

# **Cameroon**

## **Mid-term**

### **Implementation**

### **Assessment**



**UPR-INFO.ORG**

PROMOTING AND STRENGTHENING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW



## Introduction

### 1. Purpose of the follow-up programme

*The second and subsequent cycles of the review should focus on, inter alia, the implementation of the accepted recommendations and the development of the human rights situation in the State under review.*

A/HRC/RES/16/21, 12 April 2011 (Annex I C § 6)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process takes place every four years; however, some recommendations can be implemented immediately. In order to reduce this interval, we have created an update process to evaluate the human rights situation two years after the examination at the UPR.

Broadly speaking, *UPR Info* seeks to ensure the respect of commitments made in the UPR, but also more specifically to give stakeholders the opportunity to share their opinion on the commitments. To this end, about two years after the review, *UPR Info* invites States, NGOs and National Institutions for Human Rights (NHRI) to share their comments on the implementation (or lack thereof) of recommendations adopted at the Human Rights Council (HRC).

For this purpose, *UPR Info* publishes a Mid-term Implementation Assessment (MIA) including responses from each stakeholder. The MIA is meant to show how all stakeholders are willing to follow and implement their commitments: civil society should monitor the implementation of the recommendations that States should implement.

While the follow-up's importance has been highlighted by the HRC, no precise directives regarding the follow-up procedure have been set until now. Therefore, *UPR Info* is willing to share good practices as soon as possible and to strengthen the collaboration pattern between States and stakeholders. Unless the UPR's follow-up is seriously considered, the UPR mechanism as a whole could be affected.

The methodology used by *UPR Info* to collect data and to calculate index is described at the end of this document.

Geneva, 27 January 2012

## Follow-up Outcomes

### 1. Sources and results

All data are available at the following address:

<http://followup.upr-info.org/index/country/cameroon>

We invite the reader to consult that webpage since all recommendations, all stakeholders reports and the unedited comments as well can be found at that very internet address.

7 NGOs were contacted. Both the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva and the State were contacted. The domestic NHRI was contacted as well.

5 NGOs responded to our enquiry. The State under Review did not respond to our enquiry. The domestic NHRI did not respond to our enquiry either.

*IRI:* 46 recommendations are not implemented, 21 recommendations are partially implemented, and 2 recommendations are fully implemented. No answer was received for 24 out of 97 recommendations.

### 2. Index

Hereby the issues which the MIA deals with:

rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
1	Migrants, International instruments,	page 6	partially impl.
2	Rights of the Child, International instruments,	page 6	not impl.
3	Corruption	page 8	partially impl.
4	Detention conditions	page 8	partially impl.
5	Technical assistance	page 9	partially impl.
6	Sexual rights	page 9	not impl.
7	Right to education, International instruments,	page 10	-
8	General	page 11	not impl.

rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
9	Right to education	page 11	not impl.
10	Justice	page 12	not impl.
11	Women's rights, Treaty bodies, Torture and other CID treatment, Rights of the Child,	page 12	not impl.
12	HIV - Aids	page 12	partially impl.
13	Women's rights, Torture and other CID treatment, Rights of the Child,	page 13	not impl.
14	Justice, International instruments,	page 13	not impl.
15	Right to education	page 13	partially impl.
16	Torture and other CID treatment, International instruments,	page 14	not impl.
17	Justice, International instruments,	page 14	not impl.
18	Sexual rights	page 9	not impl.
20	Sexual rights, International instruments,	page 9	not impl.
21	International instruments, Freedom of the press,	page 14	not impl.
22	Elections	page 16	not impl.
23	Freedom of the press	page 14	not impl.
24	Special procedures	page 16	not impl.
25	Human rights education and training	page 16	fully impl.
28	Sexual rights, HIV - Aids,	page 10	not impl.
29	Justice	page 16	not impl.
30	International instruments, Disabilities,	page 16	partially impl.
31	International instruments, Enforced disappearances,	page 17	not impl.
33	Human rights education and training	page 17	not impl.
35	Rights of the Child, Detention conditions,	page 18	not impl.
37	International instruments, Enforced disappearances,	page 17	not impl.
38	Women's rights	page 19	partially impl.
39	Minorities, Indigenous peoples,	page 19	not impl.
40	Right to education	page 20	partially impl.
41	Justice, Detention conditions,	page 20	not impl.
43	Sexual rights	page 10	not impl.
44	Technical assistance	page 21	partially impl.
45	Women's rights, Torture and other CID treatment, Rights of the Child, Human rights education and training,	page 21	partially impl.
46	Justice, Detention conditions,	page 21	not impl.
47	Labour	page 21	partially impl.
48	Freedom of the press	page 14	not impl.
49	Rights of the Child, International instruments,	page 22	not impl.
51	Indigenous peoples	page 22	not impl.

rec. n°	Issue	page	IRI
52	Right to education	page 22	partially impl.
53	Right to housing	page 23	partially impl.
54	Corruption	page 23	not impl.
55	NHRI, Civil society,	page 24	partially impl.
56	Freedom of the press, Freedom of opinion and expression,	page 14	not impl.
57	Treaty bodies, Rights of the Child,	page 24	not impl.
58	Women's rights, Torture and other CID treatment, Rights of the Child,	page 24	partially impl.
59	Rights of the Child, Right to education,	page 24	not impl.
60	Special procedures	page 9	-
61	Special procedures, Human rights education and training, Human rights defenders, Detention conditions,	page 25	not impl.
63	Sexual rights	page 10	not impl.
64	Rights of the Child	page 25	partially impl.
65	Rights of the Child, Poverty,	page 27	not impl.
66	Women's rights	page 27	partially impl.
67	Rights of the Child, International instruments,	page 27	not impl.
68	International instruments, Disabilities,	page 28	not impl.
69	Women's rights, Rights of the Child,	page 27	partially impl.
73	Sexual rights, International instruments,	page 10	not impl.
74	Technical assistance	page 21	partially impl.
75	Freedom of the press	page 14	not impl.
76	Treaty bodies	page 28	not impl.
79	Rights of the Child, Right to health, Indigenous peoples,	page 29	not impl.
84	Trafficking, Rights of the Child, Human rights education and training,	page 25	partially impl.
89	Freedom of religion and belief	page 29	-
90	Development	page 29	-
93	Corruption	page 23	not impl.
94	Women's rights, Treaty bodies, Rights of the Child,	page 27	not impl.
95	Special procedures, Freedom of opinion and expression,	page 29	fully impl.
96	Elections	page 29	not impl.

### **3. Feedbacks on recommendations**

Recommendation n°1: *Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families ICRMW* (Recommended by Algeria).

IRI: *partially implemented*

Maison Des Droits De l'Home du Cameroun (MDHC) response:

L'Etat du Cameroun a procédé à la signature de la convention sur le droit des travailleurs migrants et les membres de leur famille, le 15 décembre 2009, mais ne l'a pas encore ratifié jusqu'à présent. En l'état actuel des choses il reste difficile pour l'Etat de protéger et promouvoir les droits des travailleurs migrants et de leur famille. Un plaidoyer pour y arriver s'impose au regard des différentes difficultés auxquelles sont confrontés ceux-ci.

Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) response:

Cameroon signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families ICRMW in 2009, but has not yet ratified this convention.

Recommendation n°2: *Accede to the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child CRC* (Recommended by Algeria).

IRI: *not implemented*

UNPO response:

Cameroon signed both optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2001, but has not yet ratified either protocol

MDHC response:

Le Cameroun a effectivement signé la CDE le 25 septembre 1990, et a procédé à sa ratification le 11 Janvier 1993. Il est évident de voir les efforts du gouvernement pour l'application de cette convention, nous avons par exemple la gratuité de l'éducation primaire, la gratuité de certains médicament pour les enfants de 0 à 5ans. Mais au regard de la triste actualité ambiante au Cameroun sur la situation encore précaire des enfants, nous disons que de très grands efforts sont encore à fournir pour espérer le respect des droits de tous les enfants de façon équitable et juste.

Franciscans International (FI) response:

L'atmosphère est tendue au Cameroun. La vie y est chère.

- 40% des près de 20 millions d'habitants vivent avec moins deux dollars par jour. Bien que le pays possède de nombreuses ressources naturelles (pétrole, gaz, bois, mines), les indicateurs sociaux et économiques sont faibles.

- Si le droit de manifester est reconnu et prévu dans le préambule de la Constitution camerounaise, la société civile, associations, syndicats partis politiques peinent à exprimer leurs revendication même pacifiquement.

- Les deux protocoles facultatifs sont signés (05 octobre 2001) mais toujours pas ratifiés
- Le trafic des enfants au Cameroun est jugé préoccupant. Le Cameroun est :
  - un pays d'origine, la traite se produisant à l'intérieur du pays
  - un pays de destination des enfants victimes de la traite
  - venus des pays voisins.
  - un pays de transit pour le trafic des enfants vers le Gabon et la Guinée équatoriale et vers des pays européens (France, Belgique, Suisse, Italie, Royaume-Uni) à des fins d'exploitation sexuelle
- Le trafic des enfants s'organise à travers un réseau associant la participation active des parents à des intermédiaires chargés d'assurer le déplacement et le placement des enfants auprès d'employeurs. Les parents sont responsables du trafic des enfants.
- Les enfants vendus/loués comme esclaves pour une somme dérisoire, comme « personnes à tout faire », le plus souvent comme appoint au travail traditionnellement réservé aux femmes, sans droits dans des familles plus aisées.
- On rapporte que cette pratique est courante particulièrement dans le nord-est du pays liée aux conditions sociaux-économiques difficiles. La vie au Cameroun est toujours plus chère. Le départ de la famille pour un emploi auprès d'un patron est perçu comme positif.
- Les parents et leurs enfants vivant dans la précarité sont les cibles privilégiées. Ils livrent leurs enfants à l'exploitation pensant leur assurer un meilleur avenir en leur trouvant du travail ou en leur offrant l'opportunité d'une formation, de cesser de constituer une charge pour les parents tout en contribuant au bien-être de la famille par un apport financier.
- Les enfants sont soumis à toute sorte d'abus affectant leur développement physique, moral et affectif. On estime à seulement 1% le taux de ces enfants scolarisés.
- On rapporte qu'il est communément admis que les enfants travaillent durant leurs vacances scolaires et qu'il est courant qu'ils en arrivent à se prostituer pour être en mesure de payer leurs frais de scolarité.
- On constate une aggravation alarmante de vente d'enfants par les parents les plus démunis de la société à des familles plus riches.
- Le trafic des enfants recouvre le phénomène du travail précoce des enfants.
- Au Cameroun, le travail des enfants de moins de 14 ans est proscrit par la loi n° 92/007 du 14 Août 1992 (article 86).



- Aucune réalisation du gouvernement sur le terrain pour lutter contre ce fléau de l'exploitation des enfants dès la base n'est connue.
- L'Etat punit sévèrement les coupables.
- Les défenseurs des enfants victimes et violés dans leurs dignité et leurs droits ont beaucoup de difficultés à faire leur travail dû au fait que la population n'identifie pas cette pratique comme un délit.
- Faible sensibilisation des autorités publiques au phénomène du trafic des enfants".

**Recommendation n°3:** Increase effectiveness of the plan of action to improve the judicial system to combat corruption more effectively (Recommended by Algeria).

IRI: *partially implemented*

Fondation Idolé au Cameroun (FONI) response:

Le Cameroun a créé ELECAM un organe qui lutte contre la corruption.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) response:

This information valid as of May 2010. The government forced through a Bill in March 2010 which removed the power to organise and oversee elections from the newly-created independent Electoral Commission, ELECAM, and returned it partially to the government and the judiciary. The Cameroonian government and judiciary are both allegedly highly corrupt institutions. Cameroon ranked 146 out of 180 in Transparency International's 2009 Corruption Index. According to a 2007 study by Transparency International-Cameroun, the most corrupt sectors include customs, taxation, police, judiciary and general administration. In May 2010, the government initiated a series of human rights training seminars for justice officials and prison superintendents. It remains to be seen whether the training seminars will result in tangible, positive changes in the penal system.

**Recommendation n°4:** Continue the ongoing efforts to ensure the conformity of detention conditions with international standards (Recommended by Algeria).

IRI: *partially implemented*

FONI response:

Le Cameroun a formé des gardiens de prison et des régisseurs aux Droits de l'homme.

CHRI response:

This information valid as of May 2010. Amnesty International's January 2009 report, referred to overcrowded, unhygienic conditions in Cameroon's jails, which often held men, women and children in the same facilities, with limited food and medical care. The conditions in Cameroon's prisons were widely seen as deplorable. New Bell Prison in Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon, was, in August 2008, the country's most populous prison, housing 3,421 prisoners in a facility built to hold only 800. Overcrowding had reportedly resulted in many prisoners having to sleep outside, while poor sanitation was demonstrated by open toilets and a lack of water. Food reportedly comprised a handful of corn and French beans for lunch and some rice for dinner. Petty criminals were housed with hardened criminals, and children



with adults. There were reports of sexual abuse, including the regular rape of children. In August 2008, nine prisoners died when a fire broke out at a prison. A year later in August 2009, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms published a report which said that five prisoners in northern Cameroon died every month because of the lack of medical attention. Prison conditions were described in the report as "draconian, inhuman and degrading" and prison authorities reportedly showed "indifference" towards human rights abuses. In May 2010, the government initiated a series of human rights training seminars for justice officials and prison superintendents. It remains to be seen whether the training seminars will result in tangible, positive changes in the penal system. Despite the existence of a provision within the Criminal Procedure Code (2005) which limited legal pre-trial detention at six months (unless extended by a judge), in practice many prisoners were in pre-trial detention for much longer. It was reported in August 2008, that over 70 per cent of the inmates of New Bell Prison were still awaiting judgement, and often had been in prison for several years due to a backlog of cases. In October 2009, "government statistics" showed that 62.48 per cent of the country's 24,000 prisoners were still awaiting trial.

**Recommendation n°5:** Request technical assistance from OHCHR to improve the promotion of human rights (Recommended by *Algeria*).

IRI: *partially implemented*

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**Recommendation n°60:** Extend an open invitation to the special procedures of United Nations Human Rights Council (Recommended by *Latvia*).

IRI: -

**MDHC response:**

Depuis 2004, la promotion des droits de l'homme a connu une accélération certaine, ceci est facilité par la naissance de multitudes d'ONG, de commissions des droits de l'homme, d'ajustement de programmes éducatifs et des séminaires de formation dans le domaine. Mais certaines limites d'ordre techniques s'imposent et entravent le mieux déroulement de cette entreprise, c'est pourquoi une assistance technique de l'OHCHR doit être plus que récurrente dans le pays.

**Recommendation n°6:** Consider the possibility of reforming the laws criminalizing homosexuality and adapting them to international standards (Recommended by *Argentina*).

IRI: *not implemented*

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**Recommendation n°18:** Amend domestic law regarding homosexuality, with a view to decriminalize it (Recommended by *Brazil*).

IRI: *not implemented*

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**Recommendation n°20:** Amend its Criminal Code to abolish the criminalization of homosexual acts to conform to the provisions of the ICCPR, particularly articles 2 and 26, and the provisions of the African Charter of Human Rights and Peoples' Rights (Recommended by *Canada*).

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n°28: *Recommended the decriminalization of same-sex activity between consenting adults and adoption of measures to promote tolerance in this regards, which would also facilitate more effective educational programmes for the prevention of HIV-AIDS* (Recommended by Czech Republic).

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n°43: *Respect international provisions in the area of non-discrimination against homosexuals* (Recommended by France).

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n°63: *Reform its legislative arsenal on this point and establish effective protection of homosexuals against discrimination and attacks* (Recommended by Luxembourg).

IRI: *not implemented*

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Recommendation n°73: All national legislation that criminalized homosexuality be brought into line with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other relevant instruments (Recommended by Mexico).

IRI: *not implemented*

#### CHRI response:

This information valid as of May 2010. Cameroon continues to criminalise homosexuality. Under Section 347 of the Penal Code, a person can be sentenced to between six months and five years imprisonment and fined CFA 200,000 for sexual contact with members of the same sex. It was reported that in May 2009, a man was arrested and charged under Sections B29347 and 74 for criminal intention and under Section 346 for gross indecency after a mother alleged that he had slept with her minor son. A gay rights group asserted that the allegation of paedophilia was untrue and that the man was being stigmatised after he was arrested the previous year for homosexual conduct and remanded at New Bell Prison for six months before being released. In November 2009, a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) activist was arrested and detained after he was heard discussing LGBT rights in a taxi.

Recommendation n°7: *Consider the ratification of UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education* (Recommended by Azerbaijan).

IRI: -

#### MDHC response:

De nos jours encore, des discriminations sont perceptibles dans l'éducation au Cameroun. C'est très souvent le cas lors des différents examens officiels où la population du nord, extrême-nord par exemple est marginalisée parce que sous alphabétisée. Les mentalités sont rétrogrades et ne pensent qu'à l'agriculture et à l'élevage. Très souvent même ces discriminations sont causées par les encadreurs tribaux. On dirait dans une certaine mesure que l'Etat Camerounais laisse faire par son inaction, puisqu'aussi cette discrimination résulte du cout de la vie, du cout scolaire, et a pour corollaire le chômage des jeunes, l'analphabétisme, et bien d'autres difficultés. Au regard de tout ceci, nous dirons que l'Etat n'est pas sourd à ces discriminations, c'est même la raison pour laquelle des mesures de gratuité et de



formation professionnelle ont été mises sur pieds. Malgré tous ces moyens mis en jeux, il reste encore beaucoup de choses à faire pour bannir cette pratique.

FI response:

- Si la gratuité de l'enseignement primaire est acquise en principe, les mesures d'accompagnement font défaut.
- Des écoles ont été construites dans presque tous les villages camerounais bien souvent par les villageois.
- Les professeurs sont employés et payés par l'Association des Parents et Enseignants (PTA) créée par l'Etat
- Concernant l'accès tout le long du territoire, pour tous : rien n'a évolué.
- La qualité de l'enseignement baisse.
- Concernant l'accès pour tous, sans distinction de sexe ou d'origine sociale, on reconnaît que l'Etat a pris des mesures pour encourager la scolarisation des filles et des personnes handicapées.
- L'Etat prend des mesures pour interdire et dénoncer les mariages forcés
- On constate une nette amélioration de la situation (scolarisation des filles et mariage forcés) d'un côté et la réticence de la population de l'autre.
- Les orphelins de militaires ne bénéficient pas de leur droit à l'éducation comme prévu dans la législation camerounaise."

**Recommendation n°8:** *Continue efforts and endeavours to improve the overall human rights protection situation in the country (Recommended by Azerbaijan).*

**IRI: not implemented**

CHRI response:

This information valid as of May 2010. Cameroon's National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms had been in existence since 1990 and became financially autonomous in 2004. However, there were complaints in 2008 that the Commission was inadequately funded and lacked offices in most towns and regions. As of the beginning of 2010, a number of regional offices were reportedly open, and the government planned to open regional offices in the five remaining regions in 2010. Many Cameroonian were reported to be ignorant about the functioning of the Commission and a lack of cooperation from local authorities reportedly hampered the work of the body. Throughout the period of this report, Cameroon fared poorly in the protection of freedom of expression. Journalists and editors of newspapers faced prosecution, imprisonment and intimidation in the course of carrying out their jobs.

**Recommendation n°9:** *Continue its work to improve the scope of education and its quality at every level (Recommended by Belarus).*

**IRI: not implemented**

**MDHC response:**

L'éducation au Cameroun est fortement générale et très moins professionnelle. La qualité des programmes est certes soutenue, mais non adaptés aux réalités du pays. Quelques années de réflexion ont vu naître le projet LMD dans les universités surtout et le renforcement des capacités motrices au niveau secondaire. Toutefois ce système n'est pas compatibles aux réalités camerounaises, d'où l'obligation pour le Cameroun d'user des moyens adéquats pour renforcer et adapter le système éducatif Camerounais.

**FI response:**

See response to recommendation n°7.

**Recommendation n°10 : Continue its work to strengthen independence and authority of the national judicial system (Recommended by Belarus).**

IRI: not implemented

**CHRI response:**

This information valid as of May 2010. The government forced through a Bill in March 2010 which removed the power to organise and oversee elections from the newly-created independent Electoral Commission, ELECAM, and returned it partially to the government and the judiciary. The Cameroonian government and judiciary are both allegedly highly corrupt institutions. Cameroon ranked 146 out of 180 in Transparency International's 2009 Corruption Index. According to a 2007 study by Transparency International-Cameroon, the most corrupt sectors include customs, taxation, police, judiciary and general administration. In May 2010, the government initiated a series of human rights training seminars for justice officials and prison superintendents. It remains to be seen whether the training seminars will result in tangible, positive changes in the penal system.

**Recommendation n°11: Continue its legislative reforms to address discriminatory cultural practices, including FGM, in line with CEDAW recommendations (Recommended by Botswana).**

IRI: not implemented

**MDHC response:**

La mutilation génitale féminine est une pratique culturelle exécutable qui sévit encore au Cameroun particulièrement dans le septentrion. Le gouvernement Camerounais en dehors de son adhésion à la CEDEF le 07 Janvier 2005, n'a encore entrepris aucune mesure expresse conforme à la CEDEF, en dehors de celles déjà prévus par les lois et règlements, interdisant les discriminations culturelles telles la mutilation génitale. Il s'est engagé dans lutte purement sensibilisatrice par des campagnes et des appels à consciences sur le phénomène. Au regard des douleurs et conséquences qu'elle entraîne sur la personne humaine, nous pensons qu'il est grand temps pour le Cameroun d'entrevoir des mesures concrètes interdisant cette pratique et d'autres.

**Recommendation n°12: Continue to implement its initiatives in combating the HIV-AIDS pandemic and share its experiences in this regard (Recommended by Botswana).**

IRI: partially implemented

**MDHC response:**

La lutte contre la pandémie du VIH-SIDA est au centre des préoccupations du gouvernement camerounais. Depuis plusieurs années déjà, des programmes d'éducation et de réduction des couts de prise en charge entre autres ont été mis sur pieds pour barrer la voie à la pandémie. Jusque là, la situation reste inchangée au vu de nombreux nouveaux contaminés et morts du SIDA. La précarité de la situation économique, du secteur de la santé surtout dans les pénitenciers en accélère la propagation et prouve l'inertie.

**FONI response:**

Synergie africaines, est un organe crée par la première dame camerounaise et lutte contre le VIH sous plusieurs formes:sensibilisation de la population et distribution gratuite des medicaments.

**FI response:**

- On constate un manque de constance dans les efforts du gouvernement. Concernant la lutte contre la pandémie.
- On déplore le manque de médicaments contre le VIH/SIDA dans les centres de traitement.
- Les médias soutiennent les efforts de sensibilisation de la population.

**Recommendation n°13: Adopt legislation prohibiting FGM (Recommended by Brazil).**

**IRI: not implemented**

**MDHC response:**

Le gouvernement Camerounais en dehors de son adhésion à la CEDEF le 07 Janvier 2005, n'a encore entrepris aucune mesure expresse conforme à la CEDEF, en dehors de celles déjà prévus par les lois et règlements, interdisant les discriminations culturelles telles la mutilation génitale.

**Recommendation n°14: Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Recommended by Brazil).**

**IRI: not implemented**

**UNPO response:**

Cameroon has neither signed nor ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

**Recommendation n°15: Continue its efforts to universalize free primary education (Recommended by Brazil).**

**IRI: partially implemented**

**MDHC response:**

Le droit à l'éducation des enfants est mis en œuvre par la gratuité de l'enseignement maternelle envisagé par décret du gouvernement camerounais. Mais l'on peut constater qu'il n'est pas effectif sur tout le territoire, à cause des dirigeants véreux qui restent jusqu'ici impunis, et du fait de l'éloignement des métropoles de certaines écoles primaires.

FONI response:

Le Cameroun a créé un ministère à part pour l'éducation de base alors qu'avant l'éducation nationale englobait l'enseignement secondaire et primaire.

FI response:

See response to recommendation n°7.

Recommendation n°16: *Ratify the OP-CAT (Recommended by Brazil).*

**IRI: not implemented**

UNPO response:

Cameroon signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) in 2009, but has not yet ratified this protocol.

Recommendation n°17: *Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Recommended by Brazil).*

**IRI: not implemented**

UNPO response:

While Cameroon signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998, it has not yet ratified this treaty.

Recommendation n°21: *Comply with its obligations under the ICCPR, particularly by abolishing the penalty of detention for offences of the press (Recommended by Canada).*

**IRI: not implemented**

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Recommendation n°23: Adopt all necessary measures to ensure that the press could work freely. (Recommended by Chile).

**IRI: not implemented**

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Recommendation n°48: *Thoroughly reform the legal framework regulating the founding and operation of independent media enterprises (Recommended by Germany).*

**IRI: not implemented**

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Recommendation n°56: *Further advance access to the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the press by ensuring current national press legislation evolves in conformity with international human rights standards (Recommended by Israel).*

**IRI: not implemented**

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Recommendation n°75: *Reform the press law in order to lift existing restrictions on the media (Recommended by Netherlands).*

**IRI: not implemented**

CHRI response:

This information valid as of May 2010. Cameroon fared poorly in the protection of freedom of expression. Journalists and editors of newspapers faced prosecution, imprisonment and intimidation in the course of carrying out their jobs. On 22 September 2008, the editor of the Détente Libre newspaper, Lewis Medjo, was



arrested and charged with “publishing false information”. On 7 January 2009, he was sentenced to three years imprisonment and 3,000,000 Cameroonian CFA Franc. His arrest and conviction have been linked to the publication of two articles in August 2008. One alleged that the Head of State, Paul Biya, was planning to force the President of the Supreme Court to take early retirement in 2009, and another alleged that the then Director of National Security, Edgar Alain Mebe Ngo'o had colluded in blackmailing a businessman. In June 2009, the editor and deputy-editor of a weekly paper were convicted by a military court for exposing defence secrets and were sentenced to five years imprisonment and a fine. In October 2008, two journalists, Zacharie Ndiomo Flash, the Publisher of Le Zenith newspaper and Armand Ondoua of Le Regional newspaper, as well as their informant, Ekombo Nkoumou Tsala, were arrested while trying to investigate alleged corruption and bribery at the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM). They were subsequently charged with blackmailing the Director of ENAM. In December 2009, the editor of the weekly Germinal, Jean-Bosco Talla, was convicted of “insulting the Head of State” after he published excerpts from a book that referred to alleged homosexual activities between the President, Paul Biya, and his predecessor, Ahmadou Ahidjo. The editor was given a one-year suspended sentence and \$6,800 fine. Two more journalists, Simon Sabouang and Serge Herve Nko'o, were arrested without a warrant in February 2010, while attempting to investigate potential corruption by Laurent Esso, Minister of State and Secretary-General of the Presidency, in his role as director of the state oil company, Société Nationale des Hydrocarbures (SNH).

In addition to the threat of imprisonment, journalists have also faced intimidation and censorship. In June 2008, a television show was interrupted by government representatives during a debate on a politically sensitive scandal, when reference was made to the detention of two journalists investigating the issue. Six journalists were then briefly detained, questioned and released. In October 2009, Reporters Without Borders expressed concern about the repeated intimidation of Jules Koum Koum, the editor of a weekly paper, Le Jeune Observateur. Following the publication of a number of reports on corruption, people broke into Jules Koum Koum’s house, stealing documents and hacking into his emails. In August 2009, a private radio station was closed down for “recurring violations of legal and administrative regulations” of media laws. The action has been linked to a particular show in which people called in to air grievances and request help. On 22 April 2010, the managing editor of the Cameroun Express, Germain Cyrille Ngota, commonly known as “Bibi Ngota”, died while in prison. He was incarcerated in pre-trial detention for 90 days for fraud after he investigated a case involving one of President Biya’s top aides, Laurent Esso, over alleged corruption as director of SNH. The government claimed that Ngota, along with two other managing editors of different newspapers who remain in custody, forged Esso’s signature in an attempt to blackmail him. The government reported that Ngota died due to “infections” linked to the HIV virus, but his family and colleagues dispute the cause of death, saying that he had high blood pressure and was denied medical treatment while in jail. A peaceful protest by journalists to express anger at Ngota’s death in prison was violently suppressed by police officers wielding clubs. Under international pressure, a judicial inquiry into the death was ordered.



**Recommendation n°22:** *Revise the composition of ELECAM to make it more balanced, diverse and representative and totally independent in order to contribute to transparent, fair and credible elections (Recommended by Canada).*

IRI: *not implemented*

**CHRI response:**

This information valid as of May 2010. The government forced through a Bill in March 2010 which removed the power to organise and oversee elections from the newly-created independent Electoral Commission, ELECAM, and returned it partially to the government and the judiciary.

**Recommendation n°24:** *Extend an open invitation to the special procedures of United Nations Human Rights Council (Recommended by Czech Republic)*

IRI: *not implemented*

**MDHC response:**

Depuis 2004, la promotion des droits de l'homme a connu une accélération certaine, ceci est facilité par la naissance de multitudes d'ONG, de commissions des droits de l'homme, d'ajustement de programmes éducatifs et des séminaires de formation dans le domaine. Mais certaines limites d'ordre techniques s'imposent et entravent le mieux déroulement de cette entreprise, c'est pourquoi une assistance technique de l'OHCHR doit être plus que récurrente au dans le pays.

**UNPO response:**

Cameroon has not yet extended an open invitation to the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council.

**Recommendation n°25:** *Intensify efforts to educate and train police, prison staff, law enforcement personnel and judges on all aspects of human rights (Recommended by Czech Republic).*

IRI: *fully implemented*

**CHRI response:**

This information valid as of May 2010. In May 2010, the government initiated a series of human rights training seminars for justice officials and prison superintendents. It remains to be seen whether the training seminars will result in tangible, positive changes in the penal system.

**Recommendation n°29:** *Implement its decision on the establishment of a Constitutional Court (Recommended by Democratic Republic of Congo).*

IRI: *not implemented*

**MDHC response:**

Sur ce point, la mise en pratique des promesses gouvernementales restent attendue. Pas plus loin que le 03 novembre 2011, dans son discours d'investiture, le Président de la République du Cameroun à encore promis la création d'une cours constitutionnelle pour courant 2012.

**Recommendation n°30:** *Ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities CPD (Recommended by Djibouti).*

IRI: *partially implemented*

**MDHC response:**

Le Cameroun a signé le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2008 la Convention sur les droits des personnes handicapées. Depuis lors, aucune mesure pour la ratification n'est enregistrée.

**FI response:**

- Le 13 avril 2010 le gouvernement a promulgué la loi n°2010/002 portant sur la protection et la promotion des personnes handicapées.
- La Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées signée le 01 octobre 2008, n'a toujours pas été ratifiée
- Un réseau d'ONG sous la direction de la FACAPH (la Fédération d'Afrique centrale des associations pour la promotion et la protection des droits des personnes handicapées) s'organise dans chaque province pour plaider pour la ratification rapide de la Convention
- Lors des élections présidentielles, des dispositions ont été prises pour faciliter l'accès des personnes handicapées aux urnes.

**Recommendation n°31: Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance CED (Recommended by Djibouti).**

IRI: not implemented

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**Recommendation n°37: Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance CED (Recommended by France).**

IRI: not implemented

**MDHC response:**

Le gouvernement Camerounais n'a jusqu'ici procédé qu'à la signature de cette convention depuis le 06 Février 2007. Une ratification s'impose au regard des différents cas allégués de disparition forcées dont les enquêtes officielles n'aboutissent pas. On se rappellera les 9 disparus de Bépanda, et tout récemment des certains journalistes tels Bibi Ngota et autres, et plus particulièrement pendant l'inauguration du commandement opérationnel de 2001, et des émeutes de février 2008.

**UNPO response:**

Cameroon signed the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2007, but has not yet ratified this convention.

**Recommendation n°33: Adopt measures to strengthen the national human rights infrastructure, and continue its efforts to spread a culture of human rights and to build the necessary institutions and provide the necessary training and capacity building to the concerned departments (Recommended by Egypt).**

IRI: not implemented

**CHRI response:**

This information valid as of May 2010. Cameroon's National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms had been in existence since 1990 and became



financially autonomous in 2004. However, there were complaints in 2008 that the Commission was inadequately funded and lacked offices in most towns and regions. As of the beginning of 2010, a number of regional offices were reportedly open, and the government planned to open regional offices in the five remaining regions in 2010. Many Cameroonian journalists and editors of newspapers faced prosecution, imprisonment and intimidation in the course of carrying out their jobs.

**Recommendation n°35:** *Continue to reinforce measures to ensure that detained children get the necessary treatment and assistance (Recommended by Estonia).*

**IRI: not implemented**

**CHRI response:**

This information valid as of May 2010. Amnesty International's January 2009 report, referred to overcrowded, unhygienic conditions in Cameroon's jails, which often held men, women and children in the same facilities, with limited food and medical care. The conditions in Cameroon's prisons were widely seen as deplorable. New Bell Prison in Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon, was, in August 2008, the country's most populous prison, housing 3,421 prisoners in a facility built to hold only 800. Overcrowding had reportedly resulted in many prisoners having to sleep outside, while poor sanitation was demonstrated by open toilets and a lack of water. Food reportedly comprised a handful of corn and French beans for lunch and some rice for dinner. Petty criminals were housed with hardened criminals, and children with adults. There were reports of sexual abuse, including the regular rape of children. In August 2008, nine prisoners died when a fire broke out at a prison. A year later in August 2009, the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms published a report which said that five prisoners in northern Cameroon died every month because of the lack of medical attention. Prison conditions were described in the report as "draconian, inhuman and degrading" and prison authorities reportedly showed "indifference" towards human rights abuses. In May 2010, the government initiated a series of human rights training seminars for justice officials and prison superintendents. It remains to be seen whether the training seminars will result in tangible, positive changes in the penal system.

**FI response:**

- Le Protocol optionnel de la Convention contre la torture n'a toujours pas été ratifié.
- Les droits fondamentaux des enfants accompagnant leur mère en détention, privés de liberté, ne sont pas appliqués.
- Dans les 27 prisons du Cameroun, mis à part la prison de Yaoundé, les mineurs détenus ne sont pas séparés des détenus adultes.
- Les prisons sont surpeuplées. Les infrastructures sont vétustes. La ration alimentaire est insuffisante et de qualité médiocre.



- Selon le rapport UNICEF 2009, on y compte 800 à 1000 enfants en détention préventive. Les enfants restent prévenus bien au-delà du délai légal (entre 6 mois et 12 mois). On estime que 70 - 85% des enfants n'ont été ni présentés à la barre ni condamnés.
- Aucune mesure n'est prise pour favoriser leur réinsertion. Rien n'est prévu pour leur scolarité. Quelques religieux dispensent des rudiments d'enseignement scolaire.

**Recommendation n°38: Promote equality between men and women (Recommended by France).**

IRI: *partially implemented*

**MDHC response:**

Il s'est agit la d'un axe central de la politique Camerounaise, de vouloir faciliter l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes. Ceci est d'autant plus marqué par les textes qui prônent l'égal accès [de] tous à tout. L'exemple en est donné dans l'ancien et le tout nouveau gouvernement. Mais le misérable nombre de femmes bénéficiant de cette [égalité] montre qu'au plus bas niveau cette égalité n'est que virtuelle, absence de sensibilisation ou même d'éducation montrant cette égalité de traitement, laissant ainsi toujours place à une discrimination positive dit-on. Jusqu'à présent des programmes concrets n'y font plus allusion. Alors un impératif s'impose pour permettre l'égal accès de tous à tout.

**FONI response:**

Le Cameroun a crée un ministère de la promotion de la femme alors qu'avant il y avait un ministère des Affaires sociales et de la condition feminine.

**Recommendation n°39: Respect international provisions in the area of the protection of minorities and vulnerable groups, particularly Pygmies and Mbororo (Recommended by France).**

IRI: *not implemented*

**CHRI response:**

This information valid as of May 2010. The Southern Cameroon National Council (SCNC), an Anglophone secessionist movement, continues to allege repression and maltreatment of Anglophone Cameroonian under the Francophone majority government. In October 2008, 24 SCNC activists were arrested. Following an appearance before a magistrate's court in February 2009, the activists were allegedly beaten up, arbitrarily arrested and detained, and had their property ransacked by armed soldiers of the Special Amphibious Battalion in the presence of the District Officer.

**UNPO response:**

Cameroon's English-speaking minority continues to experience marginalization and discrimination. Linguistic discrimination continues to have a strong effect on this community's access to education, employment and justice. As noted below, instruction in their native language, English, is unavailable for many students - French-only instruction puts them at a severe disadvantage in the classroom. In addition, English-speakers continue to experience overt discrimination in both government and private-sector employment. Access to justice is difficult for English-



speakers in Cameroon given the conduct of many procedures in French. Detainees have even reported being interrogated solely in French, and being forced to sign transcripts and documents in French despite their lack of even a basic understanding of the language.

**Recommendation n°40:** *Continue its efforts to ensure equal access to education throughout its territory for all, without distinction as to sex or social origins* (Recommended by France).

IRI: *partially implemented*

**MDHC response:**

Il s'est agi là d'un axe central de la politique Camerounaise, de vouloir faciliter l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes. Ceci est d'autant plus marqué par les textes qui prônent l'égal accès de tous à tout. L'exemple en est donné dans l'ancien et le tout nouveau gouvernement. Mais le misérable nombre de femmes en bénéficiant montre qu'au plus bas niveau cette égalité n'est que virtuelle, absence de sensibilisation ou même d'éducation équitable dans le traitement, laissant ainsi toujours place à une discrimination sans dire non. Jusqu'à présent des programmes concrets n'y font plus allusion. Alors un impératif s'impose pour permettre l'égal accès de tous à tout.

**FONI response:**

Le Cameroun a construit beaucoup d'écoles primaires et de lycées même dans les villages; mais il se pose le problèmes d'enseignants qui ne sont pas en nombre suffisants.

**FI response:**

See response to recommendation n°7.

**UNPO response:**

Education for children from English-speaking regions of Cameroon continues to be poor due to the non-implementation of bilingual policies. While Cameroon is officially bilingual, French is often imposed as the de facto language of instruction in primary school, standardized examinations are written in French and only rarely translated into English. English-speaking students also report continuing discrimination in university enrolment.

**Recommendation n°41:** *Continue the reform of the judicial system, to improve conditions of detention in prisons, and better separate civil and military jurisdictions* (Recommended by France).

IRI: *not implemented*

**CHRI response:**

See response to recommendation n°35.

**UNPO response:**

The U.S. Department of State, in its 2010 report on Human Rights in Cameroon, noted that prison conditions in the country remained harsh and life-threatening. The report notes severe overcrowding, poor hygiene and inadequate health and medical services for prisoners, and inadequate food and water (including the expectation that

food be brought in by prisoners' families. The report also notes that the torture of prisoners in Cameroon continues to be widespread.

**Recommendation n°44:** *Request the international community to provide technical assistance to Cameroon to enable it to achieve its objectives (Recommended by Gabon).*

IRI: *partially implemented*

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**Recommendation n°74:** *Request the international community to provide assistance (Recommended by Morocco).*

IRI: *partially implemented*

MDHC response:

Le gouvernement Camerounais reste officiellement ouvert à la collaboration technique avec la communauté internationale. Ceci est d'autant plus visible par la signature des accords de partenariat, des visites, et le souci majeur de réaliser ses objectifs démocratiques et de bonne gouvernance par la compétence. Notons toutefois que le gouvernement se livre à des manœuvres officieuses interdisant comme tout récemment à des experts internationaux des droits de l'homme, de se rendre dans le pays pour se rassurer de l'état réel des droits de l'homme. Fort de ceci, une nécessité d'ouverture pour une crédibilité s'impose.

**Recommendation n°45:** *Raise awareness as to the issue of female genital mutilation FGM and adopt adequate legislation prohibiting the practice of FGM and continue to implement effective programmes to sensitize the population about the harmful effects caused by this practice (Recommended by Germany).*

IRI: *partially implemented*

MDHC response:

Des programmes d'éducation, de sensibilisation, sur les conséquences de la mutilation génitale ont été réellement entamés, précisément dans les localités concernées. Mais l'on déplore aujourd'hui le suivi ou l'issu de cette campagne, au regard de l'absence réelle d'une législation sanctionnant la perpétration de cette pratique.

FONI response:

Le Cameroun a organisé plusieurs séminaires pour sensibiliser la population contre les mutilations sexuelles féminines.

**Recommendation n°46:** *Facilitate full access of international and local humanitarian organisations to prisons and speed up judicial reforms, including the construction of new prisons (Recommended by Germany).*

IRI: *not implemented*

CHRI response:

See response to recommendation n°35.

**Recommendation n°47:** *Subscribe fully to the principle of equality in all areas of life, especially in respect of employment and occupation, and review and adapt the relevant legislation (Recommended by Germany).*

IRI: *partially implemented*

**FONI response:**

Au Cameroun, à diplôme égal, les femmes et les hommes ont le même salaire.

**Recommendation n°49:** *Ratify fundamental instruments to which it is not yet party, notably OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC (Recommended by Haiti).*

IRI: *not implemented*

**MDHC response:**

Il est vrai qu'en l'état actuel des choses, le Cameroun n'a procédé qu'à la signature le 05 Octobre 2001 du protocole facultatif à la convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, concernant l'implication d'enfants dans les conflits armés ; et du Protocole facultatif à la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, concernant la vente d'enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la pornographie mettant en scène des enfants. Dix ans après il est grand temps de procéder à leur pleine ratification, et adaptation aux normes internes.

**UNPO response:**

Cameroon signed both optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2001, but has not yet ratified either protocol.

**Recommendation n°51:** *Put in place a special law that will take into consideration the land rights of the pygmy communities (Recommended by Holy See).*

IRI: *not implemented*

**FONI response:**

Le ministère des Affaires sociales fait des pladoyers auprès des bantou pour que'ils ne chassent pas les pygmées des campements de bord de route, car le gouvernement les a attiré là pour qu'ils profitent des infrastructures de l'État comme les écoles; mais il n'existe aucune loi qui leur donne noméménet du terrain au bord de la route, car ce sont des zones, qui aux temps ancestraux, appartenaient aux bantou; les zones où les pygmées ont des dorits sont loin en brousse et difficiles d'accès.

**Recommendation n°52:** *Step up its efforts to provide free primary education to ensure the right to education of all children (Recommended by Indonesia).*

IRI: *partially implemented*

**MDHC response:**

La gratuité de l'école primaire au Cameroun est certes bien proclamée par les textes, mais son application réelle reste déplorable, ce qui entrave le désir du gouvernement à faire ou à respecter le droit à l'éducation des enfants.

**FONI response:**

Les écoles primaires sont gratuites au Cameroun et accessibles aux filles comme aux garçons.

**FI response:**

See response to recommendation n°7.

UNPO response:

Education for children from English-speaking regions of Cameroon continues to be poor due to the non-implementation of bilingual policies. While Cameroon is officially bilingual, French is often imposed as the de facto language of instruction in primary school, standardized examinations are written in French and only rarely translated into English. English-speaking students also report continuing discrimination in university enrolment.

**Recommendation n°53: Strive to provide adequate housing in order to fulfil the right of families to decent housing conditions (Recommended by Indonesia).**

IRI: *partially implemented*

MDHC response:

Des actions montrant la détermination du gouvernement en ce qui concerne les logements sociaux ont été entreprises depuis déjà 2 ans, tel le programme de construction de 10.000 logements sociaux à Douala-Nyalla, et tout récemment à Yaoundé. Mais le nombre, la lenteur des constructions, le choix corrompus des futurs locataires, laissent des familles dans des conditions déplorables de logement. D'où un impératif de réaction.

**Recommendation n°54: Continue to eradicate corruption in all its form, through the appropriate legislation: (Recommended by Indonesia).**

IRI: *not implemented*

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**Recommendation n°93: Strengthen its efforts to eradicate corruption in order to achieve the objectives of good governance (Recommended by Turkey).**

IRI: *not implemented*

CHRI response:

This information valid as of May 2010. During the reporting period, Cameroon continued to take steps away from democratic governance. Following the controversial 2008 Amendment to the Constitution which removed presidential term limits and allows President Paul Biya to run for a third consecutive seven-year term in 2011, the government forced through a Bill in March 2010 which removed the power to organise and oversee elections from the newly-created independent Electoral Commission, ELECAM, and returned it partially to the government and the judiciary. The Cameroonian government and judiciary are both allegedly highly corrupt institutions. Cameroon ranked 146 out of 180 in Transparency International's 2009 Corruption Index. According to a 2007 study by Transparency International-Cameroon, the most corrupt sectors include customs, taxation, police, judiciary and general administration.

UNPO response:

While Cameroon's corruption rating improved between 2009 and 2010 (according to figures published by the NGO Transparency International), external observers maintain that corruption is still a major issue in Cameroon and needs to be seriously addressed. The United Kingdom High Commissioner to Cameroon noted in late 2010 that "Cameroon is still among the countries at the bottom of the rankings and that is something that needs to change." While national officials point to the improved rating as a sign that the country is serious in tackling graft and corruption, Transparency

International maintains that more needs to be done in order to seriously tackle the issue; such action would include the enactment of an anti-corruption law, the ratification of the African anti-corruption convention and the implementation of article 66 of the Cameroon constitution, as noted by Charles Nguini, the head of the country's branch of Transparency International.

**Recommendation n°55:** *Review and implement the national human rights strategy in collaboration with the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, and with reliance upon civil society, to ensure a long lasting and sustainable framework for the application and protection of human rights for the people of Cameroon* (Recommended by Israel).

IRI: partially implemented

**FONI response:**

Le Cameroun a créé une commission des Droits de l'homme et des libertés, mais elle n'a pas de programme de sensibilisation massive des populations aux Droits de l'homme à travers un corpus réunissant les différents protocoles signé par le pays.

**Recommendation n°57:** *Implement the recommendations of CRC in order to guarantee the rights of homeless children* (Recommended by Italy).

IRI: not implemented

**EI response:**

La législation nationale prévoyant la prise en charge de la part de l'Etat des orphelins de militaires décédés dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions n'est toujours pas mise en œuvre.

**Recommendation n°58:** *Strengthen measures to combat the phenomenon of FGM* (Recommended by Italy).

IRI: partially implemented

**MDHC response:**

Des programmes d'éducation, de sensibilisation, sur les conséquences de la mutilation génitale ont été réellement entamés, précisément dans les localités concernées. Mais l'on déplore aujourd'hui le suivi ou l'issu de cette campagne, au regard de l'absence réelle d'une législation sanctionnant la perpétration de cette pratique.

**Recommendation n°59:** *Strengthen the national strategy to guarantee better access to education for all children and to include in the school system, at any level, appropriate measures in the area of human rights education in accordance with the 2005-2009 Plan of Action of the World Programme for Human Rights Education* (Recommended by Italy).

IRI: not implemented

**MDHC response:**

Le droit à l'éducation des enfants est mis en œuvre par la gratuité de l'enseignement maternelle envisagé par le gouvernement camerounais. C'est ainsi que des programmes d'éducation aux droits de l'homme, tels que l'éducation à la citoyenneté, ont été envisagés. Mais l'on peut constater qu'il n'est pas effectif sur tout le territoire, à cause des dirigeants véreux qui restent jusqu'ici impunis, et du fait de l'éloignement des métropoles de certaines écoles primaires.

FI response:

See response to recommendation n°7.

Recommendation n°61: *Strengthen its cooperation with special procedure on reported cases of illegal arrest, fully respect the fundamental liberties of human rights defenders and train the police forces to respect human rights and non-violent techniques of maintaining order, and to prosecute the perpetrators of violence* (Recommended by Luxembourg).

**IRI: not implemented**

MDHC response:

Les émeutes de 2008 [augmentées] les cas d'arrestation illégale, de violation des libertés fondamentales des défenseurs des droits de l'homme, et jusqu'ici aucune enquête n'a encore abouti. Mais sous la pression internationale et des ONG locales, le gouvernement a organisé des séminaires de formation des forces armées en générales aux techniques non-violentes de maintien de l'ordre, et de poursuite des hors la loi.

UNPO response:

Activists in the Southern Cameroons continue to be targeted by the police for harrassment and arrest. In October 2011, peaceful demonstrators in Southern Cameroon were arrested en masse for participating in a peaceful rally held by the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC). The U.S. State Department notes in its 2010 human rights report on Cameroon that human rights defenders and SCNC activists continued to be harrassed and arbitrarily arrested by security forces, and that while there were no known politically motivated killings committed by government agents in 2010, killings at the hands of security forces continued to occur throughout the year. This report also notes that while torture is outlawed by the national constitution and legal framework, there continued to be credible reports of security forces torturing, beating and otherwise abusing prisoners and detainees.

Recommendation n°64: *Improve measures to prevent and combat the sale of children, children exploited in the labour market and child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, including prostitution and pornography* (Recommended by Malaysia).

**IRI: partially implemented**

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Recommendation n°84: *Improve the child anti-trafficking public campaign and put in place measures to protect victims of trafficking and put in place the necessary legal and psychosocial assistance and societal reintegration* (Recommended by Slovenia).

**IRI: partially implemented**

FI response:

- L'atmosphère est tendue au Cameroun. La vie y est chère.

- 40% des près de 20 millions d'habitants vivent avec moins deux dollars par jour. Bien que le pays possède de nombreuses ressources naturelles (pétrole, gaz, bois, mines), les indicateurs sociaux et économiques sont faibles.



- Si le droit de manifester est reconnu et prévu dans le préambule de la Constitution camerounaise, la société civile, associations, syndicats partis politiques peinent à exprimer leurs revendication même pacifiquement.
- Les deux protocoles facultatifs sont signés (05 octobre 2001) mais toujours pas ratifiés.
- Le trafic des enfants au Cameroun est jugé préoccupant. Le Cameroun est :
  - un pays d'origine, la traite se produisant à l'intérieur du pays
  - un pays de destination des enfants victimes de la traite venus des pays voisins.
  - un pays de transit pour le trafic des enfants vers le Gabon et la Guinée équatoriale et vers des pays européens (France, Belgique, Suisse, Italie, Royaume-Uni) à des fins d'exploitation sexuelle
- Le trafic des enfants s'organise à travers un réseau associant la participation active des parents à des intermédiaires chargés d'assurer le déplacement et le placement des enfants auprès d'employeurs. Les parents sont responsables du trafic des enfants.
- Les enfants vendus/loués comme esclaves pour une somme dérisoire, comme « personnes à tout faire », le plus souvent comme appoint au travail traditionnellement réservé aux femmes, sans droits dans des familles plus aisées.
- On rapporte que cette pratique est courante particulièrement dans le nord-est du pays liée aux conditions sociaux-économiques difficiles. La vie au Cameroun est toujours plus chère. Le départ de la famille pour un emploi auprès d'un patron est perçu comme positif.
- Les parents et leurs enfants vivant dans la précarité sont les cibles privilégiées. Ils livrent leurs enfants à l'exploitation pensant leur assurer un meilleur avenir en leur trouvant du travail ou en leur offrant l'opportunité d'une formation, de cesser de constituer une charge pour les parents tout en contribuant au bien-être de la famille par un apport financier.
- Les enfants sont soumis à toute sorte d'abus affectant leur développement physique, moral et affectif. On estime à seulement 1% le taux de ces enfants scolarisés.
- On rapporte qu'il est communément admis que les enfants travaillent durant leurs vacances scolaires et qu'il est courant qu'ils en arrivent à se prostituer pour être en mesure de payer leurs frais de scolarité.
- On constate une aggravation alarmante de vente d'enfants par les parents les plus démunis de la société à des familles plus riches.
- Le trafic des enfants recouvre le phénomène du travail précoce des enfants.
- Au Cameroun, le travail des enfants de moins de 14 ans est proscrit par la loi n° 92/007 du 14 Août 1992 (article 86).

- Aucune réalisation du gouvernement sur le terrain pour lutter contre ce fléau de l'exploitation des enfants dès la base n'est connue.
- L'Etat punit sévèrement les coupables.
- Les défenseurs des enfants victimes et violés dans leurs dignité et leurs droits ont beaucoup de difficultés à faire leur travail dû au fait que la population n'identifie pas cette pratique comme un délit.
- Faible sensibilisation des autorités publiques au phénomène du trafic des enfants.

**Recommendation n°65:** *Undertake further appropriate measures to improve the situation of children, in particular taking into account the rights and needs of children in its national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and in all other programmes intended to improve the standards of living in the country.*

IRI: *not implemented*

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**Recommendation n°94:** *Take into account the comments of CRC and CEDAW in order to ensure better harmonisation of the national legislation with conventions and to allow women and children to fully enjoy their rights* (Recommended by Turkey).

IRI: *not implemented*

#### FI response:

Selon les informations fournies pour les recommandations [2, 7, 9, 15, 35, 40, 52, 57, 59], Franciscans International n'estime pas ces deux recommandations mises en oeuvre.

**Recommendation n°66:** *Consider adopting a comprehensive strategy at all levels to combat all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence* (Recommended by Malaysia).

IRI: *partially implemented*

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**Recommendation n°69:** *Make all possible efforts to achieve the complete elimination of all kinds of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence* (Recommended by Mexico).

IRI: *partially implemented*

#### MDHC response:

Des centres sociaux sont ouverts pour accueillir et venir en aide aux femmes victimes de violences de tout genre.

**Recommendation n°67:** *Ratify and implement effectively the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography OP-CRC-SC and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict OP-CRC-AC* (Recommended by Mexico).

IRI: *not implemented*

**MDHC response:**

Il est vrai qu'en l'état actuel des choses, le Cameroun n'a procédé qu'à la signature le 05 Octobre 2001 du protocole facultatif à la convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, concernant l'implication d'enfants dans les conflits armés ; et du Protocole facultatif à la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, concernant la vente d'enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la pornographie mettant en scène des enfants. Dix ans après il est grand temps de procéder à leur pleine ratification, et adaptation aux normes internes.

**FI response:**

See response to recommendation n°64.

**Recommendation n°68: Ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities CPD as well as the Optional Protocol thereto (Recommended by Mexico).**

IRI: not implemented

**MDHC response:**

Le droit des personnes handicapées n'est pas négligé au Cameroun, la preuve le dernier recrutement de 25'000 jeunes dans la fonction publique en a effectivement tenu compte de ces personnes là. D'autres mesures permettent leur accès à tous les services en priorité. Mais il reste déplorable qu'ils aient besoin de manifestation pour voir leurs droits être respecté.

**FI response:**

- Le 13 avril 2010 le gouvernement a promulgué la loi n°2010/002 portant sur la protection et la promotion des personnes handicapées.
- La Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées signée le 01 octobre 2008, n'a toujours pas été ratifiée.
- Un réseau d'ONG sous la direction de la FACAPH (la Fédération d'Afrique centrale des associations pour la promotion et la protection des droits des personnes handicapées) s'organise dans chaque province pour plaider pour la ratification rapide de la Convention
- Lors des élections présidentielles, des dispositions ont été prises pour faciliter l'accès des personnes handicapées aux urnes.

**Recommenation n°76: Intensify the rate of cooperation with treaty bodies (Recommended by Niger).**

IRI: not implemented

**MDHC response:**

L'harmonisation de tous les textes internationaux que le Cameroun a signé jusqu'ici avec les textes nationaux reste un combat à mener et un impératif qui s'impose à l'Etat, au regard de la disproportionnalité entre les textes signés ou ratifiés et leur application ou respect dans le territoire sur la population bénéficiaire.

**Recommendation n°79:** *Continue its efforts to strengthen the health sector, paying particular attention to access to health services for children and indigenous peoples (Recommended by Philippines).*

IRI: *not implemented*

**FI response:**

- L'accès aux services de santé est un « véritable parcours du combattant »
- Si on peut constater que des centres de santé ont été créés dans tout le pays, on déplore que la situation se soit empirée puisque ils ne fonctionnent pas: un seul infirmier et pas de médicaments à disposition.

**Recommendation n°89:** *Share experience and efforts on religious harmony (Recommended by Sudan).*

IRI: -

**MDHC response:**

La liberté, le désir de paix social et de démocratie dans un Etat de droit, instaurés en chaque Camerounais constituent le fondement solide permettant l'harmonie des religions.

**Recommendation n°90:** *Share with all members of the Working Group its experience in increasing purchasing power and on efforts which have eliminated squatting in Cameroon (Recommended by Sudan).*

IRI: -

**MDHC response:**

La liberté, le désir de paix social et de démocratie dans un Etat de droit, instaurés en chaque Camerounais constituent le fondement solide permettant d'éliminer les tensions, d'acquérir le pouvoir.

**Recommendation n°95:** *Agree to the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Recommended by United Kingdom).*

IRI: *fully implemented*

**UNPO response:**

Cameroon has agreed to a visit request by the SR on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. However, this visit has not yet taken place due to a request for postponement.

**Recommendation n°96:** *Take steps to ensure the independence of Elections Cameroon ELECAM, including through allocation of sufficient budget (Recommended by United Kingdom).*

IRI: *not implemented*

**CHRI response:**

This information valid as of May 2010. During the reporting period, Cameroon continued to take steps away from democratic governance. Following the controversial 2008 Amendment to the Constitution which removed presidential term limits and allows President Paul Biya to run for a third consecutive seven-year term in 2011, the government forced through a Bill in March 2010 which removed the power to organise and oversee elections from the newly-created independent Electoral



Commission, ELECAM, and returned it partially to the government and the judiciary. The Cameroonian government and judiciary are both allegedly highly corrupt institutions.



## Methodology

### A. First contact

Although the methodology has to consider the specificities of each country, we applied the same procedure for data collection about all States:

1. We contacted both the delegate who represented the State at the UPR and the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva or New York;
2. We contacted all NGOs which took part in the process. Whenever NGOs were part of coalitions, each NGO was individually contacted;
3. The National Institution for Human Rights was contacted whenever one existed.

We posted our requests to the States and NHRI, and sent emails to NGOs.

The purpose of the UPR is to discuss issues and share concrete suggestions to improve human rights on the ground. Therefore, stakeholders whose objective is not to improve the human rights situation were not contacted, and those stakeholders' submissions were not taken into account.

However, since the UPR is meant to be a process which aims at sharing best practices among States and stakeholders, we consider positive feedbacks from the latter.

### A. Processing the recommendations

The persons we contact are encouraged to use an Excel sheet we provide which includes all recommendations received by the State reviewed.

Each submission is processed, whether the stakeholder has or has not used the Excel sheet. In the latter case, communication is split up among recommendations we think it belongs to. Since such a task opens the way of misinterpretation, we strongly encourage using the Excel sheet.

If the stakeholder does not clearly mention neither the recommendation was “fully implemented” nor “not implemented”, UPR Info usually considers the recommendation as “partially implemented”, unless the implementation level is obvious.

While we do not mention recommendations which were not addressed, they can be accessed on the follow-up webpage.

## B. Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)

UPR Info developed an index showing the implementation level achieved by the State for the recommendations received at the UPR.

The **Implementation Recommendation Index (IRI)** is an individual recommendation index. Its purpose is to show both disputed and agreed recommendations.

The *IRI* is meant to take into account stakeholders disputing the implementation of a recommendation. Whenever a stakeholder claims nothing has been implemented at all, the index score is noted as 0. At the opposite, whenever a stakeholder claims a recommendation has been fully implemented, the *IRI* score is 1.

An average is calculated to fully reflect the many sources of information. If the State under Review says the recommendation has been fully implemented and a stakeholder says it has been partially implemented, score is 0.75.

Then the score is transformed into an implementation level, according to the table hereafter:

Percentage:	Implementation level:
0 – 0.32	Not implemented
0.33 – 0.65	Partially implemented
0.66 – 1	Fully implemented

Example: On one side, a stakeholder comments on a recommendation requesting the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute (NHRI). On the other side, the State under review claims having partially set up the NHRI. As a result of this, the recommendation will be given an *IRI* score of 0.25, and thus the recommendation is considered as “not implemented”.

### Contact

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