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## **Summary prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21**

### **Cameroon\***

The present report is a summary of 18 stakeholders' submissions<sup>1</sup> to the universal periodic review. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. As provided for in resolution 16/21 of the Human Rights Council, where appropriate, a separate section is provided for contributions by the national human rights institution of the State under review that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

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\* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

## **I. Information provided by the accredited national human rights institution of the State under review in full compliance with the Paris Principles**

### **A. Background and framework**

1. The Commission nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés (National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms) (CNDHL) stated that the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights would be implemented by all those involved in the different sectors once it had received political approval.<sup>2</sup>
2. CNDHL indicated that Cameroon had set up a National Human Rights Education Programme.<sup>3</sup>
3. CNDHL pointed out that a national gender policy document had been adopted but had not yet received political approval. Similarly, a bill to stop violence against women was forthcoming.<sup>4</sup>
4. CNDHL emphasized that the independence of the electoral commission, Elections Cameroon, was an issue because its leaders and some of the senior officers in the electoral oversight system were appointed and dismissed by the Head of State.<sup>5</sup>

### **B. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

5. CNDHL welcomed the establishment in September 2011 of the interministerial committee for monitoring implementation of recommendations and decisions of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.<sup>6</sup>

### **C. Implementation of international human rights obligations**

6. CNDHL remained concerned by the situation in respect of torture, particularly in terms of the assistance for victims, and the human rights violations committed by the security forces.<sup>7</sup>
7. In respect of detention, CNDHL noted that, although there were plans to build some prisons, the work on Douala prison was behind schedule.<sup>8</sup> It was concerned by the prison overcrowding, lengthy pretrial detention and detention conditions, as well as arrests and arbitrary detentions.<sup>9</sup> Separation of prisoners by sex was also a matter of concern, particularly in police cells where cases of rape of women had been recorded. It also stated that a large number of prisoners were chained up for days or even months in inhuman and degrading conditions. It added that no alternative sentencing system had been set up to help reduce crowding in places of detention and ease reintegration for the prisoners.<sup>10</sup>
8. In respect of the independence of the judiciary, CNDHL was concerned by the fact that the executive<sup>11</sup> was responsible for promoting and appointing judges to positions of responsibility, and by the non-respect of the principles related to the right to a fair trial.<sup>12</sup>
9. CNDHL noted that persons working with children did organize activities to promote and protect children's rights. It remained concerned, however, by trafficking and violence against children, in the family, at school and in society in general.<sup>13</sup>
10. CNDHL regretted that human rights defenders were arrested during public demonstrations. It pointed out that it had initiated human rights training sessions for those

involved in the criminal justice chain and human rights defenders, but that the training needed to be enhanced.<sup>14</sup>

11. CNDHL indicated that access to health services was still an issue for children and indigenous populations because of poverty and the weak social security system.<sup>15</sup>

12. In respect of the right to housing, it noted that the social housing project should make it possible to provide families with decent housing in the large urban centres, but could not meet the needs of a rapidly growing population living in poverty in towns and villages.<sup>16</sup>

13. On the right to education, CHDHL noted that the State was working to encourage schooling for girls in places where they were exposed to early or forced marriage. It added that free schooling was an illusion, even in priority areas for education.<sup>17</sup>

14. CNDHL remained concerned by the lack of any transport or education policy adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities, as well as by the treatment of elderly persons, which resulted from the lack of a social security policy.<sup>18</sup>

## **II. Information provided by other stakeholders**

### **A. Background and framework**

#### **1. Scope of international obligations**

15. JS5 noted that Cameroon had not ratified any of the international instruments that it had committed itself to during its first universal periodic review (UPR) in 2009.<sup>19</sup>

16. The Association Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir (Association for Children, Youths and the Future) (ASSEJA) recommended that Cameroon should ratify and implement the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.<sup>20</sup>

17. The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) recommended that Cameroon ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.<sup>21</sup>

18. Franciscans International (FI) recommended that Cameroon should ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.<sup>22</sup>

#### **2. Constitutional and legislative framework**

19. JS5 pointed out that several laws and regulations had been adopted since 2009 to bolster the legal and institutional framework, notably in the areas of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to a healthy environment.<sup>23</sup>

20. JS5 did, however, note that the only international instrument ratified by Cameroon that had been incorporated into domestic legislation by the 2010 law was the convention on exploitation, slavery and trafficking in human beings.<sup>24</sup>

21. JS5 noted that the Constitutional Council and the Senate, provided for in the 1996 Constitution, had still not been established, with a resultant lack of institutional clarity, as the Supreme Court and the National Assembly acted for them when necessary.<sup>25</sup>

22. JS6 pointed out that, under article 347 (bis) of the Penal Code, sexual relations with a person of the same sex were punishable by a prison sentence of between 6 months and 5

years and a fine.<sup>26</sup> JS6 recommended that Cameroon should, in particular, decriminalize consenting relations between persons of the same sex and halt detentions and prosecutions of such persons. Amnesty International (AI) and JS4 shared the same concerns and recommendations.<sup>27</sup>

23. FI recommended that Cameroon should ensure that the practices of early and forced marriage be explicitly defined and prohibited by the law.<sup>28</sup>

24. ASSEJA said that, in 2009, Cameroon had adopted a national plan of action to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and, in 2011, it had repealed the act on child trafficking and smuggling;<sup>29</sup> it recommended developing laws that were consistent with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.<sup>30</sup>

25. FI recommended that Cameroon should comply with its obligations resulting from International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and ensure its incorporation into domestic legislation.<sup>31</sup>

26. JS2 recommended that Cameroon repeal criminal defamation laws, specifically those related to public figures and amend Act No. 96/0 (1996) to refer all press offences, including defamation, libel and slander, to civil courts.<sup>32</sup>

27. JS3 recommended that Cameroon adopt a law specifically to protect indigenous peoples and minorities, in line with its Constitution and international norms.<sup>33</sup>

### **3. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures**

28. JS5 stated that no effort had been made to bring CNDHL into line with the Paris Principles and that its members were, on the whole, senior civil servants appointed by the President.<sup>34</sup> It also recalled that Cameroon had committed itself to fostering cooperation between CNDHL and civil society.<sup>35</sup>

29. JS3 noted that there were no representatives of either the Mbororo or the Pygmy peoples on CNDHL.<sup>36</sup>

30. JS5 indicated that there was no real national human rights policy except for the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which was still not effective.<sup>37</sup>

31. JS5 stated that Cameroon had demonstrated political will to repress and reduce the practice of torture by subscribing to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, but that no independent national mechanism for torture prevention had yet been established.<sup>38</sup>

32. JS5 emphasized that the Government had drafted and adopted a follow-up paper on the UPR recommendations, known as a “road map” and that specific actions had been recommended, but most were still at the draft stage.<sup>39</sup>

33. FI noted that the Government had set up an interministerial committee to combat human trafficking in April 2011.<sup>40</sup>

## **B. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

### **Cooperation with special procedures**

34. CHRI recommended that Cameroon issue a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council and allow the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.<sup>41</sup>

## **C. Implementation of international human rights obligations**

### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

35. The Cercle de Recherche sur les Droits et les Devoirs de la Personne humaine (CRED) emphasized that many forms of discrimination were widespread in Cameroonian society. In a study it had conducted, CRED had identified 16 forms of discrimination,<sup>42</sup> all of which, to varying degrees, affected both the private and the public domain and all sectors of society.<sup>43</sup>

36. CRED stated that a national anti-discrimination programme had been approved in October 2012; it was intended to implement the recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies and the Durban Programme of Action.<sup>44</sup> CRED recommended that Cameroon should provide the necessary funding and working facilities for the implementation of projects under the programme.<sup>45</sup>

37. Declaring that both the dominant groups and the State were responsible for discrimination against indigenous peoples, JS3 recommended correcting these practices through legislation.<sup>46</sup>

38. Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation (UNPO) also noted that the English speakers, who represented 20 per cent of the population, were subject to language-based discrimination and that whilst Cameroon remained officially bilingual, French had been reportedly imposed as the language of instruction at nursery and primary school levels.<sup>47</sup> It added that language-based discrimination also occurred in judicial proceedings.<sup>48</sup>

39. AI recommended that Cameroon take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to prohibit and eliminate discriminatory treatment on the basis of sexual orientation at every stage of the administration of justice.<sup>49</sup>

### **2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

40. Regarding the death penalty, Advocates for Human Rights (AHR) noted that although the President regularly commuted death sentences to life imprisonment, this process had not been formalized and offered no protection to a large number of prisoners.<sup>50</sup> AHR recommended that Cameroon reconsider instituting an official *de jure* moratorium on the death penalty to replace its *ad hoc* policy of commuting death sentences.<sup>51</sup>

41. AHR stated that Cameroon's criminal justice system lacked essential safeguards for persons facing the death penalty and was characterized by corruption, abuse, torture, and inadequate legal assistance.<sup>52</sup> AHR recommended that Cameroon allocate more resources to improve the administration of justice and in particular the rights of persons facing the death penalty.<sup>53</sup>

42. JS5 noted that the practice of torture, especially by law enforcement officials, was still practically systematic both in places of detention and outside, and that it was rarely punished because the legal framework did not encourage the denunciation of torture.<sup>54</sup>

43. AI recommended that Cameroon establish prompt, independent and impartial investigations into allegations of excessive use of force, killings, torture and ill-treatment; that it makes the methods and findings of such investigations public and ensure that those responsible for human rights violations were brought to justice, whatever their official position.<sup>55</sup>

44. Stating that Southern Cameroon's National Council (SCNC) activists were frequently subject to torture and abuse in detention and that almost none of the reported cases had led to an investigation, UNPO recommended that Cameroon investigate and

prosecute the allegations of severe abuse and arbitrary arrests as well as compensate the victims accordingly.<sup>56</sup>

45. JS2 recommended that Cameroon launch an independent review of the practices of the DGRE, the intelligence agency, which had been involved in abusive detentions of several journalists and accused of engaging in torture.<sup>57</sup>

46. JS2 recommended that Cameroon allow an international commission of inquiry to establish responsibility in the death in custody of journalist Bibi Ngota.<sup>58</sup>

47. AHR noted that although recommendations relating to prison conditions and treatment of prisoners had been made and accepted by Cameroon during the first UPR,<sup>59</sup> the conditions of detention continued to violate Cameroon's international obligations.<sup>60</sup>

48. According to AHR, most prisons were dilapidated; severely overcrowded and that more than 60 per cent of inmates were pretrial detainees.<sup>61</sup> It underlined that men and women were sometimes held together as well as children with adults and that rapes were often reported among inmates.<sup>62</sup> AHR recommended that Cameroon allocate more resources to the prison system to ensure it meets basic international standards.<sup>63</sup>

49. AI was concerned that some detainees had been in prison for several years without trial, while others appeared to be prisoners of conscience.<sup>64</sup> It recommended that all elements of fair trial be afforded to the defendants.<sup>65</sup>

50. AI recommended that Cameroon allow visits to all places of detention by independent observers; ensure that all detainees were allowed access to legal counsel, medical assistance and family visits, and conduct independent investigations into deaths in custody.<sup>66</sup>

51. AI noted that violence, arbitrary arrests and detention of men and women because of their real or perceived sexual orientation were commonplace and had been increased since the mid-2000s.<sup>67</sup> JS6 recommended that all prisoners currently being held because of their sexual orientation should be released.<sup>68</sup>

52. Noting that omnipresent nature of police violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons,<sup>69</sup> JS6 recommended that public instructions should be issued explaining that police violence against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity would not be tolerated and would be subject to prosecution.<sup>70</sup>

53. JS6 indicated that LGBT persons suffered violence from other members of the community and often did not demand justice for fear of being treated as criminals themselves.<sup>71</sup> It therefore recommended that an independent police monitoring mechanism be set up to allow civilians to lodge complaints against the police without fear of reprisal.<sup>72</sup>

54. Indicating that gays and lesbians in Yaoundé and Douala had been subjected to blackmail, JS6 recommended that the police carry out investigations into the allegations of crimes against LGBT persons.<sup>73</sup>

55. JS5 reported that beatings and the use of private prisons by some traditional authorities to hold individuals outside of the law were still current practices.<sup>74</sup>

56. JS5 noted that the practices of female genital mutilation (FGM) and breast "ironing" in young girls were very widespread in the north of the country and the West and South-West regions.<sup>75</sup> AI recommended that Cameroon institute a comprehensive public policy and laws to eradicate the practice of FGM and mobilize institutions and resources to promote the rights of women.<sup>76</sup>

57. Reminding that Cameroon had accepted UPR recommendations to take efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, AI stated that progress in this regard had been minimal and it was concerned about inadequate domestic legislation for the

prevention and punishment of rape. It highlighted that while the Penal Code penalized acts of rape of women, sections 73 and 297 exonerated perpetrators who subsequently marry their victims as long as the victim had attained puberty and had freely consented to the marriage.<sup>77</sup>

58. In respect of the UPR recommendation on the rights of homeless children, ASSEJA noted that the Ministry of Social Affairs had 10 shelters for such children, but the way they worked needed to be improved and many children still lived on the streets of the large towns.<sup>78</sup> FI recommended implementing the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on protecting street children.<sup>79</sup>

59. ASSEJA pointed out that, other than adopting the action plan and repealing the law, not much progress had been made in combating the sexual exploitation of children.<sup>80</sup> JS5 said that child trafficking had worsened because of the inadequacy of the measures taken by the Government, the lack of coordination between the various parties involved, corruption, misappropriation of funds and the shortage of training staff and funding.<sup>81</sup>

60. FI recommended, *inter alia*, that impartial investigations on human trafficking should be conducted, the perpetrators, including any complicit civil servants, brought to justice, and a mechanism should be established to identify the victims in the most vulnerable groups.<sup>82</sup>

61. FI noted that trafficking of children within the country was also a recurrent practice, whereby victims from rural areas were forced to work in agriculture or subjected to domestic servitude and sexual exploitation in the towns.<sup>83</sup>

62. FI remained concerned at the kidnapping of newborns in public hospitals for illegal adoption.<sup>84</sup>

63. The Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children (GIEACP) recommended that Cameroon enact the legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings including the home.<sup>85</sup>

64. FI emphasized that although Cameroon had been asked about child labour during the first UPR, there had been no change in the field,<sup>86</sup> it also found that the minimum age for employment was still 14, which was not in line with Cameroon's international commitments.<sup>87</sup>

### **3. Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law**

65. JS5 noted that the judiciary was still independent only in theory, as the executive interfered in court proceedings.<sup>88</sup>

66. JS5 stated that financial and structural obstacles meant that there was no real enjoyment of the right of access to justice. It added that judges were gradually adopting the practice of respect for the right to due process but significant effort still needed to be made at the police detention stage, during which arrest and detention by the law enforcement agencies without the necessary warrant, violent arrests and illegal detention in custody were regular features.<sup>89</sup>

67. JS5 pointed out that many law enforcement forces did not allow a lawyer to be present during preliminary inquiries and still considered that their final objective was a confession, resorting to all types of treatment in order to obtain one.<sup>90</sup>

68. AI stated that, over the years, human rights defenders and other observers had expressed concerns about the fact that members of the security forces, including the police and gendarmerie, enjoyed impunity for human rights violations, including excessive use of force when policing, torture and even extra-judicial executions.<sup>91</sup>

69. JS5 stated that the fight against corruption had been strengthened by the action of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC) and other specialized agencies. It added that the efforts of CONAC were however limited by the inappropriate legal framework that restricted its powers. Moreover, the bill on the restructuring of CONAC, which had been available since 2009, had not yet been put to Parliament although it complied with the guidelines set by the United Nations Convention against Corruption.<sup>92</sup>

70. JS5 said that the authorities had set up a special court, the Special Criminal Tribunal, responsible for dealing with misappropriation of State property which, among others, gave preferential treatment to persons who embezzled public funds.<sup>93</sup>

#### **4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life**

71. Expressing concern that early and forced marriages were still an issue, FI recommended that Cameroon step up its awareness-raising and education campaigns to local authorities, families, traditional and religious leaders and the general population in the regions concerned.<sup>94</sup>

#### **5. Freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

72. Despite supporting recommendations to adopt measures to ensure the freedom of expression of journalists and human rights defenders, AI stated that journalists were often arrested and subjected to lengthy periods of detention without trial and ill-treatment while in detention.<sup>95</sup>

73. JS2 also stated that Cameroon continued to threaten, prosecute, and imprison writers, musicians, and journalists.<sup>96</sup> It noted that several draconian laws overly punitive regulated the press<sup>97</sup> and that the authorities had used criminal defamation laws to silence journalists.<sup>98</sup> JS2 recommended that Cameroon end the persecution of writers and journalists for practising free expression.<sup>99</sup>

74. AI recommended, *inter alia*, that Cameroon stop harassing, threatening and attacking human rights defenders, trade unionists and journalists; repeal any laws instituted, to silence dissent and/or views critical of Government officials or policy as well as respect and promote the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, including by representatives of political parties, media and other civil society groups.<sup>100</sup>

75. JS2 underlined restrictive laws and policies regarding the internet had stifled free expression<sup>101</sup> and that an important barrier preventing citizens from freely expressing themselves online was the cost of access to internet services.<sup>102</sup>

76. JS7 reported that only 3.9 per cent of households had access to the internet and this should be a focus for development as it enabled knowledge-sharing and collaborative knowledge-creation.<sup>103</sup> It recommended that Cameroon amend laws that provided for cutting off internet access and undertake not to use internet and SMS shut-downs to stifle freedom of expression and freedom of association. It also recommended that constitutional protections make it clear that freedom of expression include internet related expression.<sup>104</sup>

77. JS2 stated that the Government suspended the policy which allowed stations to operate pending the payment of fees during politically-sensitive periods and cracked down on outlets involved in critical reporting or coverage.<sup>105</sup>

78. JS5 pointed out that public demonstrations and meetings were subject to the system of prior administrative authorization which basically did away with the freedom of expression.<sup>106</sup>



79. AI noted that the Government used violence, arrests, detention and judicial harassment to stifle the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly of opposition groups.<sup>107</sup>

80. UNPO stated that security forces harassed and disrupted the meetings of any group advocating for a higher level of autonomy of the southern Cameroon. Southern Cameroon's National Council had been particularly targeted because of its views on the status of the region. It recommended that Cameroon respect the freedom of assembly and association of people in Southern Cameroon and grant them permissions to hold meetings and rallies.<sup>108</sup>

81. JS6 noted that the authorities had tried to restrict the latitude of persons who defended the rights of LGBT persons to enjoy their freedoms of expression and association, and recommended protecting the freedoms of assembly, association and expression for all.<sup>109</sup>

#### **6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

82. JS5 noted that the employment policy had not been effective, as shown by the unemployment and underemployment rates and the treatment of employees in the private sector.<sup>110</sup> It noted several shortcomings, including the lack of any real employment policy and workers' vulnerability in respect of their rights regarding employers.<sup>111</sup> JS5 added that a draft reform of the Labour Code had been developed but had not yet been adopted.<sup>112</sup>

83. JS1 stated that there were much higher levels of unemployment among Mbororo youths leading to high levels of crime and destitution.<sup>113</sup>

84. CED stated that the Baka, Bakola, Bagyeli and Bedzang peoples were used as cheap manual labour and did not receive any salary or were paid a little bit or with alcohol.<sup>114</sup> It added that since many of them were alcohol addicted, they had been willing to work long hours to have access to it.<sup>115</sup> CED recommended that Cameroon strengthen labour rights of these groups and limit alcohol abuse by awareness campaigns and enforcing alcohol regulation laws.<sup>116</sup>

85. UNPO noted that language discrimination in education and hiring processes led to an under-representation of southern Cameroonians in Government positions.<sup>117</sup>

#### **7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

86. DREPAVIE noted that, according to the figures for 2011, 65 per cent of Cameroonians did not have access to running water.<sup>118</sup>

87. JS5 said that, access to water and electricity in the urban centres had worsened since 2011 because of the inadequate capacity of the supply structures.<sup>119</sup>

88. JS5 noted that there had been expropriations of both land and housing in the Ntaba, Etetak, Ntougou, Briqueterie-East and West districts in Yaoundé and in Douala, Kribi, Bafoussam and Maroua.<sup>120</sup>

89. JS3 stated that indigenous populations, having been encouraged by the Government and humanitarian organizations to give up their semi-nomadic way of life, were now living mainly in camps in fixed locations, often near to villages, in greater poverty than the rest of the population.<sup>121</sup>

90. UNPO noted that the southern Cameroonians were not treated equally regarding the exploitation of their own resources and in national economic development schemes.<sup>122</sup>

**8. Rights to health**

91. JS5 found that little effort had been put into building up the country's health sector. It also noted the proliferation of private health structures, the quality of whose services did not meet the needs of the population.<sup>123</sup>

92. Emphasizing that indigenous peoples and minorities did not have access to primary health care, drinking water or preventive medicine, JS3 recommended establishing health infrastructure in the places where they lived.<sup>124</sup>

93. JS5 said that sanitation and water supply were a public health issue and resulted in the persistence of diseases such as cholera, typhoid and dysentery.<sup>125</sup>

94. DREPAVIE said that sickle cell anaemia, an untreatable genetic disease, was still not recognized and was most frequently attributed to sorcery, meaning that the sufferers were stigmatized and rejected by those around them.<sup>126</sup> It noted that the disease caused around 4,000 deaths each year and there were 2 million sufferers in the country.<sup>127</sup> DREPAVIE recommended that Cameroon should establish a national programme on the disease, providing the necessary medication for free.<sup>128</sup>

95. DREPAVIE said that there were around 500,000 Cameroonians living with HIV and half of those patients who could be treated were following a course of treatment.<sup>129</sup>

96. JS6 stated that the criminalization of consenting sexual relations between persons of the same sex had harmful health consequences on sexual minorities.<sup>130</sup>

97. JS6 noted that, for the first time, the Strategic Plan to Combat HIV/AIDS (2011–2015) called for preventive measures and treatment to target homosexuals. However, it did not make any real call for the decriminalization of consenting sexual relations between persons of the same sex. JS6 recommended issuing clear public information that no one would be deprived of access to health services or handed over to the police on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity until article 347 was repealed.<sup>131</sup>

**9. Right to education**

98. JS3 found that indigenous children's access to education was hindered by their remote settlements, social exclusion and extreme poverty. It also noted that there was no teaching in their own language or about their own culture. Moreover, although primary education was officially free, indigenous families often had to contribute to the teacher's salary because there were not enough teachers in outlying regions. JS3 recommended, inter alia, that measures should be taken to increase participation by indigenous communities in developing the teaching programmes and emphasis should be put on developing culturally appropriate curricula.<sup>132</sup>

99. JS5 said that there had not been any wide-ranging human rights public awareness campaign in the country and human rights education was not yet integrated into the education system, although CNDHL had designed some teaching manuals.<sup>133</sup>

**10. Minorities and indigenous peoples**

100. Noting that not all indigenous births and deaths were registered with, in some cases, entire population groups being excluded, and that there were no reliable official statistics, JS3 recommended collecting data on indigenous children with the aim, in particular, of reducing their mortality rate.<sup>134</sup> The Center for Environment and Development (CED) noted that most Baka, Bakola, Bagyeli, and Bedzang peoples did not have birth certificates or identity cards.<sup>135</sup>

101. Stating that Cameroon had continuously denied that southern Cameroonians enjoyed distinctive political, economic and cultural characteristics,<sup>136</sup> UNPO recommended their recognition as people with distinct characteristics.<sup>137</sup>

102. JS3 recommended that Cameroon should stop slavery of indigenous peoples and conduct serious investigations to bring the perpetrators of that and other abuses to justice.<sup>138</sup> JS3 added that, because they were ignorant of the law, indigenous peoples were victims of several types of abuse or violations of their rights by Government officials and that they did not always enjoy the procedural safeguards laid out in the Criminal Procedure Code.<sup>139</sup>

103. JS3 recommended, in respect of the country's indigenous peoples, that their right to land should be guaranteed and discriminatory legislation amended, particularly the laws on land registration procedure and on establishing forest and community hunting lands. It also recommended safeguards to guarantee compensation or appropriate rehousing in the case of expulsion, and access to remedies.<sup>140</sup>

104. JS1 stated that despite progress made by the Government in developing policy on indigenous peoples, including the Mbororo, there were no concrete actions to implement or enforce laws, policies, treaties and decisions to protect them from discrimination, injustices and marginalization.<sup>141</sup> JS1 noted that on-going abuses continued and that the Mbororo suffered from these abuses without remedies or redress due to their low literacy rate and isolated geographical locations.<sup>142</sup> It also underlined the lack of representation of Mbororo in the political, economic and civil arenas.<sup>143</sup>

105. CED stated that the Baka, Bakola, Bagyeli and Bedzang faced human rights violations in the areas of land, labour and political rights as well as access to education.<sup>144</sup> It added that lack of legitimate chiefs, language barriers, high mobility and low literacy rates prevented these groups from achieving political self-representation.<sup>145</sup>

106. JS3 emphasized that the authorities did not always take account of the indigenous communities' representative institutions, education, training and public information in the context of development projects that would have repercussions on the indigenous peoples' ways of life. It therefore recommended that consultation of indigenous peoples and minorities should be an indispensable precondition to any development project that affected them.<sup>146</sup>

107. JS3 stated that the indigenous peoples had few possibilities to call for improvements to their situation, as they were not involved in the decisions taken on issues that concerned them. It recommended that legislation be adopted to effectively encourage the participation of indigenous peoples and minorities in public affairs.<sup>147</sup>

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org). (One asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with "A" status.)

##### *National human rights institution*

CNDHL Commission nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés\*, Cameroon

##### *Civil society*

AHR The Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, USA

AI Amnesty International, London, UK

ASSEJA Association Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, Yaoundé, Cameroon

CED Centre for Environment and Development, Cameroon

CHRI Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, New Delhi, India

CRED Cercle de Recherche sur les Droits et les Devoirs de la Personne humaine, Yaoundé, Cameroon

- DREPAVIE DREPAVIE, Strasbourg, France
- FI Franciscans International, Geneva, Switzerland
- GIEACPC Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London, UK
- JS1 Joint submission by Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA), Laimaru Network and Community Agriculture and Environmental Protection Association (CAEPA CAMEROON), Cameroon
- JS2 Joint submission by Pen International, Committee to Protect Journalists and Internet sans Frontières, UK, USA and France
- JS3 Joint submission by Droits et Paix, Mieux-Etre and Baka Biosphère, Cameroon
- JS4 Joint submission by ACODES-Cameroun-Sex Workers, Association de Lutte contre les Violences faites aux Femmes, Humanity First Cameroon, Red, Sid'Ado, COFENHO, Cameroon, in partnership with ILGA and PAN Africa ILGA
- JS5 Joint submission by Plateforme EPU Cameroun, Cameroon
- JS6 Joint submission by Affirmative Action, Alternatives-Cameroun, Association pour la Défense des Droits des Homosexuel(le)s (ADEFHO), Cameroonian Foundation for AIDS (CAMFAIDS), Evolve, Human Rights Watch, Humanity First Cameroon and Commission International des Droits Humains des Gays et lesbiennes (IGLHRC), Cameroon, UK
- JS7 Joint submission by Protège QV and the Association for Progressive Communications, Cameroon
- UNPO Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, The Hague, Netherlands
- <sup>2</sup> CNDHL, p. 4, para. E.
- <sup>3</sup> CNDHL, p. 5, para. F.
- <sup>4</sup> CNDHL, p. 2, para. B.
- <sup>5</sup> CNDHL, p. 3, para. E.
- <sup>6</sup> CNDHL, p. 6, part II.
- <sup>7</sup> CNDHL, p. 6, part III.
- <sup>8</sup> CNDHL, p. 2, para. D.
- <sup>9</sup> CNDHL, p. 6, part III.
- <sup>10</sup> CNDHL, p. 3, para. D.
- <sup>11</sup> CNDHL, p. 3, para. D.
- <sup>12</sup> CNDHL, p. 6, part III.
- <sup>13</sup> CHDHL, p. 2, para. C.
- <sup>14</sup> CNDHL, p. 3, para. E.
- <sup>15</sup> CNDHL, p. 4, para. F.
- <sup>16</sup> CNDHL, p. 4, para. F.
- <sup>17</sup> CNDHL, pp. 4–5, para. E.
- <sup>18</sup> CNDHL, p. 6, part III.
- <sup>19</sup> JS5, p. 6, part IV, para. a.
- <sup>20</sup> ASSEJA, p. 5, para. 20.
- <sup>21</sup> CHRI, p. 2, para. 5.
- <sup>22</sup> FI, para. 9.
- <sup>23</sup> JS5, p. 1, part I.
- <sup>24</sup> JS5, p. 6, part IV, para. a.
- <sup>25</sup> JS5, p. 8, part IV.
- <sup>26</sup> JS6, p. 1, part I.
- <sup>27</sup> AI, p. 5 and JS4, p. 11.
- <sup>28</sup> FI, para. 18.
- <sup>29</sup> ASSEJA, pp. 2 and 3, paras. 4 and 6.
- <sup>30</sup> ASSEJA, p. 5, para. 20.
- <sup>31</sup> FI, para. 14.
- <sup>32</sup> JS2, p. 10.
- <sup>33</sup> JS3, p. 3, part II, para. A.
- <sup>34</sup> JS5, p. 8, part IV.
- <sup>35</sup> JS5, p. 7, part IV, para. e.
- <sup>36</sup> JS3, p. 4, para. d.

- 37 JS5, p. 1, part II.
- 38 JS5, p. 2, part III, para. a.
- 39 JS5, p. 5, part IV.
- 40 FI, para. 6.
- 41 CHRI, p. 2, para. 5.
- 42 Rapport de l'étude situationnelle sur les formes multiples de discriminations au Cameroun (CRED, septembre 2012).
- 43 CRED, p. 2, part 1.
- 44 CRED, p. 3, part 2.
- 45 CRED, p. 4, part 3.
- 46 JS3, p. 4, para. c. See also JS1, p. 4, para. 2.3.
- 47 UNPO, p. 2, part B.
- 48 UNPO, p. 3, part B.
- 49 AI, p. 5. See also JS4, p. 3.
- 50 AHR, p. 2, para. 1. See also AI, p. 4.
- 51 AHR, p. 7, para. 36. See also AI, p. 5.
- 52 AHR, p. 4, part B.
- 53 AHR, p. 7, para. 26.
- 54 JS5, p. 2, part III, a. See also AHR, pp. 6 and 7, paras. 24 and 25.
- 55 AI, p. 4.
- 56 UNPO, pp. 3 and 4, part C.
- 57 JS2, p. 10.
- 58 JS2, p. 10.
- 59 AHR, p. 2, para. 4.
- 60 AHR, p. 5, para. 19.
- 61 AHR, p. 6, para. 22.
- 62 AHR, p. 7, para. 24. See also AI, p. 4.
- 63 AHR, p. 7, para. 26. See also JS5, p. 7, part IV, para. d.
- 64 AI, p. 3.
- 65 AI, p. 5.
- 66 AI, p. 5.
- 67 AI, p. 3. See also JS6, part I.
- 68 JS6, part II. See also JS4, p. 11.
- 69 JS6, part I.
- 70 JS6, part III.
- 71 JS6, part I.
- 72 JS6, part III.
- 73 JS6, part III.
- 74 JS5, p. 2, part III, para. a.
- 75 JS5, p. 2, part III, para. a.
- 76 AI, p. 5.
- 77 AI, p. 1.
- 78 ASSEJA, p. 2, para. 2.
- 79 FI, p. 5, para. 16.
- 80 ASSEJA, p. 4, para. 12.
- 81 JS5, p. 6, para. c.
- 82 FI, p. 3, para. 9.
- 83 FI, p. 2, para. 4.
- 84 FI, p. 2, para. 5.
- 85 GIEACP, p. 1.
- 86 FI, p. 4, para. 12.
- 87 FI, p. 4, para. 13.
- 88 JS5, p. 7, part IV, para. d.
- 89 JS5, p. 3, part III, a.
- 90 JS5, p. 2, part III, a. See also AHR, pp. 6 and 7, paras. 24 and 25.
- 91 AI, p. 1. See also JS5, p. 9, part V.

- <sup>92</sup> JS5, p. 8, part IV, para. f.  
<sup>93</sup> JS5, p. 3, part III, a.  
<sup>94</sup> FI, paras. 17 and 18.  
<sup>95</sup> AI, p. 1.  
<sup>96</sup> JS2, p. 3, para. 4. See also JS7, p. 2, para. 5 and JS5, p. 5, part III.  
<sup>97</sup> JS2, p. 4, para. 8.  
<sup>98</sup> JS2, p. 5, para. 11.  
<sup>99</sup> JS2, p. 10.  
<sup>100</sup> AI, p. 4.  
<sup>101</sup> JS2, p. 7, para. 23.  
<sup>102</sup> JS2, p. 9, para. 31.  
<sup>103</sup> JS7, p. 4, para. 14.  
<sup>104</sup> JS7, p. 4, paras. 18 and 19. See also JS2, p. 10.  
<sup>105</sup> JS2, p. 7, para. 18.  
<sup>106</sup> JS5, pp. 2 and 3, part III, a.  
<sup>107</sup> AI, p. 3.  
<sup>108</sup> UNPO, pp. 3 and 4, part C. See also AI, p. 3.  
<sup>109</sup> JS6, part VI.  
<sup>110</sup> JS5, p. 9, part IV, para. f.  
<sup>111</sup> JS5, p. 4, part III, para. b.  
<sup>112</sup> JS5, p. 9, part IV, para. f.  
<sup>113</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 2.2.  
<sup>114</sup> CED, p. 7, para. 18.  
<sup>115</sup> CED, p. 7, para. 19.  
<sup>116</sup> CED, pp. 7–8, para. 20.  
<sup>117</sup> UNPO, p. 1, part A.  
<sup>118</sup> DREPAVIE, section B: “Un programme de lutte incluant le problème d’accès à l’eau potable”.  
<sup>119</sup> JS5, p. 4, part III, b.  
<sup>120</sup> JS5, p. 8, part IV, para. f.  
<sup>121</sup> JS3, p. 10, para. (l). See also CED, p. 4, para. 3.  
<sup>122</sup> UNPO, p. 2, part A.  
<sup>123</sup> JS5, p. 4, part III, b.  
<sup>124</sup> JS3, p. 9, para. (k). See also, JS5, p. 4, part III, b.  
<sup>125</sup> JS5, p. 5, part III, b.  
<sup>126</sup> DREPAVIE, para. B.  
<sup>127</sup> DREPAVIE, section A: “Un état des lieux alarmants”.  
<sup>128</sup> DREPAVIE, section: “Suggestions”.  
<sup>129</sup> DREPAVIE, section A: “Le programme de lutte contre le VIH au Cameroun, un exemple à suivre pour créer le programme de lutte contre la drépanocytose”.  
<sup>130</sup> JS6, p. 5, part V. See also JS4, p. 3.  
<sup>131</sup> JS6, p. 5, part V.  
<sup>132</sup> JS3, p. 7, para. (h). See also CED, pp. 5–7, paras. 8–16.  
<sup>133</sup> JS5, p. 5, part III, b.  
<sup>134</sup> JS3, p. 10, para. m.  
<sup>135</sup> CED, p. 8, para. 23.  
<sup>136</sup> UNPO, p. 1, part A.  
<sup>137</sup> UNPO, p. 1, part A.  
<sup>138</sup> JS3, p. 9.  
<sup>139</sup> JS3, pp. 5 and 6, para. f.  
<sup>140</sup> JS3, pp. 7–8, para. (i). See also CED, pp. 4–5, paras. 6 and 7.  
<sup>141</sup> JS1, p. 1.  
<sup>142</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 2.3.  
<sup>143</sup> JS1, p. 4, para. 2.3.  
<sup>144</sup> CED, p. 3, Introduction.  
<sup>145</sup> CED, p. 8, paras. 21–22.  
<sup>146</sup> JS3, p. 5, para. (e).

<sup>147</sup> JS3, pp. 4–5, para. (d).

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