

# STATEMENT UPR PRE-SESSION ON CAMEROON

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*DELIVERED BY :*

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## THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CAMEROON

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UPR Info Pre-sessions

# Présentation of FFAC

This statement is delivered by ***Forum des Femmes Autochtones du Cameroun*** non-profit, civil society organization set up to advance and advocate for the respect of human rights of indigenous people especially indigenous women and girls in Cameroon. An organization with UN ECOSOC status since 2021

- Consultations were conducted with leaders of indigenous peoples' organizations as well as other stakeholders for the elaboration of this statement.

This statement addresses the following issues:

- (1) -The Right to peace and protection of Human Rights of Indigenous peoples
- (2) - Their participation in Public affairs
- (3) - Their rights to Education

# ISSUE 1 . Human Rights Violations and abuses towards the Mbororo pastoralist in the Anglophone Regions

In the previous review, five countries make general recommendations.

- The Government implemented some of them but the crises still persist and according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, (OCHA) 715,000 persons are still displaced and suffered from abuses and violations and in need of food, water, health and education - amongst whom are the indigenous Mbororo pastoralists,

# New développements

- Between 2018 to 2021 cases of human rights violation and abuses of Indigenous peoples were registered in the seven divisions of the North West Region, according to Laimaru Network, an umbrella organization for indigenous and minority groups.

## **figures show**

- 2,242 cattle killed,
- 485 goats and horses slaughtered,
- 122 indigenous Mbororo people kidnapped
- 179,251,050 FCFA paid as ransom,
- 182 killed.
- 168 families have been left dependent,
- 7,827 left as IDP,
- 874 affected houses, with 4,692 children and 976 women seriously affected.

# New Developmnts

In the Adamawa region as compared to 2018, the number of the victims of kid napping and ransom taking has reduced due to the intervention of the government. but they are still under attacks .

- between 2019 to 2022,
- 750 internally displaced persons were registered,
- 54 kidnapped,
- 5 killed,
- 406 cattle stolen, and
- over 49,000,000 FCFA paid as ransom according to the Mbororo social and Cultural Development Association.

# Recommendations

- ❖ Head to head count of all the victims who have lost their cattle, houses and other materials to include them in the national reconstruction plan in order to compensate them.
- ❖ Organise an Inclusive dialogue to resolve definitely the crises.
- ❖ Deploy more security forces to remote villages to reinforce the protection of the population and to rigorously track down kidnapers

# Issue 2: Participation in Public Affairs of Indigenous peoples

- In the previous review, two countries made recommendations. Bulgaria, Angola
- An improvement in the participation of Indigenous peoples in the electoral process since the last review.
  - The Nomination of two alternate Senators who are indigenous persons by the President of the Republic during the last Senatorial elections.
  - An increased in the number of municipal councilors to **58**, **Regional councilors 10**, **Alternate senators 3** as compared to the previous years.

**The gaps are still very wide for Representation of Indigenous peoples in decision making .**

<b>Total Number of mayors</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1 IP</b>
<b>Total number of Regional presidents</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0 IP</b>
<b>Total Number of Parliamentarians</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>0 IP</b>
<b>Total Number of Senators</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0 IP</b>

# New Development

Their low participation is accounted for the following:

- lack of identification documents that is birth certificate, Identity cards,
- low level of education,
- lack of information and ignorance about their rights to participate,
- inaccessibility of communities,
- the weight of culture and tradition.



# Recommendations

- Instituting a quota or percentage of Indigenous peoples in every electoral list during Municipal, Regional, Legislative and Senatorial elections
- Facilitates the obtention of different identification documents like Birth Certificate and National Identity Cards to enable them participate effectively in the electoral process
- Revision of the Electoral Code to consider the specificity of indigenous people's culture like season for hunting and gathering, and transhumance.

## Issue 3 The rights to Education of Indigenous children

During the previous review 13 countries made recommendations  
Little process has been made.

### **New Developments**

- School curricula not adapted to indigenous peoples specificity,
- many children no longer go to school because they cannot afford to pay the PTA fees,
- Many of the children who have certificates find it difficult to find a jobs.
- More than 60% of the schools are closed in the crises region due to the ongoing crises.
- 80 percent of the girls have abandoned school and are forced into early mariages because of poverty and economic hardship.

# Recommendations

- Recruitment of Qualified teachers in quantity and equipment of primary schools with the suspension of parent teachers Associations (PTA) fees
- Instauration of a quota or percentage for indigenous children during the recruitment in the different concours of the public service.
- Take into consideration the way of life and culture of Indigenous children in the elaboration of school curricula