamawa Region, East Region and Far North Region.

147. In 2018, Government, with the support of UNHCR, UNICEF, Plan International Cameroon and Public Concern, implemented the “sector education response project for the protection and schooling of refugee children and host communities”. In the same year, a Government Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Plan was launched for internally displaced persons in North West Region and South West Region. For monitoring purposes, a National Centre for the Coordination of Humanitarian Action in Cameroon was opened. The 2018-2020 Multi-year and Multi-partner Strategy for care of refugees and asylum seekers was implemented.

2. Detention conditions (Rec. 105, 109 to 111)

148. With regard to concerns relating to incommunicado detention, in addition to previous developments (§37), the prison map in Appendix 8 provides information on the geographical location of the 76 functional prisons in Cameroon.

149. As part of the implementation of the prison policy enhancement programme with an increased⁹⁷ budget, Government scaled up Penitentiary Administration resources and preparation of prisoners for social reintegration. In November 2022, the Prime Minister, Head of Government announced the recruitment of 2,500 Penitentiary Administration staff.

150. Since 2018, some 50 Penitentiary Administration staff were trained in Human Rights and between 2019 and 2022, more than 700 others took refresher courses at the National School of Penitentiary Administration. In addition to the construction and functioning of the

Douala-Ngoma Central Prison with a capacity of 1,500 beds, other prisons⁹⁸ were constructed or rehabilitated and equipped.

151. For the healthcare of detainees, most prisons are supplied with water and hygiene facilities, and also have a sickbay, a pharmacy, a laboratory and medical staff who refer serious cases to hospitals with better technical platforms. Between 2018 and 2022, some 8,175 outpatient consultation and 1,491 outpatient admission were registered. The budget allocated to health and food was increased⁹⁹.

152. As part of control of COVID-19 pandemic, the Minister of Justice, by Circular No. 1/LC/MINJUSTICE/CAB/SEAP of 18 March 2020 (Appendix 9), ordered the suspension of outdoor activities and the quarantine of new inmates. The Head of State signed Decree No. 2020/193 of 15 April 2020 on commutation and remission of sentences. Out of 27,500 detainees, 10,181 benefited from the measure.

153. Between 2020 and 2022, some 627 detainees benefited from social reintegration activities. Over the same period, 83 detainees passed official examinations.

154. Between November 2020 and October 2021 in prisons in Yaounde, Buea and Bamenda, the Cameroon Civil Society Capacity Development Project for access to justice for persons in detention, made it possible to grant free legal consultations to 2,900 detainees, legal aid to 102 others, including vulnerable detainees (women, minors, sick) and to free 60 detainees. Besides, 42 detainees benefited from remission of sentence.

3. Promotion of good governance and combating corruption

155. In 2020, the State embarked on a new course in its development policy by adopting the NDS 30, one of the pillars of which is governance and the structural transformation of the economy. She consolidated the normative framework with the enactment of Law No. 2018/11 of 11 July 2018 to lay down the Cameroon Code of Transparency and Good Governance in Public Finance Management and Law No. 2018/12 of 11 July 2018 relating to the fiscal regime of the State and other public entities¹⁰⁰.

156. In a bid to consolidate its transparency policy, procedures were digitised with regard to taxes, customs, forestry, the justice sector and public contracts.

157. With regard to combating corruption and misappropriation of public property, from 2018 to 2022, the National Anti-Corruption Commission, in addition to awareness-raising, training and detection activities, received and processed 58,907 reports and forwarded some 70 files to the judicial police.

158. From 2018 to 2022, the National Agency for Financial Investigation recorded 2,867 declarations of suspicion and transmitted 865 investigation reports to judicial and security authorities, as well as to other competent administrations.

159. From 2018 to 2022, the Office of the Supreme State Audit¹⁰¹ organised 46 workshops for authorising officers and other audit structures, and conducted 61 audits. The Budgetary and Financial Disciplinary Council issued 72 decisions of acquittal or sanctions, corresponding to CFAF3,978,210,729¹⁰² FCFA in debits and special fines.

160. Between 2018 and 2022, the Special Criminal Court enlisted just over 250 matters and convicted some 184 persons.

161. The Audit Bench of the Supreme Court continued to examine the accounts of public accountants, in particular by cross-checking the management of public establishments and enterprises and by carrying out auditing and certification of public accounts.

162. All these efforts had a positive impact on Transparency International's corruption perception index of Cameroon, which moved from 25/100 in 2018 to 26/100 in 2022.

V. Cooperation with international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (rec. 45)

A. Accepted visits

163. Following the visit of Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations Human Rights High-Commissioner in May 2019, Cameroon accepted the deployment from 5 to 26 September 2019 of Human Rights assessment team of the Office of the United High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cameroon to assess Human Rights in North West Region and South West Region and propose recommendations for monitoring actions and options for further cooperation with Government.

164. In April 2022, Mr. Fillipo Grandi, the High Commissioner for Refugees visited Cameroon and participated in a Regional Conference on Central African Republic refugees.

165. Cameroon approved the visit of Mr. Fernand De Varennes, United Nations Special Rapporteur on minorities issues in 2021 (visit postponed because of COVID-19 pandemic) and the proposed visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, Mrs. Mary Lawlor in March 2022, as well as the proposed visit to Cameroon of the Working Group on issues of forced disappearance on 20 April 2022.

B. Facilitate monitoring

166. Cameroon recorded procedures at the level of the UN for the monitoring of implementation of previous decisions notably from the Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

C. Report to the Human Rights Council

167. Cameroon submitted its Follow Up Report for the 3rd Cycle of UPR, then its Follow Up Report on specific aspects on discrimination against minorities, trade union rights and right to food under the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights in 2021, its 6th Periodic Report under the Convention Against Torture on 11 of January 2022. It defended its 22nd and 23rd Reports on 13 and 14 April 2022 before the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

168. Cameroon contributed to the preparation of thematic reports by some mandate holders, such as the Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries as means of impeding the exercise of peoples 'right to self-determination, Rapporteur on trafficking in persons especially women and children and from the Working Group on the issue of Human Rights and transnational corporations and business enterprises.

VI. Progress made, best practices, challenges and constraints on the implementation of accepted recommendations and developments in the human rights situation

169. With regard to best practices and progress made, the following strides are worthy of note: the Major National Dialogue, amendment of national sector strategies, training, regular capacity development, increased collaboration in the promotion and protection of Human Rights, and institutional coordination in the area of Human Rights through the Interministerial Committee set up in the Prime Minister's Office.

170. The exploration of new modes of financing the economy should also be noted¹⁰³, as well as Cameroon's great capacity for resilience in the face of crises.

171. Constraints are linked to the slow progress in administrative practices in their adaptation to Human Rights requirements, harmful traditional practices, increased health and

budgetary constraints especially with the impact of COVID-19, the Russo-Ukrainian crisis, as well as the persistence of security crises in some regions of the country, the rise of hate speech and shifts in living together.

VII. Expectations of the state in capacity development and, where necessary, requests for support and technical assistance

172. In addition to expectations already expressed in the preceding periodic report, can be cited, capacity development of Human Rights stakeholders; increased support in combating terrorism; greater sharing of the refugee burden; increased support for national initiatives to consolidate living together and resolve the crisis in North West Region and South West Region, which has consequences in particular on the humanitarian burden, the management of victims of violence and reconstruction, the rights of internally displaced persons.

173. Technical and financial support for the production of statistics is also desirable, as well as greater cooperation of States in responding to security challenges.

174. Assistance is expected to be provided in a manner that respects the sovereignty of Cameroon and the values dear to its people.

Notes

- ¹ In particular, Resolutions 5/1, 16/21 and Decision 17/119.
- ² Pursuant to Decree No. 2021/751 of 28 December 2021 and Decree No. 2021/753 of 28 December 2021.
- ³ Pursuant to Decree No. 2020/2 of 6 January 2020.
- ⁴ Appendix, 10.
- ⁵ About 1,321,306.84 Euros.
- ⁶ CFAF703,000,000 in 2020, CFAF1,246,000,000 in 2021 and CFAF3,746,000,000 in 2022, respectively about 1,070,225.16; 1,896,871.33; and 5,702,792.95 Euros.
- ⁷ Appendix, 11.
- ⁸ Appendix, 12.
- ⁹ About 1,464,514.04 Euros.
- ¹⁰ Appendix, 13.
- ¹¹ Appendix, 14.
- ¹² Appendix, 15.
- ¹³ Appendix, 16.
- ¹⁴ Appendix, 17.
- ¹⁵ Appendix, 18.
- ¹⁶ Appendix, 19.
- ¹⁷ Appendix, 20.
- ¹⁸ Appendix, 21.
- ¹⁹ Increase from CFAF10,000,000,000 (about 15,223,686.46 Euros) in 2018 to CFAF240,231,858,000 (about 365,721,448.39 Euros) in 2022.
- ²⁰ Set up by Decree No. 2018/190 of 2 March 2018, it is in charge of the drawing up, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of Government policy on decentralisation.
- ²¹ Set up by Decree No. 2020/111 of 2 March 2020, the mission of the National School of Local Administration is to ensure initial training, in-service training, and special training of Council staff.
- ²² Appointed by Decree No. 2021/342 of 10 June 2021. Decree No. 2020/773 of 24 December 2020 lays down the terms and conditions of discharge of their duties.
- ²³ In January 2021, Assemblies and regional executives were set up.
- ²⁴ Appendix, 22.
- ²⁵ Decree No. 2020/136 of 23 March 2020 to set up and lay down the organisation and functioning of the Committee to monitor the implementation of recommendations of the MND.
- ²⁶ As at 31 December 2022, information centres in North West Region and South West Region registered 657 residnets.
- ²⁷ Appendix, 23.
- ²⁸ Appendix, 24.
- ²⁹ Appendix, 25.
- ³⁰ On 30 April 2021, the Subcommission for Prevention of Torture, comprising 4 Commissioners including a doctor, was formed at the CHRC.
- ³¹ Appendix, 26.
- ³² Appendix, 27.

- 33 Details can be found in Combined 22nd and 23rd Report of Cameroon on the Convention against Racial Discrimination, submitted in 2019.
- 34 Appendix, 28.
- 35 Appendix, 29.
- 36 They include the rights to information, food, health and the assistance of a lawyer.
- 37 Appendix, 30.
- 38 Judgment No. 2/HB/PCA/LIT/20 of 13 November 2020 of the Court of Appeal Littoral Region; Ruling No. 1/LI of 17 September 2018 and Ruling No. 1/L1/CRIM of 14 August 2019 of the High Court of Ntem Valley; Ruling No. 43/HC of 22 November 2018 and Ruling No. 25/OHC/CAB/PTGI/Mifi of 12 September 2019 of the High Court of Mifi.
- 39 Soa, Sa'a, Ngaoundal, Belel, Lomie, Messamena, Mbang, Betare-Oya, Bafut, Nwa, Menchum Valley, Njinikom, Lolodorf, Mvangane, Eyumodjock, Mbonge, Ekondo-Titi, Pouma, Tonga, Obala, Mbandjock, Ayos, Okola, Ngomedzap and Eseka.
- 40 Cameroon has 1 Supreme Court, 1 Special Criminal Court, 10 Administrative Courts, 10 Military Tribunals, 10 Courts of Appeal, 12 High Courts, 47 Courts of First Instance and High Court, 29 Courts of First Instance and 447 Customary Courts.
- 41 By Decree No. 2018/104 of 7 February 2018 to lay down the organisation and functioning of the Secretariat General of the Constitutional Council and Decree No. 2018/105 of 7 February 2018 to appoint members of the Constitutional Council.
- 42 From CFAF63,454,000,000 (About 96,600,380.06 Euros) in 2018 to CFAF65,915,000,000 (About 100,346,929.30 Euros) in 2023.
- 43 Appendix, 31.
- 44 Appendix, 32.
- 45 Appendix, 33.
- 46 About 1,464,518.64 Euros.
- 47 Appendix, 34.
- 48 Appendix, 35.
- 49 Appendix, 36.
- 50 Article 47 of Decree No. 2001/41 of 19 February 2001 to lay down the organisation of public schools, and the duties of officials in charge of administration, indicates that pupils in public primary schools are exempt from school fees.
- 51 Section 6 of Law No. 98/4 of 14 April 1998 on the Orientation of Education in Cameroon clearly provides that the State shall guarantee the child the right to education. Similarly, Section 9 provides that primary education shall be compulsory.
- 52 CERD, CEDAW, Maputo Protocol.
- 53 Appendix, 37.
- 54 Appendix, 38.
- 55 Adamawa Region, North Region and Far North Region are deemed priority education areas.
- 56 Appendix, 39.
- 57 Appendix, 40.
- 58 Appendix, 41.
- 59 Increased from CFAF175,200,000,000 (About 266,718,986.78 Euros) in 2018 to CFAF228,168,000,000 (About,347,355,809,220.53 Euros) in 2023.
- 60 Appendix, 42.
- 61 Accessible at <https://dplml.cm/repertoireDe-sAmm/index.php>.
- 62 Appendix, 43.
- 63 Appendix, 44.
- 64 The goal is to reduce the TME to less than 2% at 6 weeks and less than 5% at 18 months.
- 65 Reproductive, neonatal, infant and adolescent health.
- 66 It consists in screening and treating all pregnant women.
- 67 Appendix, 45.
- 68 Appendix, 46.
- 69 Appendix, 47.
- 70 Appendix, 48.
- 71 Appendix, 49.
- 72 Appendix, 50.
- 73 Appendix, 51.
- 74 Appendix, 52.
- 75 Appendix, 53.
- 76 Appendix, 54.
- 77 Appendix, 55.
- 78 Appendix, 56.
- 79 Appendix, 57.
- 80 Appendix, 58.
- 81 From CFAF6,072,000,000 (About 9,243,822.42 Euros) in 2018 to CFAF9,201,000,000 (About 1,400,7313.91 Euros) en 2023.
- 82 Appendix, 59.

- 83 Appendix, 60.
84 Appendix, 61.
85 Medical orientation, legal and judicial, economic, psychosocial and material support.
86 Appendix, 62.
87 Appendix, 63.
88 From 2019 to 2021, some 114 women received legal aid.
89 By end-2022, 3 409 Judicial and Legal Officers and non-Judicial and -Legal Officers of MINJUSTICE were women.
90 Appendix, 64.
91 Appendix, 65.
92 Appendix, 66.
93 Appendix, 67.
94 Appendix, 68.
95 Appendix, 69.
96 Law No. 2019/20 of 24 December 2019 to amend and supplement some provisions of Law No. 2016/7 of 12 July 2016 to lay down the Penal Code.
97 The budget increased from CFAF20,197,604,000 (About 30,748,199.05 Euros) in 2018 to CFAF22,736,054,000 (About 34,612,655.74 Euros) in 2023.
98 Appendix, 70.
99 The budget allocated to health increased from CFAF1,050,000,000 in 2018 to CFAF1,100,000,000 in 2023 (From 1,598,487.08 to 1,674,605.51 Euros). The budget for food increased from CFAF4,470,000,000 in 2018 to CFAF5,265,000,000 in 2023 (From 6,804,987.85 to 8,015,270.92 Euros).
100 As well as Decree No. 2018/366 of 20 June 2018 to may down the Public Contracts Code and Decree No. 2018/1/PM of 5 January 2018 to lay down the conditions and procedures for awarding public contracts electronically.
101 Appendix, 71.
102 About 6,056,303.28 Euros.
103 Appendix, 72.
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