



**Oral Statement
Adoption of the UPR report of Cameroon
20 September
Delivered by ...**

Thank you, Mr President.

Mr. President, the Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humains en Afrique Centrale (REDHAC), Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA) and CIVICUS welcome the government of Cameroon's engagement with the UPR process. However, in our joint UPR Submission, we documented that since its last review, Cameroon has not implemented any of the 46 recommendations relating to civic space.

Provisions of the Freedom of Association law afford administrative authorities with powers to dissolve civil society organisations and a clear case was the banning of the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium (CACSC) in 2017. We welcome recommendations made urging authorities to amend the Law on the Suppression of Acts of Terrorism, which has been disproportionately used to target journalists and human rights defenders.

Mr. President, we are also dismayed at the fact that the National Communications Council suspends private radio stations including Radio Hot Cocoa and targets journalists on politically motivated charges. The independence of the membership of the Council remains questionable.

Security forces use violence to repress peaceful protests particularly those led by Anglophone lawyers and teachers in 2016. The leaders of these protests were arrested and detained and these actions were followed by the shutting down of the internet for four months between January and April 2017 and the militarization of Anglophone communities in the North West and South West regions.

We are equally concerned about the systemic killings of Anglophones and the arbitrary detentions of hundreds of Anglophone activists, journalists and citizens , and welcome recommendations made during this latest review urging the Government to conduct independent and impartial investigations to bring perpetrators to justice.

Mr. President, REDHAC, and CIVICUS call on the Government of Cameroon to take proactive measures to address these concerns and implement recommendations to create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment for civil society.

We thank you.