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*Association Enfants Jeunes et Avenir (ASSEJA) was established in 1994 and offers support and training to young people and marginalised groups, particularly children in difficult situations and vulnerable youths. The organisation's main objectives include sensitizing the public to the issue of marginalised children and helping to house, educate and reintegrate vulnerable children and provide them with career training.*



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*ECPAT International is a global network of civil society organisations working for the eradication of all forms of sexual exploitation of children. For the past 26 years, ECPAT has acted as the international watchdog, monitoring States' response to sexual exploitation of children, and advocating for robust international measures to protect children from sexual exploitation. ECPAT International currently has 95 network members operating in 86 countries.*

**Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cameroon**  
**Submission**  
**5 October 2017**

for the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in Cameroon

to the **Human Rights Council**  
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## Justification for Submission

1. The present submission is an update to review the progress that has been made by the Government of Cameroon (GoC) to end sexual exploitation of children (SEC) and assess the level of implementation of the UPR recommendations pertaining to SEC made in 2013.<sup>1</sup> New recommendations to end SEC in Cameroon will be made. The recommendations will help the GoC to galvanise targeted action against SEC, including the adoption of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC). Recommendations made in this report are in line with the commitment made by the GoC to eliminate all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse and exploitation with the adoption of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015.<sup>2</sup>

## Methodology and Scope

2. The content of this report is mostly based on ECPAT's and its member ASSEJA's work experience and research in the period 2013 and 2017.
3. The scope of this submission is limited to article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, namely SEC and its different manifestations, including the exploitation of children in prostitution,<sup>3</sup> online child sexual exploitation (OCSE), child sexual abuse materials (CSAM),<sup>4</sup> the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, the sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism<sup>5</sup> (SECTT) and Child, Early and Forced marriage (CEFM).
4. On 15-16 July 2016 thirty children came together to discuss the rights of children in Cameroon. In the meeting, they identified 11 issues impeding on the rights of Cameroon children that need to be addressed by the government and other stakeholders. Issues included exposure to pornographic materials, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, child marriage.<sup>6</sup> Where possible, their recommendations are included and marked '**Children's Recommendation**'.

## Sexual exploitation of children in Cameroon

5. Almost half of Cameroon's population is below the age of 18 years of age, and the country is home for over 11 million children. Only 66% of children are registered at birth.<sup>7</sup> The Republic of Cameroon is at the heart of one of the poorest regions in the world and marked by incessant conflicts. The United Nations Development Programme ranked Cameroon 153<sup>rd</sup> in the world on 188 countries on the human development index of 2015,<sup>8</sup> with 29% of the population living below the international poverty line of USD 1,90 per day.<sup>9</sup> In 54,000 children in Cameroon live with HIV.<sup>10</sup> Child labour is common in Cameroon with 47% of children estimated to be used in child labour.<sup>11</sup> Children are exploited in mines, domestic work, agriculture, street vending and in other businesses. Street children are also common in the big cities. Children living or working on the street are more vulnerable to fall victim to sexual exploitation.
6. Besides a 2010 survey by the National Institute of Statistics on exploitation of children in prostitution,<sup>12</sup> there has been little in-depth research on SEC in Cameroon. However, from qualitative research it is obvious that all SEC manifestations are prevalent in Cameroon. The main causes of SEC are poverty, unemployment, unstable families, AIDS/HIV pandemic, parental disengagement and lack of access to education and basic social services. Other relevant

factors are social tolerance and demand for sex with children and children living or working in the streets seem more vulnerable.

7. The 2010 NIS survey estimated that 4,000 children aged 11 – 17 are exploited in **prostitution**. Children enter prostitution between 9 and 17 years old, the average age being below 15 years.<sup>13</sup>
8. **OCSE** and **CSAM** are probably on the rise as pathways for offenders are multiplying fast. Mobile phone and Internet use have penetrated Cameroon with 76% of the population using mobile phones and 11% connected to the Internet in 2014.<sup>14</sup> According to an ECPAT International study conducted in Cameroon with children on the use of new technologies, about 33 percent of Cameroon children had access to adult pornography via Internet. 100% of 17-18 years old girls also indicated that they had all seen pornographic videos or images online. The same percentage of children (33%) have also seen pornographic videos/pictures featuring children of their age or younger.<sup>15</sup>
9. Many children are **trafficked for sexual purposes** within Cameroon. According to the 2010 NIS survey, nearly 5% of children exploited in prostitution are victims of trafficking.<sup>16</sup>
10. On **SECTT** no recent studies have taken place in Cameroon, but a recent study on SECTT in five Sub-Saharan countries concludes that the crime is rapidly evolving and is not limited to tourism, but closely linked with domestic travel, foreign investments, military camps and bases, refugee camps, migration and thrives on structural inequalities in societies.<sup>17</sup>
11. **CEFM** is prevalent in Cameroon, especially in the northern region, with nationwide 13% of children married by 15 years of age and 38% by 18 years of age.<sup>18</sup> Child marriage must be recognised as both a factor enhancing vulnerability to SEC and a form of SEC itself. When a child marriage is settled between two families, girls are often married to men from higher ranking families, the economic transaction that takes place establishes full control over the life of the child, for a price. SEC, defined as using a child for sexual purposes in exchange for goods or payment in cash or in-kind, takes place also when a child is forced into child marriage, in exchange for a dowry and the obligation to enter a sexual relationship with another individual.

### **Legal Framework to address SEC**

12. Despite progress made towards an appropriate legal framework for the protection of children from SEC, it remains insufficient.<sup>19</sup>
13. The GoC has ratified the Convention in 1993 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). In the UPR of Cameroon in 2013, Spain, Slovakia, Indonesia, Germany and Slovenia recommended the GoC to “*Ratify the Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*”.<sup>20</sup> The recommendation has been accepted by the GoC. However, to date, the GoC has not ratified the OPSC.
14. The GoC intends to adopt a Code on Child Protection as well as a Code on Persons and Family. In the UPR of Cameroon in 2013, Spain recommended the GoC to “*approve the Family Code to enhance the protection of the rights of children, especially with respect to the trafficking in minors*”.<sup>21</sup> However, the adoption has been delayed and till date the Codes have not been adopted yet.

15. In 2016, the GoC adopted a prohibition on **exploitation in prostitution** with double sentences if the victim is below 21 years of age.<sup>22</sup> There is no definition of ‘child prostitution’ nor does it prohibit ‘sexual exploitation for commercial purposes’ explicitly. Although Cameroon has not ratified the OPSC, it is advisable to use the text of the OPSC as guideline for the definition.
16. The 2010 Law No. 2010/012 on Cyber Security and Cybercrime is relevant to protect children from **OCSE** and **CSAM** particularly. However, the prohibitions should cover not only children below 15 years of age, but 18 years of age. Furthermore, the definition of ‘child pornography’ does not fully cover the OPSC definition. Grooming does not include the solicitation of children of the opposite sex.
17. In 2011, the Government adopted Anti-Trafficking Law No 2011/024 which also covers **child trafficking for sexual purposes**. However, the 2011 law is not aligned with the international norms and definitions. The use of threat, fraud, deception, force, or other forms of coercion is required for a child to be considered a sex trafficking victim, which is contrary to international standards.
18. In 1998, the GoC adopted Law No. 98/6 on **SECTT** with a general obligation for citizens to “*take the appropriate measures in order to combat sex tourism involving children*”.<sup>23</sup>
19. Till date, Cameroon has not unified the legal age of majority. In the UPR of Cameroon in 2013, Mexico, Uruguay and Togo recommended the GoC to “*prohibit and punish by law the practice of early and forced marriages*”.<sup>24</sup> A draft Code on Persons and Family has not yet been adopted and currently child, **early and forced marriage** for girls is still permitted with the legal age for girls 15 years of age and 18 years of age for boys.<sup>25</sup>
20. Regarding the protection of children as victims and/or witnesses, the national legislation does not contain any provisions. Although the 2013 UPR report on Cameroon, does not include any recommendations on the issue, the GoC is advised to adopt appropriate legislation and procedures, to protect the rights and interests of child victims, in line with the OPSC.
21. The Law of Cameroon does award jurisdiction to national courts to adjudicate anyone accused of SEC on Cameroon territory or when the act is committed by a Cameroon citizen or resident of Cameroon, provided that the act is punishable by the law of the place of their commission. The same double criminality is applicable to extraditions, complicating the adjudication of SEC suspects in international cases.

### **Coordination to end SEC**

22. A UNICEF study from 2014 notes that coordination of child protection is the key missing link in Cameroon.<sup>26</sup> The Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs are the main government institutions responsible for the coordination of the protecting children from SEC. This shared mandate is causing difficulties due to lack of clear boundaries in authority and there is no framework to help to divide the roles of all Ministries involved in child protection.<sup>27</sup> The National Commission on Child Protection has not been very active in the past.
23. Coordination with civil society organisations is also suboptimal. Civil society has organised itself into coalitions working together on child protection matters such as sexual exploitation “*Coalition to protect our children*” and the “*Cameroonian Coalition for the Rights of the Child*” (COCADE).

24. In 2013, the GoC has established an anti-trafficking inter-ministerial committee (“*Committee for the Coordination and Monitoring of Strategies to Combat Trafficking in Human Organs and Ritual Crimes*”) and three regional multidisciplinary anti-trafficking taskforces. As a member, ASSEJA, has no knowledge of any meetings in the past couple of years.
25. In 2014, the GoC set up an inter-sector committee to coordinate efforts to address child labour (“*Inter-sector Committee to Combat Child Labour*”), but in the last two years there has not been any meeting.
26. The *National Commission on Human Rights Freedoms* has a sub-committee dedicated to vulnerable groups and child protection. Children can directly contact the commission in seven regions of the country. However, no SEC cases are known to have been reported to this commission.
27. There is no comprehensive national plan addressing vulnerable children overall and services are organised through silo approaches without cohesion or common framework. In December 2015, the GoC adopted a *National Action Plan for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights* (NAPPPHR) where the issue of SEC is acknowledged, progress stated, challenges named and necessary steps are listed, including improving the care of child victims, training of trainers, ratifying the OPSC, finalising the National Policy on Education for Children in need of special protection measures, finalise and disseminate the standard operational procedures and the referral system, strengthen identification and care mechanisms of children who are victims of slavery, setting up a platform for inter-sector collaboration on curbing trafficking in children and slavery, and increase the punishment of child trafficking and slavery. However, up until now, no concrete actions have been taken.

### **Prevention**

28. The GoC is involved in awareness raising through radio programmes, community outreach, and dissemination of materials on children's rights.
29. However, it should be noted that when these awareness activities, particular emphasis is placed on legislation on the issues of trafficking in children and violence based on gender and on the existing legal implications for the perpetrators of these crimes. Off, if this awareness was more emphasis on the impact of such violence on children rather than on the existing legislation (which is not always compatible with the practices and beliefs of community), this would ensure a better involvement of the communities and would also take account of traditional community practices that are favourable to the child.
30. Awareness raising and outreach programmes related to child rights are mostly run by NGOs such as the Association for Children, Youths and the Future ASSEJA, the Association of Children and Youth Workers of Cameroon (AEJT-CAM), Hausa Women Association for the Development (AFHADEV), the National Youth Development Coalition (CNJD), the Association of Engineers for Assistance to Rural Development (AIDER), the Association IDAY-Cameroon, CODAS-CARITAS Garoua, La COLOMBE and Plan International. From 2013 to 2015, AEJT-CAM sensitized 4,905 children while ASSEJA reached 41,863 children of parents in the period 2010 – 2014.<sup>28</sup> Another project focussing on awareness raising is “*Creation of a protective environment for the prevention of sexual abuses and trafficking of children for sexual exploitation and gender discrimination of children in Cameroon*”, implemented by KinderrechteAfrika, in partnership with the NGOs CIPCRE Cameroun and ALDEPA.

31. A national campaign against trafficking and sexual exploitation of children was implemented by MINAS with the support of the Association EIP-Cameroon and UNICEF.
32. Outreach materials related to child rights have been produced by several NGOs. The COCADE and CASPCAN have produced a simplified version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. SOS Villages of Cameroon children has produced a cartoon on the rights of the child and carried out an advocacy campaign against the worst forms of child labour.
33. The GoC adopted of Law No. 2011-011 in 2011 and other important measures to facilitate easy and late birth registration. In June 2017, the first working session of the steering committee of the Civil Status Registry modernisation programme validated the strategic Plan for the rehabilitation of the Civil Status Registry in Cameroon. The Strategic plan is a translation of government five-year policy in Civil Status Registry for 2018 – 2022. Thanks to this Strategic plan, the GoC intends to facilitate birth registration and improve data-collection.<sup>29</sup> However, public awareness on the importance of birth registration has not increased dramatically while financial and bureaucratic obstacles remain too high for vulnerable groups of the population. Registering children is an important counter measure to end SEC, as the movements of children are easier to track and their identity and age are established.
34. The *National Commission on Human Rights Freedoms* organises public hearings on sexual abuses of minors to trigger exemplary punishment of the perpetrators of such abuses.
35. In Cameroon, the government has adopted the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, and SECTT training sessions were also organised for staff of the Ministry of Tourism and the tourism sector.<sup>30</sup>
36. On 19 and 24 November 2016, ASSEJA, in partnership with ECPAT International, organised a campaign to raise awareness against SECTT entitled: '*Don't look away*'. The campaign was launched on the opening day of the 2016 Africa Women's Cup of Nations at the sports complex in Yaoundé Stadium. A workshop was organised around the launch of the Sub-Saharan Africa report on SECTT as part of the Global Study on SECTT. Participants from the public administration, travel agencies, accommodation and civil society were brought together to reflect on SECTT. A follow-up campaign was suggested around the Africa Cup of Nations for men's football in Cameroon in 2019.

### **Protection**

37. Child protection is hampered by the silence of families and victims and low reporting of SEC crimes. The GoC has put in place a hotline 116 for reporting cases of abuse and violence against children. However, there are several hotlines where coordination is absent. Many children or families refrain from reporting as SEC victims are often not recognised as victims, but instead treated as criminals. Prostitution in general is forbidden<sup>31</sup> as well as homosexual relations<sup>32</sup> and children exploited in prostitution are sometimes criminalised by law enforcement. Children are forced into sexual acts with police officers to secure their release, as was noted by 2 out of 10 respondents in the 2010 survey by the National Institute of Statistics, while 8,5% of the interviewed children mentioned other physical abuse by the police.<sup>33</sup> Even if law enforcement intervenes in conformance with the law, collection of SEC evidence is often cumbersome<sup>34</sup> and police lack resources for travel, communication, etc. Many cases are settled outside the court and instances of corruption have been mentioned.<sup>35</sup>

38. Recently a referral system was adopted, but the system needs to be put into practice. There is very little knowledge and capacity to implement the system.
39. To help identify victims – as well as prevent cases of violence against children - village committees were established. The committees' role is mainly to monitor, report and follow-up.<sup>36</sup>

### **Recovery and reintegration**

40. With widespread poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic there is a shortage of services that can be provided to vulnerable children to protect them from SEC, but also to provide services to victims of SEC. This includes medical, psychological, legal, shelter and other crucial services. There are standards for services provided in guidelines for many different services<sup>37</sup> and an obligation for certification and government inspection of provided services,<sup>38</sup> but there is a lack of monitoring by the government on the quality of provided services.<sup>39</sup>
41. Services are mostly organised and funded by international aid agencies and/or (I)NGOs. Plan Cameroon ran a psycho-social support programme intended for children who are victims of sexual abuses in the North West Region, with close to 3,000 girls and boys reached.

### **Child and Youth Participation**

42. The Children's Parliament has been operational since 1978 and has the mission to promote the implementation of children's rights by the government of Cameroon. Complaints can be submitted with the parliament who will take up the complaints with the government. The parliament convenes 180 children yearly.
43. Since 2009, ASSEJA has participated in ECPAT International's Youth Partnership Project (YPP). YPP is an innovative project working with child survivors and children at risk, aiming to build peer support and awareness in the fight against SEC. ASSEJA introduced Youth Councils at several municipalities to involve children and young people in the commune life. This pilot should be rolled out into all municipalities and the GoC should institutionalise this approach.

### **Recommendations for the Government of Cameroon to:**

#### Regarding the legal framework

- Ratify the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- Collect and share among all relevant ministries and agencies data on all areas of violence against children.
- Adopt the draft Code on Child Protection and the draft Code on Persons and Family.
- Unify the age of majority to 18 years of age.
- Provide a legal definition of exploitation of children in prostitution (or 'child prostitution') and 'child pornography' in accordance with article 2 OPSC.
- Provide a legal definition of 'child trafficking' in line with the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol).
- Regulate the protection of children as victims and/or witnesses in crimes.
- Use the Luxembourg Guidelines: <http://luxembourguidelines.org/>.

### **Children's Recommendation:**

- Raise the age of marriage to 18 years of age for both girls and boys.
- Make it obligatory to report any suspected sexual exploitation of a child, with strong sanctions for noncompliance and develop protection mechanisms for those who report the crime.
- Align the definitions of the Anti-Trafficking Law of 2011 No. 2011/024 with international norms.
- Enact progressive extraterritorial and extradition laws without the requirement of double criminality.
- Regulate the obligations of employers to obtain police clearances and implement codes of conduct for national and international employees and volunteers who have direct contact with children.
- Sign and ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), Kampala, October 22-23, 2009.

### Regarding coordination

- Develop and adopt a national policy as a framework on child protection, explicitly including SEC, with clear mandates of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs.
- Establish an appropriate coordinating and operational body at a high interministerial level with a clear mandate and sufficient authority to coordinate all activities related to SEC and trafficking at cross-sectoral, national, regional and local levels; and ensure that the said coordinating body is provided with the necessary human, technical and financial resources for its effective operation.
- Cooperate among law enforcement agencies across jurisdictions of countries of demand, supply and victimisation about travelling child sex offenders.

### Regarding prevention

- Raise public awareness about SEC and all its manifestations and the sanctions on the crime to all citizens and especially among vulnerable, poor communities and visitors of Cameroon.
- Continue to raise awareness on the importance of birth registration and ease financial and bureaucratic burdens.
- Establish, implement and monitor an effective regulatory framework and take all necessary legislative, administrative, social and other measures to prevent and eliminate child sex tourism in new public or private tourism developments.

### Regarding protection

- Ensure that all professionals working with and for children, including social workers, judges and, other law enforcement officials and agencies are provided with the training necessary on how to receive, monitor, investigate and prosecute complaints in a child and gender sensitive manner that respects the privacy of the child victims and witnesses, and ensure that child protection agencies are adequately staffed and funded.
- Establish specialized juvenile court facilities.
- Fight corruption.
- Work closely with the media, including social media and Internet service providers, to create awareness on and promote children's rights, to facilitate the development of child-friendly materials on issues of relevance to children and to put in place online safety measures, in particular regarding SEC issues.



**Children's Recommendation:**

- Strengthen the prohibition on the sale of pornographic CDs and DVDs and set up mobile teams to prevent the sale.
- Boxes for reporting at all schools.
- Establish and fund a nationwide hotline services, sufficiently staffed and trained, 24 hours available, with a broadly published number and toll free, as in line with the Committee's recommendation in 2010 (CRC/C/CMR/CO/2, 21, para. 78).
- Ensure perpetrators are prosecuted and receive commensurate sentences for their acts as in line with the 2010 recommendation in the Committee's Concluding Observation (CRC/C/CMR/CO/2, 21, para. 74 (b)).

Regarding recovery and reintegration

- Offer or subsidise tailored recovery and reintegration services to SEC victims
- Ensure that child-sensitive services are available and regulated by quality standards, **implemented by knowledgeable, well-trained staff with adequate resources and easily accessible** to all children in need.
- Develop emergency shelters for child victims who offer integrated services (psychological, legal, medical, etc.), pending the decision of the juvenile judge.

**Children's Recommendation:**

- Introduce a day of the girl to raise awareness, just like the day of the African child.

Regarding Child and Youth Participation

- Create mechanisms for the systematic participation of children within policies and programmes that affect them and support the participation of children in decision-making on policies that affect them and in any judicial or administrative proceedings that concern them.

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Council (2013), “*Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*”, A/HRC/WG.6/16/L.13 23/10, accessed on 20 July 2017, [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/cameroon/session\\_16\\_-\\_april\\_2013/a\\_hrc\\_wg\\_6\\_16\\_l13\\_cameroon.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/cameroon/session_16_-_april_2013/a_hrc_wg_6_16_l13_cameroon.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Sustainable Development Goal Targets 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2.

<sup>3</sup> ECPAT prefers the term ‘*exploitation of children in prostitution*’ instead of ‘*child prostitution*’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016). Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016*”, Bangkok: ECPAT, 29, accessed on 25 July 2017, <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>.

<sup>4</sup> ECPAT prefers the term ‘*child sexual exploitation material*’ or ‘*child sexual abuse material*’ over the often in legal context still used ‘*child pornography*’ in line with the recently widely adopted Terminology Guidelines. ECPAT International (2016), “*Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, adopted by the Interagency Working Group in Luxembourg, 28 January 2016*”, Bangkok: ECPAT, 39, accessed on 22 September 2017, <http://luxembourgguidelines.org/>.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 54.

<sup>6</sup> Plan International and the Coalition Camerounaise des ONG pour les Droits de l’Enfant (2016), “*Rapport Complémentaire des Enfants sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur les Droits de L’Enfant au Cameroun*”.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 150, accessed on 25 July 2017, [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_SOWC\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> UNDP (2015), “*Human Development Report 2015*”, accessed on 25 July 2017, [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015\\_human\\_development\\_report.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2015_human_development_report.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 142, accessed on 25 July 2017, [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_SOWC\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 130, accessed on 25 July 2017, [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_SOWC\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 150, accessed on 25 July 2017, [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_SOWC\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> National Institute of Statistics, “*Étude Pilote sur l’Exploitation Sexuelle Commerciale des Enfants au Cameroun en 2010*”, accessed on 26 July 2017, [http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note\\_synthese\\_Rapport\\_CSEC.pdf](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note_synthese_Rapport_CSEC.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> National Institute of Statistics, “*Étude Pilote sur l’Exploitation Sexuelle Commerciale des Enfants au Cameroun en 2010*”, 3, accessed on 26 July 2017, [http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note\\_synthese\\_Rapport\\_CSEC.pdf](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note_synthese_Rapport_CSEC.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 134, accessed on 26 July 2017, [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_SOWC\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> ECPAT International (2011), “*Understanding African children’s use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) – a youth-led survey to prevent sexual exploitation online*”, accessed on 25 July 2017, [http://resources.ecpat.net/ei/publications/ict/ict%20research%20in%20africa\\_p1.pdf](http://resources.ecpat.net/ei/publications/ict/ict%20research%20in%20africa_p1.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> National Institute of Statistics, “*Étude Pilote sur l’Exploitation Sexuelle Commerciale des Enfants au Cameroun en 2010*”, 3, accessed on 26 July 2017, [http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note\\_synthese\\_Rapport\\_CSEC.pdf](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note_synthese_Rapport_CSEC.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> Child Frontiers for ECPAT International (2016), “*Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, Regional Report Sub-Saharan Africa*”, <http://globalstudysect.org/category/regional/sub-sahara/>.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (2016), “*The State of the World’s Children 2016; A Fair Chance for Every Child*”, 150, accessed on 25 July 2017, [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF\\_SOWC\\_2016.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_SOWC_2016.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> UNICEF (2014), “*Cartographie et Analyse du Système National de Protection de l’Enfant au Cameroun*”, accessed on 20 July 2017, <http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cartographie-Cameroun-version-finale-15-decembre-2014.pdf>.

<sup>20</sup> Human Rights Council (2013), “*Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon*”, A/HRC/WG.6/16/L.13 23/10, p. 15 paras. 131.1-131.2-131.3-131.4-131.21, accessed on 20 July

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2017, [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/cameroon/session\\_16\\_-\\_april\\_2013/a\\_hrc\\_wg\\_6\\_16\\_l13\\_cameroon.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/cameroon/session_16_-_april_2013/a_hrc_wg_6_16_l13_cameroon.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 131.3.

<sup>22</sup> GoC, Penal Code, Art. 294 (3).

<sup>23</sup> GoC, Law No. 98/6 of 14 April 1998.

<sup>24</sup> Human Rights Council (2013), “Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Cameroon”, A/HRC/WG.6/16/L.13/23/10, p. 18, 22 paras. 131.50-131.119-131.181, accessed on 20 July 2017, [https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/cameroon/session\\_16\\_-\\_april\\_2013/a\\_hrc\\_wg\\_6\\_16\\_l13\\_cameroon](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/cameroon/session_16_-_april_2013/a_hrc_wg_6_16_l13_cameroon).

<sup>25</sup> GoC, Plan International, Coalition Camerounaise des ONG pour les Droits (2016), “*Rapport Complémentaire des ONGS sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur les Droits de L’Enfant au Cameroun*”, 6.

<sup>26</sup> UNICEF (2014), “Cartographie et Analyse du Système National de Protection de l’Enfant au Cameroun”, 19-20, accessed on 24 July 2017, <http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cartographie-Cameroun-version-finale-15-decembre-2014.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 63-66.

<sup>28</sup> GoC, Plan International, Coalition Camerounaise des ONG pour les Droits (2016), “*Rapport Complémentaire des ONGS sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention des Nations Unies sur les Droits de L’Enfant au Cameroun*”, 5.

<sup>29</sup> Elvis Teke, “Civil Status Registration: Experts validate 2018-2022 strategic plan”, Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), 15 June 2017, accessed on 12 August 2017, <http://crtv.cm/fr/nouvelles/journal-national-1/civil-status-registration-experts-validate-2018-2022-strategic-plan-19423.htm>.

<sup>30</sup> ECPAT International (2014), “*The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Africa*”, 42, accessed on 25 July 2017, [http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview\\_Africa.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Africa.pdf).

<sup>31</sup> GoC, Penal Code, Art. 343.

<sup>32</sup> GoC, Penal Code, Art 347.

<sup>33</sup> National Institute of Statistics, “*Étude Pilote sur l’Exploitation Sexuelle Commerciale des Enfants au Cameroun en 2010*”, 4, accessed on 26 July 2017, [http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note\\_synthese\\_Rapport\\_CSEC.pdf](http://www.statistics-cameroon.org/downloads/CSEC/Note_synthese_Rapport_CSEC.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> GoC (2015), “*Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention*”, CRC/C/CMR/3-5, 13, para. 197, accessed on 25 July 2017, [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fCMR%2f3-5&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fCMR%2f3-5&Lang=en).

<sup>35</sup> UNICEF (2014), “Cartographie et Analyse du Système National de Protection de l’Enfant au Cameroun”, 109, accessed on 26 July 2017, <http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cartographie-Cameroun-version-finale-15-decembre-2014.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> ECPAT International (2014), “*The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Africa*”, 43, accessed on 25 July 2017, [http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview\\_Africa.pdf](http://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Africa.pdf).

<sup>37</sup> Guidelines for services to orphans, Guidelines for psychosocial support to vulnerable children, Guidelines for sponsorship of children, Guidelines for services provided to street children, Guidelines for services to disabled children all listed in UNICEF (2014), “*Cartographie et Analyse du Système National de Protection de l’Enfant au Cameroun*”, 59, accessed on 25 July 2017, <http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cartographie-Cameroun-version-finale-15-decembre-2014.pdf>.

<sup>38</sup> UNICEF (2014), “*Cartographie et Analyse du Système National de Protection de l’Enfant au Cameroun*”, 54, accessed on 25 July 2017, <http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Cartographie-Cameroun-version-finale-15-decembre-2014.pdf>.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 69.