

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Ligue Internationale de Femmes pour la Paix et la Liberté
Liga Internacional de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad
رابطة النساء الدولية للسلام والحرية

Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO; Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO, and UNICEF

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STATEMENT ON CAMEROON

UN Human Rights Council 39th session (10 September 2018 to 28 September 2018)

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

WILPF welcomes Cameroon's support to recommendations 121.127¹ and 121.128² aiming at strengthening women's participation in public and political life. In this regard, we welcome the adoption of its first national action plan on UNSCR 1325 in November 2017; we urge the Government to allocate sufficient human and financial resources for the effective implementation of the plan, as well as for its monitoring. With the presidential election coming up next month, it is essential that the Government promote without delay a process of inclusive dialogue to foster a peaceful resolution of the crisis in the two English-speaking regions; meaningful participation of women in this process should be guaranteed. We also call on the Government to identify and tackle the root causes of the social crisis.

In line with recommendation 121.195,³ supported by Cameroon, and given the high number of internally displaced persons, notably following the recent violence in the North West and South West regions, the government should take urgent measures to address the specific impacts of displacement on women and girls, including increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation resulting from loss of livelihoods.

We regret that Cameroon only noted recommendation 121.86⁴ on birth registration without providing justification as to why it could not support it. Birth registration remains a crucial concern to ensure the enjoyment of human rights by all in Cameroon, including in relation to women's participation in public and political life. We call on the government to take urgent measures to reduce the number of people without birth certificates, notably through awareness-raising and birth registration campaigns.

¹ A/HRC/39/15, recommendation 121.127 Adopt concrete measures to strengthen the participation of women and minority groups in public life (Angola).

² A/HRC/39/15, recommendation 121.128 Take steps for the adequate representation of women in political life, and encourage their economic empowerment (Bulgaria).

³ A/HRC/39/15, recommendation 121.195 Take the necessary measures to protect refugee and displaced women against all forms of exploitation (Algeria).

⁴ A/HRC/39/15, recommendation 121.86 Ensure universal birth registration without discrimination by developing information systems with solid databases that would include information on the number of people yet to be registered, creating mobile registration units to reach the most remote areas, and conducting campaigns to inform all families about deadlines and ways to register their children (Mexico).

Sur la problématique des violences basées sur le genre et des discriminations à l'égard des femmes, nous accueillons le soutien du gouvernement aux recommandations 121.170,⁵ 121.180,⁶ 121.182,⁷ visant à interdire toutes les formes de violence familiale à l'égard des femmes, notamment le viol conjugal, et à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour garantir aux femmes l'accès effectif à la justice, et à une assistance psychosociale et médicale, et ce, y compris pour les violences domestiques. Il est essentiel que ces engagements soient suivis des changements législatifs adéquats et ce, dans les meilleurs délais.

Bien qu'aucune recommandation n'ait été faite sur ce sujet, nous félicitons le Cameroun pour la ratification du Traité sur le Commerce des Armes le 18 Juin dernier et pour les mesures administratives déjà prises par le Gouvernement pour réduire la circulation illicite d'armes au Cameroun. Nous exhortons le Cameroun à mettre en place dans les meilleurs délais la Commission nationale de contrôle des armes de petit calibre, tel que recommandé dans notre rapport alternatif soumis à l'Examen Périodique Universel.⁸

Enfin, nous saluons la collaboration entre le gouvernement et les organisations de femmes dans le cadre de l'Examen Périodique Universel et l'appelons à travailler de manière inclusive avec toutes les organisations de la société civile dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations.

⁵ A/HRC/39/15, recommandation 121.170 Take necessary measures to ensure effective access to justice for women (Ukraine).

⁶ A/HRC/39/15, recommandation 121.180 Prohibit all forms of domestic violence against women, especially rape in marriage, as the new Penal Code does not cover all forms of violence against women (Germany).

⁷ A/HRC/39/15, recommandation 121.182 Provide women greater access to legal resources, and psychosocial and medical assistance (Spain).

⁸ Femmes, Paix et Sécurité: contribution de WILPF Cameroon à l'examen périodique universel, disponible en français et en anglais à: https://wilpf.org/wilpf_publications/women-peace-and-security-contribution-of-wilpf-cameroon-to-the-universal-periodic-review/.