

LAW N<sup>o</sup> 2023/007 OF 25 JUL 2023

ON HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY IN CAMEROON

*The Parliament deliberated and adopted,  
the President of the Republic hereby  
enacts the law set out below:*

**PART I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**CHAPTER I**  
**PURPOSE, SCOPE, GOALS AND DUTIES OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**I – PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

**SECTION 1:** (1) This law lays down higher education policy in Cameroon.

(2) It establishes the legal framework and basic guidelines for higher education in Cameroon.

**SECTION 2:** (1) Higher education shall comprise all post-secondary education studies and training provided by public and private institutions approved by the State as higher education institutions.

(2) A separate law shall govern research activities.

**SECTION 3:** (1) The State shall give national priority to higher education.

(2) It shall organize and supervise higher education.

**SECTION 4:** (1) The State shall institute English and French as official higher education teaching languages with equal status.

(2) The State shall promote multiculturalism in higher education as a factor of national unity and integration.

(3) The State shall institute and organize the higher education system taking into consideration the specificities of the two Anglo-Saxon and Francophone sub-systems as factors for the influence and performance of the higher education system.

**SECTION 5:** Regional and local authorities, other entities as well as private partners shall participate in providing higher education studies.

**II – GOALS AND DUTIES OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**SECTION 6:** The duties of higher education shall be to provide teaching, carry out fundamental and applied research and support development.

As such, the goals of higher education shall be:

- the quest for excellence in all areas of knowledge and culture;
- promotion of science, culture and social progress;
- senior staff training and further training;
- facilitation of the acquisition and deepening of knowledge and culture throughout life;



- development of scholarly, creative, scientific, artistic, technological, research and innovation activities;
- human capital development;
- job, business, industry and innovative socio-economic activity incubation;
- promotion of public debate on social and ethical issues;
- social promotion and professional integration;
- promotion of democracy and development of democratic culture;
- reinforcement of the sense of ethics and national awareness;
- promotion of bilingualism and multiculturalism;
- promotion of international cooperation in all areas of knowledge and culture.

**SECTION 7:** (1) The State shall entrust to higher education a fundamental duty of producing, organizing and disseminating scientific, technical, technological, cultural, professional and ethical knowledge for the development of the nation and the progress of humanity.

(2) It shall also assign to higher education the duty of strengthening the economic fabric, particularly through the development of research products.

(3) In the discharge of its duties referred to in Section 7 (1) and (2) above, higher education shall:

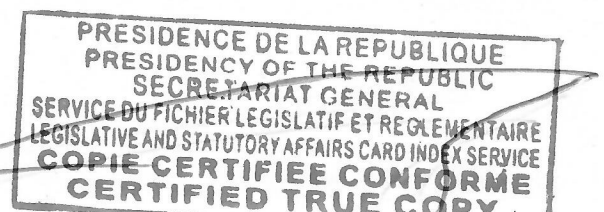
- inform and guide students on the organization of studies, job openings and mobility gateway between training courses;
- provide initial and continuing intellectual, physical and moral training to students and other learners;
- organize training for trainers and researchers;
- train operational middle and senior management staff in scientific and technical areas that meet the needs of the nation;
- foster innovation and individual and collective creation in arts, humanities, sciences and technology;
- work towards promoting the two official languages and national cultures and languages;
- contribute towards strengthening national awareness;
- participate in promoting the rule of law by disseminating a culture of respect for justice, human rights and freedoms;
- participate in eradicating all forms of discrimination and encourage the promotion of peace and dialogue ;
- contribute within the national and international scientific and cultural community to the debate of ideas, research progress and the promotion of and respect for cultural identities;
- contribute to the intermingling of populations and national integration;

- participate in the development and reinforcement of gender equality;
- contribute towards the emergence of the democratic culture, the culture of peace, development and tolerance.

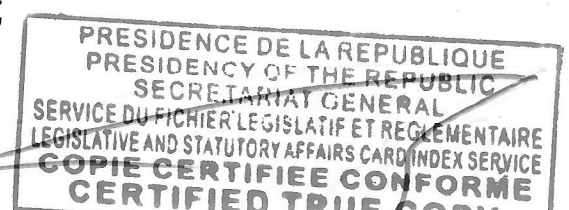
## CHAPTER II DEFINITIONS

**SECTION 8:** For the purposes of this law and the resulting statutory instruments, the following definitions shall apply:

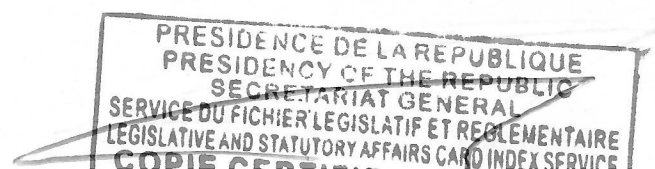
- **Academic freedom:** status enjoyed by a university which provides that security forces can only intervene on campus with the prior authorization of the university authority which has administrative policing powers, and that the exercise of all fundamental freedoms, in particular freedoms of movement, thought, research, teaching and expression are guaranteed, subject to compliance with the rules of ethics, professional conduct and law and order;
- **Approval:** authorization granted to a higher education institution to function autonomously, with the exception of issuing certificates;
- **Area of training:** cluster of higher education training programmes common to all cycles and all higher education institutions;
- **Authorization to open:** approval granted by the Minister in charge of higher education to a private higher education institution to provide training in specific fields;
- **Basic and applied studies:** all higher education training programmes designed to prepare learners to acquire theoretical and fundamental knowledge, but not to prepare them for employment in a specific profession or trade, or a group of specific professions or trades;
- **Basic and applied studies:** all higher education training programmes designed to prepare learners to acquire theoretical and fundamental knowledge, but not to prepare them for employment in a specific profession or trade, or a group of specific professions or trades;
- **Bilingualism:** routine use of the two official languages by Cameroonians;
- **BMD system:** Bachelor, Master's, Doctorate system;
- **Board member:** legal or natural person that is a member of the university Board designated in accordance with the instrument organizing the public or private higher education institution concerned, and that collegially participates in the administration of the said institution;
- **Budget:** all the projected resources and expenditure of a public higher education institution allocated for the discharge of duties over a specific period;
- **Certification:** official confirmation, generally in the form of a document attesting to the successful completion of a training programme or a training programme cycle. Certification can be obtained through: (i) the full completion of an entire training programme; (ii) the full completion of a training programme cycle (intermediate certifications); or (iii) the validation of knowledge, skills and competences acquired without undergoing a training programme;



- **Course accreditation:** recognition of the effective and regular functioning of a course;
- **Credit:** unit within which the courses or modules of a training programme are fully completed and documented during and at the end of training. Credit expresses the level of studies and volume of learning based on the work load typically required to achieve the expected learning objectives;
- **Cycle:** sub-level of higher education defined in terms of theoretical duration or specific set of courses, modules, units or subjects to be completed, and credits to be earned. Each specific cycle has distinctive characteristics from others and can be validated individually through an intermediate certification;
- **Financial autonomy:** public higher education institution's capacity to own, administer and freely manage all the movable and immovable, tangible and intangible as well as cash assets that make up its own property in view of achieving its corporate purpose, in compliance with the financial and accounting rules that are distinct, as appropriate, from those applied to other public establishments;
- **Financial governance:** all the processes, rules, standards, best practices and values that govern the handling of the assets and financial flows of a public higher education institution;
- **Grade:** rank in the hierarchy of higher education studies. It indicates the level of studies that gives right to comparison and students mobility between the national higher education system and other higher education systems;
- **Learning outcomes:** all the information, knowledge, understandings, attitudes, values, skills, competencies or behaviours that an individual is expected to master upon completion of a training programme;
- **Multiculturalism:** marker of a plural society, reflection of the national identity enhanced by the rich ethnic, social and cultural diversity, source of its wealth and bedrock of its existence as a single and indivisible nation;
- **Official language:** language with equal status enshrined in the Constitution for use by all citizens, particularly in public services;
- **PhD:** Doctor of Philosophy;
- **Private higher education institution:** private law legal person created by private natural or legal persons in accordance with the conditions laid down by regulation. It has legal personality and administrative and financial autonomy distinct from that of the promoter;
- **Professional and technical studies:** all higher education training programmes designed to help learners to acquire knowledge, skills and competences specific to a profession or a trade, or a group of professions or trades. The full completion of such programmes helps to obtain certifications that can be used on the labour market, and recognized as a professional orientation by the relevant national bodies and/the labour market;
- **Professionalization:** set of rules and processes that govern the training system for the award of certifications giving access to direct employment;
- **Public entity:** public law legal person, including the State, public establishments and enterprises, and regional and local authorities;



- **Public higher education institution:** public law legal person created or approved as a higher education institution by the State or another public entity;
- **Public establishment:** public law legal person with legal personality and financial autonomy, responsible for managing a public service or discharging a special general interest duty on behalf of the State or a regional and local authority;
- **Quality Assurance system:** process established by an institution to enable it to confirm to itself and other relevant institutions that the required conditions have been provided for students to attain the institution's standards;
- **Quality Assurance:** process comprising the strategies, actions and attitudes required to maintain and improve quality;
- **Speciality:** subdivision of a training programme specific to a higher education institution or a group of higher education institutions;
- **Standard training path:** coherent set of courses, modules, units or subjects contained in one or several areas or subfields linked in a structure to enable learners to progress and obtain a certification;
- **Student-entrepreneur:** special status granted to students with project ideas and/or who plan to set up a company during their academic career or after obtaining their certificate;
- **Subsystem:** system subordinate to the national higher education system characterized by a set of specific and coordinated principles reflecting historical, cultural and philosophical particularities. There are two subsystems, namely the Anglo-Saxon and the Francophone subsystems;
- **Supervisory authority:** power vested on the State to define, guide and assess its policy in the sector in which the higher education institution operates, with a view to safeguarding general interest;
- **Teaching unit or teaching module:** one or several elements of a semester of a training programme comprising, in an integrated manner, theoretical courses and/or tutorials and, where necessary, the student's practical or personal work or research work;
- **"Title":** distinctive name conferred on the holder of a higher education degree, diploma or certification;
- **Training programme:** a sequence or consistent set of educational activities designed and organized with a view to achieving pre-established learning objectives or a specific set of educational tasks over a sustainable period. Under a training programme, educational activities may also be grouped into sub-components separately described as courses, modules, units, and/or subjects. A programme includes major elements that are not normally considered as courses, units or modules, such as game-based activities, socio-professional immersion, internships, research projects and dissertation writing;
- **Training subfield:** subdivision of a training field common to all higher education institutions within a given cycle;
- **University accreditation:** an instrument through which the State adopts and renders public its recognition of the quality review of study programmes, the





organization, functioning and accomplishment of the social function of a public or private educational institution;

- **University-business:** status of a higher education institution giving it the prerogative to intervene in the entrepreneurship sector;
- **Validation of acquired experience (VAE):** evaluation process to acquire a university certificate, title or certification corresponding to one's professional experience;
- **Validation of learning outcomes:** assessment of the achievement of an individual's learning objectives, through various assessment methods (written, oral and practical tests/exams, projects and portfolios) without assuming participation in a training programme;

### **CHAPTER III** **HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY DESIGN,** **IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

#### **I - HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**SECTION 9:** (1) The State shall design the higher education policy and ensure the implementation thereof.

(2) Regional and local authorities, socioeconomic partners and national public or private institutions or organizations shall contribute to implementing the higher education policy under the conditions laid down by regulation.

(3) Foreign or international institutions or organizations shall contribute to implementing the higher education policy in compliance with and under the conditions laid down in accordance with international practice and/or conventions and agreements signed by Cameroon, and subject to the provisions of this law.

**SECTION 10:** The State shall guarantee consistency in the organization of higher education as part of national and/or regional planning.

To that end, it shall:

- ensure the relevance, quality and continuous adaptation of higher education;
- promote the development and use of advanced technologies;
- ensure the programming of the university map, in conjunction with regional and local authorities and socioeconomic partners;
- ensure that the public is widely informed about university education and its progress, and about the need for qualifications in the various sectors of national life;
- lay down the rules of organization and functioning of higher education institutions, taking into account the specificities of each institution;
- define, in conjunction with socioeconomic partners, the specifications of public and private higher education institutions;

- exercise permanent control over the activities of public and private higher education institutions;
- lay down the nomenclature of higher education certificates, degrees and qualifications;
- lay down common rules for the certification and award of higher education certificates, degrees and qualifications;
- lay down common rules for designing training programmes leading to the award of higher education certificates, degrees and qualifications;
- authorize the setting-up and opening of training programmes in public and private higher education institutions, leading to the award of higher education certificates, degrees and qualifications;
- lay down rules for the establishment in the national territory, of foreign institutions recognized by their countries of origin as higher education institutions;
- authorize the opening of training programmes and the issuance, in person or remotely, of foreign higher education certificates in Cameroon, in accordance with international practice and conventions signed by Cameroon;
- lay down common rules for the recognition of foreign certificates and the obtaining of certificate equivalences.

## **II - CONTROL AND MONITORING OF HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY**

**SECTION 11:** (1) The State shall exercise permanent control over the observance of the standards set in all areas of higher education and over the academic and pedagogic activities of all higher education institutions.

(2) Without prejudice to criminal sanctions, the State shall exercise administrative sanction power over private higher education institutions, administrative officials, academic authorities, teaching staff, students and other higher education institution staff, in accordance with procedures laid down by regulation.

(3) The ministry in charge of higher education shall monitor the higher education policy and control the implementation thereof.

**SECTION 12:** The minister in charge of higher education shall be the Chancellor of Academic Orders.

**SECTION 13:** (1) A National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission under the minister in charge of higher education shall assist the latter in the issuance of accreditations, the development, monitoring, control and implementation of a quality assurance system for public and private institutions and establishments, as well as higher education programmes.

(2) The powers, organization and functioning of the National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

**PART II**  
**HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM OF STUDIES**

**CHAPTER I**  
**ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

**SECTION 14:** (1) The State shall guarantee equal access to higher education to persons of Cameroonian nationality holding a secondary school leaving certificate or a national or foreign certificate recognized as equivalent, and fulfilling the required academic and/or professional conditions.

(2) However, each academic institution may determine other terms and conditions of access, depending on its capacity and in accordance with the regulations in force.

**SECTION 15:** The State shall protect against all forms of discrimination in higher education based on the race, gender, age, religion, ethnic, linguistic or geographical origin of any applicant.

**SECTION 16:** The State shall ensure that academic institutions take appropriate measures or initiatives to ease access to higher education for disabled and vulnerable persons.

**SECTION 17:** Persons of foreign nationality, who fulfil the academic conditions provided for in Section 14 above, may also be admitted to higher education institutions in Cameroon, in accordance with international practice and/or conventions and agreements signed by Cameroon, and subject to the provisions of this law.

**SECTION 18:** (1) Distance learning and cooperative education shall be recognized and encouraged as ways of developing higher education.

(2) The distance learning and cooperative education system referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by separate instruments.

**CHAPTER II**  
**ORGANIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES**

**SECTION 19:** Higher education studies shall be organized according to the BMD system.

**SECTION 20:** (1) The State shall have a monopoly on the award and conferral of higher education certificates and degrees.

(2) The common rules for the award and conferral of higher education certificates and degrees, the conditions for obtaining such certificates and degrees, the verification of such conditions and the procedures for the protection of higher education certificates, degrees and titles shall be laid down by regulation.

(3) In the context of continuing education, higher education institutions may issue university certificates and titles in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 21:** (1) Diplomas shall be issued in the name of the State by public higher education institutions and private higher education institutions authorized for this purpose by the minister in charge of higher education.

(2) A certificate shall confer the same rights on all its holders, irrespective of the issuing institution. It shall bear the name of the issuing institution.

**SECTION 22:** Conditions for issuing certificates shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 23:** (1) Higher education studies shall be organized in 3 (three) cycles and lead to the award of 3 (three) degrees:

- the first cycle of at least 6 (six) semesters, leading to the Bachelor's degree;
- the second cycle of at least 4 (four) semesters, leading to the Master's degree; and
- the third cycle of at least 6 (six) semesters, leading to the Doctorate degree.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of (1) above, some higher education studies may also be organized according to conditions specific to such studies.

(3) Undergraduate and graduate studies may be in-person, remote, cooperative or hybrid.

(4) Postgraduate studies shall be exclusively in-person, with the exception of defence of thesis, which may be held in hybrid mode.

(5) Master's and doctorate studies shall be carried out in postgraduate schools whose organization shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 24:** (1) Validation of learning and skills in higher education shall be capitalized through the national system of acquired and transferable learning credits.

(2) Validation of acquired experience (VAE) shall be recognized as a method of assessing learning and skills, alone or in combination with other assessment methods.

(3) The national system of acquired and transferable learning credits, arrangements for the validation of acquired experience, arrangements for distance, cooperative or hybrid learning and the study and evaluation systems shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 25:** (1) Higher education certificates shall include:

- **Undergraduate certificates**

- the *Licence*;
- the Bachelor's Degree;
- the *Diplôme Universitaire de Technologie*;



- the *Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Générales*;
- the *Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Professionnelles*;
- the Higher Education Diploma;
- the *Brevet de Technicien Supérieur*;
- the Higher National Diploma.

• **Postgraduate certificates**

- the Engineering degree;
- Doctor of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry;
- the *Master's degree*.

• **Doctoral degrees**

- the Doctorate degree;
- Doctor of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry;
- the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

(2) The complete nomenclature of certificates, including intermediate certificates between the various levels referred to in (1) above, shall be established by regulation.

**SECTION 26:** (1) The titles of *Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches* (Accreditation to Supervise Research) and *Habilitation à Dispenser des Enseignements Professionnels et Technologiques* (Accreditation to Provide Professional and Technological Education) are hereby established in higher education institutions in Cameroon.

(2) The *Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches* shall be an academic title conferred on candidates in recognition of their high scientific qualification, the originality of their work in a scientific domain, the mastery of research strategy in a relatively broad scientific domain and their ability to supervise other researchers.

(3) The *Habilitation à Dispenser des Enseignements Professionnels et Technologiques* shall be an academic title conferred on lecturers or technologists based on their competence and know-how as evidenced by their capability and professional work.

(4) The terms and conditions for holding the titles referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 27:** The teaching staff integrated into the Higher Education Corps and authorized to sit the Higher Education Aggregation Competitive Examination shall be included in the list of candidates eligible for promotion to a higher rank.

**SECTION 28:** (1) Higher education programmes shall be organized into fields of study common to the three cycles and all higher education institutions.

(2) The fields of study shall be organized by cycle into 2 (two) groups of certificates common to all higher education institutions:

- subfields of fundamental and applied studies up to the Doctorate degree;
- subfields of professional and technological studies up to the Master's degree.

(3) The Doctorate degree referred to in (2) above shall be implemented in accordance to BMD system and shall exclude professional doctorate.

**SECTION 29:** The nomenclature of fields of study, subfields of fundamental and applied studies, and professional and technological studies shall be established by law.

**SECTION 30:** Pathways between fundamental and applied studies and professional and technological studies shall be defined by regulation.

**SECTION 31:** (1) The implementation of higher education programmes leading to the award of national certificates by higher education institutions shall be subject to authorization by the Minister in charge of higher education.

(2) The authorization referred to in (1) above shall indicate the duration, educational validity conditions and renewal of the authorized training programmes.

(3) The terms and conditions for authorizing higher education programmes leading to the award of national certificates by cycle, subject field and level shall be defined by regulation.

**SECTION 32:** Socio-professional circles shall help to define training programmes, and evaluating the knowledge of learners, in keeping with the terms and conditions laid down by regulation.

### **PART III** **HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 33:** Higher education institutions shall include:

- public higher education institutions;
- private higher education institutions;
- international higher education institutions;
- foreign higher education institutions operating in Cameroon.

### **CHAPTER I** **PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 34:** (1) Public higher education institutions shall be administrative, economic, social, hospital, scientific, technical, professional or cultural public establishments with legal personality and financial autonomy, and under the academic supervisory authority of the ministry in charge of higher education.

(2) Public higher education institutions shall include:

- State universities;
- public higher education institutions with special status.

**SECTION 35:** (1) State universities shall be established by decree of the President of the Republic and placed under the technical supervisory authority of the ministry in charge of higher education.

(2) They shall not be subject to the law governing public establishments.

**SECTION 36:** State universities shall issue national certificates in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 37:** State universities may have exclusive rights over some fields of study as well as the award of some national certificates.

**SECTION 38:** The constituent instrument of each State university shall lay down its organization, functioning and scope of its duties, subject to the provisions of this law.

**SECTION 39:** (1) State universities may establish civil or commercial enterprises, subject to approval by the University Council and the no-objection opinion of the Minister in charge of higher education, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

(2) They may establish foundations, subject to approval by the Council and the no-objection opinion of the Minister in charge of higher education.

**SECTION 40:** (1) Under this law, public higher education institutions with special status shall be post-secondary training institutions other than State universities which are under the technical supervisory authority of the ministry in charge of their sector, the financial supervisory authority of the ministry in charge of finance and the academic supervisory authority of the ministry in charge of higher education.

(2) The public higher education institutions with special status referred to in (1) above shall be established and organized by regulation.

## **I - SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 41:** (1) Public higher education institutions shall be under academic, technical and financial supervisory authority.

(2) The ministry in charge of higher education shall exercise academic supervisory authority over public higher education institutions.

(3) Various ministries shall exercise technical supervisory authority over the public higher education institutions under which they belong.

(4) The ministry in charge of finance shall exercise financial supervisory authority over public higher education institutions.

**SECTION 42:** The purpose of academic oversight shall be to ensure that the activities of public higher education institutions comply with the Government's higher education sector

public policy orientations, subject to the competence of the Council or any other body acting as such.

As such, the Minister in charge of higher education shall:

- harmonize university training with the country's economic, social and cultural development needs;
- control the training provided by academic institutions through information and evaluation missions, and initiate control missions, as and when necessary;
- sign, in collaboration with heads of academic institutions, the national certificates issued by them based on the certificates of achievement issued in keeping with academic practice;
- guarantee academic freedoms and liberties;
- approve and implement the academic decisions and deliberations of the Board within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of receipt. Silence within this period shall be considered as approval;
- determine the curricula, the study and examination system;
- impose the disciplinary sanctions provided for by the regulations in force, on the recommendation of the head of the academic institution.

**SECTION 43:** (1) The purpose of technical oversight shall be to ensure that the activities of public higher education institutions comply with the Government's public policy guidelines in the technical sector concerned, subject to the competence of the Board or any other body acting as such.

As such, the Minister in charge of technical oversight shall:

- approve the decisions of the Board or any other body acting as such with technical implications, within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of receipt. Silence within this period shall be considered as approval;
- ensure compliance with technical governance.

(2) The instrument establishing a higher education institution with special status shall specify the authority in charge of technical oversight.

**SECTION 44:** (1) The purpose of financial oversight shall be to ensure that the management operations of public higher education institutions with financial implications comply with the laws and regulations governing public finance, as well as to examine their accounts.

(2) The financial supervisory authority shall ensure the regularity of various management instruments with financial implications, the sustainability of financial commitments and the overall consistency of sub-programmes with the ministry's programmes.

As such, the Minister in charge of finance shall:

- approve the decisions of the Board or any other body acting as such with financial implications, within 15 days of their receipt. Silence within this period shall be considered as approval;

- ensure the availability of subsidies due to public higher education institutions;
- ensure compliance with financial governance.

## **II – MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 45:** The management organs of public higher education institutions shall be:

- the Board of Directors or any other body acting as such;
- the University Senate or any other body acting as such;
- the head of the public higher education institution.

### **PARAGRAPH I** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 46:** The Board of Directors or any other body acting as such shall be the governing body of each public higher education institution.

**SECTION 47:** (1) The Board shall be chaired by a personality appointed by decree of the President of the Republic.

(2) Besides its Chairperson, the Board shall comprise members whose status shall be defined in the constituent instrument of each public higher education institution.

**SECTION 48:** (1) The Board of the public higher education institution shall be composed of members whose number, which may not exceed 15 (fifteen), shall be specified in the constituent or organizing instrument which shall lay down conditions for their designation.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of (1) above, the Board must include:

- 1 (one) representative of the Presidency of the Republic;
- 1 (one) representative of the Prime Minister's Office;
- 1 (one) representative of the ministry in charge of higher education;
- 1 (one) representative of the ministry in charge of finance;
- 1 (one) representative of the ministry in charge of public investments;
- 1 (one) representative of the teaching staff elected by his/her peers at the rate of 1 (one) per grade;
- 1 (one) peer-elected support staff representative;
- 1 (one) peer-elected student representative.

**SECTION 49:** (1) The Board Chairperson and members shall be appointed for a three-year term of office, renewable once.

(2) A Board member's term of office shall end:

- upon death or resignation;
- following the loss of the capacity that warranted appointment;



- by termination due to gross misconduct or activities incompatible with the duty of Board member;
- at its normal expiry.

(3) In the cases provided for in (2) above, a Council member shall be replaced under the same conditions as those of his/her appointment.

**SECTION 50:** (1) The Board Chairperson may invite any personality to take part in the Board deliberations in an advisory capacity, by virtue of his/her expertise in agenda items.

(2) No more than 2 (two) persons may be invited per Board session.

**SECTION 51:** (1) Members and persons invited to take part in Board sessions shall be entitled to a session allowance and benefits fixed by resolution of the Board, subject to the ceilings provided for by regulation. They may be entitled to the reimbursement of expenses incurred for the participation in sessions, upon presentation of supporting documents.

(2) The Board Chair shall be entitled to a monthly allowance whose amount shall be fixed by the Board, subject to the ceilings provided for by the regulations in force.

(3) The Chairperson of the Board shall fix the amount of the allowances and benefits granted to the officials of the public higher education institution, within the limit of the ceilings provided for by the regulations in force.

**SECTION 52:** (1) The University Board shall have the powers to formulate and direct the general policy as well as assess the management of the public higher education institution within the limits set by its corporate purpose, and in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

As such, the University Board shall notably:

- set the goals and approve the action plans of the public higher education institution, in accordance with the overall objectives of the higher education sector concerned;
- adopt the budget and the action plan as well as close the final accounts of the public higher education institution;
- approve the resolutions of the University Senate;
- approve annual performance reports;
- validate the recruitment plan and approve the dismissal of support staff, on the proposal of the head of the public higher education institution;
- accept all grants, donations and gifts;
- approve performance contracts or any other agreements, including loans, prepared by the public higher education institution and having an incidence on the budget;
- authorize the disposal of any movable or immovable, tangible or intangible property in accordance with the laws in force;
- ensure compliance with the rules of governance, order the conduct of audits to guarantee the sound management of the public higher education institution; and
- fix allowances and benefits in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.

(2) The University Board may delegate some of its powers to the head of the public higher education institution.

(3) The scope of the duties of the University Board shall be laid down in the organization chart of each public higher education institution.

## **Paragraph II** **UNIVERSITY SENATE**

**SECTION 53:** The University Senate shall be the competent body on academic and scientific matters within the university.

**SECTION 54:** The University Senate shall coordinate the general organization of activities and teaching programmes.

As such, it shall:

- oversee the recruitment and advancement of lecturers;
- approve teaching and research programmes;
- lay down the conditions for selecting students in the various study cycles;
- validate the results of certificate examinations.

**SECTION 55:** (1) The University Senate shall be chaired by the head of the public higher education institution.

(2) In addition to the president, the University Senate must include the following members:

- the Deputy Vice-Chancellors or Vice-Rectors;
- the Registrar or Secretary-General;
- the heads of university institutions;
- the academic affairs officer.

**SECTION 56:** The organization, functioning and scope of the duties of the University Senate shall be laid down by the organization chart of each public higher education institution.

## **Paragraph III** **HEAD OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 57:** The public higher education institution shall be under the authority of a vice-chancellor, a rector or any person acting as such.

**SECTION 58:** (1) The vice-chancellor or rector of a State university or any other official acting as such shall be appointed by decree of the President of the Republic from among the members of the higher education personnel corps with the rank of at least associate professor, with a rich experience in public administration and of good morals.

(2) He/she shall be assisted by deputy vice-chancellors or vice-rectors or, as

appropriate, by any official acting as such, appointed by decree of the President of the Republic from among university associate professors and professors.

**SECTION 59:** (1) The vice-chancellor or rector shall be responsible for the administrative and academic management of the public higher education institution.

Accordingly,

(a) At the administrative level, the vice-chancellor or rector shall:

- ensure the implementation of the resolutions of the University Board;
- be responsible for the external relations of the university and receive its correspondence;
- be the authorizing officer of the university's budget;
- be the hierarchical superior of the heads of institution, subject to the special provisions governing certain institutions;
- chair the Management, Development and Advisory Boards;
- receive the minutes of the boards and assemblies of the various institutions whose decisions not requiring the intervention of the University Board shall become enforceable only after approval;
- recruit non-teaching and non-civil servant staff subject to the powers of various university bodies;
- oversee the recruitment of lecturers for the whole university as part of implementing the resolutions of the relevant university bodies;
- take disciplinary action within the university, in accordance with the regulations in force;
- place university staff on mission within the country and abroad;
- ensure the proper running of university institutions. To this end, he/she shall issue relevant instructions to heads of institution and organize meetings of heads of institution at least once every six months. He shall ensure the implementation of the resolutions taken by the meeting of heads of institution.
- may, in case of emergency, take appropriate measures to restore order and immediately refer the matter to the Minister in charge of higher education.

(b) At the academic level, the vice-chancellor or rector shall:

- chair the University Senate and oversee the implementation of its resolutions;
- oversee the award of ranks and titles and, together with the Minister in charge of higher education, sign the certificates issued by the university;
- be responsible for the production of certificates, in conjunction with the heads of institution;
- supervise, at the level of university institutions, the implementation of teaching programmes, study and examination regulations, and may issue instructions to this effect;
- monitor the development and implementation of the university's teaching and



research programmes;

- admit students to the doctorate and master's cycles, and organize admissions into the undergraduate cycle, in accordance with the instruments in force and the resolutions of relevant academic bodies;
- ensure the functioning of doctoral schools, teaching units and associated research teams with respect to inter-university cooperation;
- manage the careers of lecturers and take measures to contribute to their promotion and scientific and professional growth;
- represent the University in court and in all circumstances; and
- organize and manage the development of inter-university cooperation.

(2) The vice-chancellor or rector may delegate his/her power of signature to the deputy vice-chancellor or vice rector, to the registrar or secretary-general and, as appropriate, to central administration directors, heads of division as well as to heads of institutions.

**SECTION 60:** (1) In case of temporary impediment, the vice-chancellor or rector shall appoint an official to deputize.

(2) In the event of permanent incapacity due to death, resignation or any other duly established reason for vacancy, the Minister in charge of higher education shall appoint an official to deputize and report to the appointing authority.

### **III - RESOURCES**

#### **PARAGRAPH I** **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

**SECTION 61:** (1) The financial resources of public higher education institutions shall be public funds.

They shall be derived from:

- State subsidies;
- tuition fees paid by students in fundamental and applied studies;
- training fees paid by students in professional and technological studies;
- proceeds from the production of goods and provision of intellectual services;
- donations and legacies;
- sundry assistance from regional and local authorities, bilateral, multilateral or international cooperation;
- any other resource created by law; and
- loans.

(2) The financial resources of public higher education institutions shall be managed in accordance with the fiscal regime of the State and other public entities, subject to the provisions of this law.

**Paragraph II**  
**STAFF OF PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 62:** (1) Public higher education institution staff shall comprise:

- personnel governed by the special rules and regulations of higher education staff;
- support staff;
- administrative personnel of the State on secondment or placed on reserve;
- contract workers of the institutions of the university.

(2) State personnel on secondment or placed on reserve at universities shall be entitled to the same allowances and benefits granted to personnel governed by the rules and regulations relating to the corps of higher education teaching support staff.

**SECTION 63:** (1) Personnel governed by the special rules and regulations of higher education staff of public higher education institutions shall be divided into the following ranks in order of precedence:

- Professor;
- Associate professor;
- Lecturer.

(2) Public higher education institutions shall recruit assistant lecturers who shall be contract lecturers.

(3) Full professors and associate professors shall be senior faculty members under the scientific and pedagogic supervision of whom lecturers and assistant lecturers work.

(4) The conditions for recruiting, advancing and promoting, as well as the granting benefits to the lecturers referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be laid down by separate instruments.

**SECTION 64:** (1) A professor or an associate professor placed on retirement may enter into a collaboration contract with his university of attachment.

(2) Throughout the duration of the collaboration contract, the lecturer concerned shall be entitled to all the allowances granted to other lecturers in his/her rank.

(3) The contract referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be for a period of 2 (two) years renewable once. The rules and regulations governing such a contract shall be laid down by separate instruments.

**SECTION 65:** (1) On the proposal of the head of the university, the head of the university institution may, under contract and on the budget of the institution, recruit temporary lecturers, associate lecturers, teaching and research assistants and instructors, according to the needs expressed to the board of the institution by the head of department concerned.

(2) The contract referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be for a fixed term of no more than 2 (two) years, renewable once.

**SECTION 66:** Under the conditions laid down by the special rules and regulations governing

higher education staff, the teaching staff of public higher education institutions shall be entitled to:

- internships, short- or long-term study and research missions;
- sabbatical leave;
- the title of professor emeritus and other honorary titles.

**SECTION 67:** (1) Support staff shall refer to staff recruited by public universities for a technical, administrative or financial position.

(2) They shall provide assistance notably in:

- the material and logistical organization of practical courses and students' professional internships;
- the installation and maintenance of scientific equipment;
- the preparation, assembly and handling of apparatuses;
- the performance of administrative tasks;
- the provision of services and conduct of research;
- the maintenance, cleaning and tidying of the University campus;
- ensuring safety and enforcing security measures;
- the provision of health and social care and services;
- physical education and sports activities.

(3) The campus police, whose main duty shall be to ensure the security of property and persons within the university campus, shall be part of the support staff of public higher education institutions.

(4) The rules and regulations governing support staff shall be laid down by decree of the President of the Republic.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 68:** (1) Private higher education institutions shall be private law legal persons created by private natural or legal persons in accordance with the conditions laid down by regulation. They shall have legal personality and administrative and financial autonomy distinct from that of the promoter.

(2) They may award diplomas in accordance with the conditions laid down by regulation.

(3) The organization and functioning of private higher education institutions shall be governed by their rules and regulations, subject to the laws and regulations in force.

(4) Private higher education institutions may merge or group into new institutions, in accordance with the conditions set out by regulation.

**SECTION 69:** (1) Private higher education institutions shall be classified under one of the following three hierarchical categories, depending on the degree of academic autonomy granted to them by the State:

- category one private higher education institutions shall be granted approval and shall have relative autonomy in terms of academic supervision. They shall be referred to as private universities;
- category two private higher education institutions shall be granted authorization and their administrative and academic organization shall be similar to that of category one higher education institutions. They shall be referred to as private university centres;
- category three private higher education institutions shall be granted only an authorization. They shall be referred to as private university institutes.

(2) No private higher education institution may be classified under any category unless it has first gone through a lower category. The conditions for the classification of private education institutions shall be laid down by decree of the President of the Republic.

(3) The classification conditions and the rules and regulations governing private higher education institutions shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 70:** (1) Category three private higher education institutions shall comprise:

- private higher institutions of learning;
- private university institutes.

(2) No private higher education institution may at the same time have the status of private higher institution of learning and private university institute.

**SECTION 71:** (1) For the purposes of this law, a private higher institution of learning shall be a private higher education institution comprising only one institute.

(2) A private university institute shall be a higher education institution comprising at least 2 (two) institutions.

**SECTION 72:** (1) Each private higher education institution shall lay down its administrative organization in accordance with its statutes. However, each institution shall comprise at least the following bodies and authorities:

- a general assembly of shareholders, as applicable;
- a governing body;
- a Rector or Vice-Chancellor or an executive body in lieu thereof.

(2) The governing body shall establish the major guidelines of the private higher education institution as provided for in the statutes, and shall adopt all major decisions concerning the institution.

(3) The executive body shall be responsible for implementing the policy of the private higher education institution as well as its administrative and academic management.

(4) Each private higher education institution shall lay down the organization of its executive body in accordance with its statutes.

In any case, the executive body shall comprise:

- an academic and scientific body;
- the head of the institution;
- the academic affairs officer.

(5) The academic and scientific body shall be responsible for academic and scientific matters within the institution.

(6) The head of the institution shall head the institution's executive body. He shall represent the institution daily and implement the major guidelines as laid down by the governing body.

(7) The academic affairs officer or academic secretary, as the case may be, shall be chosen by the institution from among members of the teaching staff of university institutions. He shall coordinate the academic and scientific activities of the institution.

(8) The head of the institution and the academic affairs officer shall be approved in accordance with the conditions laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 73:** The teaching, administrative, financial and technical staff of private higher education institutions shall be governed by the Labour Code.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 74:** (1) International higher education institutions shall be Cameroon- or foreign-based legal persons created as higher education institutions under bilateral or international conventions and agreements signed by Cameroon.

(2) Certificates awarded by international higher education institutions shall as of right be certificates from institutions recognized by the State.

(3) Higher education grades and titles may be conferred on certificates awarded by international higher education institutions in accordance with the conditions laid down by regulation.

(4) The organization and functioning of international higher education institutions shall be governed by their statutes, in accordance with bilateral or international conventions and agreements signed by Cameroon.

### **CHAPTER IV**

#### **FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS DELOCALIZED IN CAMEROON**

**SECTION 75:** (1) Foreign institutions delocalized in Cameroon shall be legal persons approved as higher education institutions in another country and authorized to award foreign certificates in Cameroon, either in-person or remotely, under conditions laid down according to international practices and/or conventions and agreements signed by Cameroon.



(2) Only foreign certificates formally recognized as higher education certificates in their countries of origin may be awarded in Cameroon in-person or remotely.

(3) Foreign certificates authorized to be awarded in Cameroon in-person or remotely shall be subject to the certificate equivalence procedure, in accordance with the regulations in force.

**SECTION 76:** (1) Foreign institutions delocalized in Cameroon may delocalize their certificates within national higher education institutions, in accordance with the conditions determined by regulation.

(2) The conditions for authorizing foreign higher education institutions to award certificates in-person or remotely in Cameroon shall be laid down by regulation.

## **PART IV** **RELATIONS BETWEEN HIGER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND THE STATE**

### **CHAPTER I** **COMMON PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 77:** (1) Subject to the provisions of this law, its implementing instruments and, where applicable, separate instruments, higher education institutions shall determine their teaching activities, research programmes, teaching methods and knowledge assessment procedures.

(2) Subject to the laws and regulations in force, each institution's instruments shall lay down conditions for the participation of socio-professional entities, local and regional authorities, any natural or legal person or any group of persons in its activities, functioning and/or administration.

**SECTION 78:** (1) The premises of public or private higher education institutions shall be closed and non-political.

(2) They shall be high places of knowledge acquisition and opinion tolerance. Moreover, any form of political or ideological propaganda, as well as any kind of partisan influence shall be forbidden therein. Similarly, any violation of human dignity shall be prohibited therein.

(3) Higher education institutions shall formulate internal gender equality policies and strategies.

(4) The general policing of higher education institutions shall be laid down by regulatory instruments.

### **CHAPTER II** **PROVISIONS SPECIFIC TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 79:** (1) Within the framework of relations between public higher education institutions and the State, the following coordination and consultation bodies shall be established:

- the University Coordination Commission;
- the Conference of Heads of University Institutions;
- the Conference of Heads of University Institutes.

(2) The powers, organization and functioning of the bodies referred to in paragraph (1) above shall be laid down by separate instruments.

## **PART V**

### **COOPERATION BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

**SECTION 80:** Public and private higher education institutions shall maintain partnerships regarding training, research and development support.

**SECTION 81:** (1) Higher education institutions shall maintain and promote cooperation ties among themselves and with similar national and foreign institutions or bodies.

(2) The conditions for cooperation among higher education institutions shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 82:** Category one public and private higher education institutions shall perform academic supervision over category two and category three private higher education institutions with respect to the issuance of national diplomas, based on an agreement referred to as academic supervision agreement.

**SECTION 83:** Academic supervision shall help to ensure that the institution under supervision complies with all higher education instruments in force, and serve as a tool to support the latter achieve academic autonomy under conditions laid down by regulation.

## **PART VI**

### **INVIOABILITY OF UNIVERSITY PREMISES, GENERAL POLICING AND DISCIPLINE**

**SECTION 84:** Teaching and research shall imply objectivity of knowledge and tolerance of opinions. They shall be incompatible with any form of propaganda and must remain free from any partisan political or economic influence.

**SECTION 85:** (1) Teaching staff shall benefit from academic freedom.

(2) The premises of university institutions shall be inviolable by law enforcement officials, except in cases of flagrante delicto or express authorization by the head of the institution.

(3) Academic freedom shall notably include:

- the free administration of universities;
- freedom of teaching, excluding any inspection apart from pedagogical and administrative reports and any other report produced by the relevant academic bodies;
- independence from any political, economic, religious or ideological influence;
- freedom of expression within the limits of scientific practice;
- freedom of action in the university environment and in compliance with higher education rules and practices;

- freedom to search for and disseminate information without any restrictions;
- freedom to collaborate with any laboratory of their choice outside their own laboratory, even in another university;
- freedom to organize scientific meetings, subject to the ethical rules and regulations in force;
- freedom to exercise a liberal profession as an extension of their specialties;
- freedom of career involving peer review;
- sovereign jury decisions and academic assessment reports that cannot be brought before a law court;
- protection of the independence of teaching staff;
- protection of intellectual freedom;
- protection of the innovative nature of research;
- sustaining the values of tolerance and non-discrimination.

**SECTION 86:** (1) General policing within a university institution and in its institutes shall be ensured by the head of the university institution.

(2) It shall consist in ensuring the normal conduct of training and research activities, in freedom, order, dignity and compliance with the university code of conduct and the laws and regulations of the Republic.

**SECTION 87:** (1) No member of the forces of law and order, and no judicial officer may enter therein to establish an offence or to enforce a warrant against a student, a lecturer or a non-teaching staff without the authorization of the head of the university institution. In any case, he/she shall present to the head of the university institution the special written authorization of the relevant authorities prior to any intervention within the campus.

(2) Summonses, subpoenas, notifications and any notices served on the university by police, gendarmerie or judicial authorities, and intended for a student, lecturer or non-teaching staff of the University, shall be handed to the head of the institution concerned, who shall forward same to the addressee and have him/her acknowledge receipt thereof.

(3) The conditions for use of premises, billposting and distribution of documents shall be laid down by the head of the university.

**SECTION 88:** In the event of threat to public order within the university campus or premises, the head of the university may, as a precautionary measure.

- suspend from duty, in accordance with the regulations in force, for a maximum period of 3 (three) months, renewable once, as necessary, any person suspected of being at the origin of such threats;
- prohibit entry into such premises by staff members and students of the university or of the other services or bodies located within the university. Such prohibition may not be decided for a period exceeding 30 (thirty) days, renewable as appropriate;
- suspend lectures, tutorials and practical work within the establishment or higher education institution.



**PART VII**  
**UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY AND PROPERTY**

**SECTION 89:** (1) The university community shall be comprised of all the natural persons and corporate bodies contributing to the functioning, development and influence of a university.

(2) In addition to higher education institutions, it shall comprise:

- academic officials;
- teaching staff;
- non-teaching staff and support staff of administrative, technical and financial services;
- students.

(3) Members of the university community shall enjoy freedom of information and expression which they shall exercise in such a way as may not undermine teaching and research activities as well as public law and order.

**SECTION 90:** (1) Nobody may prevent or undermine the conduct of the activities of the university and the safety of persons and property within the campus, or the holding of authorized meetings of the university community.

(2) Whoever commits acts of violence or makes threats against a member of the university community or against one of its guests shall be liable to the sanctions provided for by the regulations in force.

**SECTION 91:** (1) As part of respect for persons and the need for dialogue and openness, consideration for lecturers shall be particularly required within the university community.

(2) Accordingly, whoever commits acts of violence or makes threats against a lecturer shall be liable to disciplinary sanctions in an emergency regulatory procedure and without prejudice to recourse to other legal remedies.

**SECTION 92:** (1) The campus of the university shall be demarcated.

(2) Branches, annexes, buildings acquired or leased by competent authorities of the public or private university institution and assigned to the functioning of the institution concerned shall be considered as part of the campus.

(3) Whoever damages the property of the university or of a member of the university community within the campus or its annexes shall be liable to the penalties provided for by law.

**SECTION 93:** (1) University property shall be managed autonomously by the head of the institution, under the authority of the supreme deliberative body whose rights of acquisition, use and disposal shall be different from those in force for other legal persons governed by public law.

(2) Resolutions relating to the said management shall be enforced by the head of the public university who shall have powers of delegation.

(3) Disposal of property shall comply with their status of origin.

(4) The terms and conditions for the autonomous management of university property shall be laid down by regulation.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **ACADEMIC AUTHORITIES AND TEACHING STAFF**

**SECTION 94:** (1) The academic authorities of each public higher education institution shall be responsible for the implementation of the general and specific duties of the said institution.

(2) To that end, they shall be responsible for managing, coordinating and controlling all the internal services and operational entities of the said higher education institution.

**SECTION 95:** (1) Teaching staff shall be the main guarantor of the quality of education and training provided in higher education institutions. As such, they shall be entitled to decent working and living conditions as well as appropriate initial and continuing training, within the means available.

(2) The State shall protect teaching staff and guarantee their dignity.

**SECTION 96:** Teaching staff shall be bound by all the obligations provided for by the general rules and regulations governing the public service and those contained in the various instruments in force.

**SECTION 97:** (1) The qualifications required to exercise the profession of higher education lecturer shall be laid down by regulation.

(2) The duties of teaching staff shall include:

- teaching, including initial and continuing education, professional and technological training, distance education, tutoring, guidance, counselling and assessment of knowledge;
- research through production, scientific innovations and supervision of students' work;
- dissemination of knowledge and relations with the economic, social and cultural environment;
- consultancy;
- income-generating activities, including through the creation and management of innovative companies and the marketing of research findings;
- development support activities;
- administration and management, as appropriate.

**SECTION 98:** The rules and regulations governing public university institution lecturers shall be laid down by decree of the President of the Republic.

**SECTION 99:** (1) Lecturers of private higher education institutions must have the same qualifications as those required of those in public higher education institutions.

(2) They shall be bound by the same grade promotion rules.

(3) The working conditions of private higher education institution teaching staff shall be laid down by each institution, in compliance with the laws and regulations in force.

## **CHAPTER II** **NON-TEACHING STAFF AND SUPPORT STAFF**

**SECTION 100:** The rules and regulations governing the support staff and officials of public university administrative services shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 101:** The rules and regulations governing support staff of technical, administrative and financial services of each public university shall be laid down by special instruments.

## **CHAPTER III** **STUDENTS**

**SECTION 102:** (1) Students of higher education institutions shall have the right to teaching and other activities prescribed in the training programme.

(2) The right referred to in (1) above shall be exercised in strict respect for the students' freedom of speech, thought, conscience and information.

**SECTION 103:** Students shall have the right to prepare their academic and vocational guidance plan in accordance with their aspirations and capacities, with the assistance of lecturers and guidance and counselling staff.

**SECTION 104:** The right to physical and moral integrity of higher education students shall be guaranteed.

To this end, the following acts shall be forbidden:

- physical abuse or any other form of violence or humiliation;
- the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, drugs and any other substances harmful to health within university institutions;
- any form of harassment.

**SECTION 105:** (1) Students shall be bound to respect the rules and regulations governing their studies within the various institutions and their behaviour on campus.

(2) All acts of rebellion or other forms of vandalism shall be prohibited.

**SECTION 106:** The rules and regulations governing students and student-entrepreneurs of public university institutions shall be laid down by regulation.

**SECTION 107:** Higher education institutions shall formulate assistance policies to facilitate the admission of students from all social backgrounds into higher education.

**PART VIII**  
**PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AND ADMINISTRATIVE**  
**ACTIONS AND PENALTIES**

**SECTION 108:** (1) Higher education institutions and the courses taught therein shall be subject to inspection by the ministry in charge of higher education.

(2) The inspection of a higher education institution shall concern the courses taught, compliance with laws and regulations, cleanliness of premises and compliance with safety standards.

(3) The inspection of courses taught by higher education institutions shall be aimed at ensuring that the course content, teaching and assessment methods are in keeping with ethics, the Constitution and the laws and regulations in force.

(4) Any obstruction of the inspection provided for in (1) above shall give rise to administrative sanctions in accordance with conditions defined by regulation.

**SECTION 109:** (1) Any private higher education institution may:

- be placed under caretaker administration;
- be placed under third-party management, consisting, for the Minister in charge of higher education, after establishing serious breaches of financial regulations or laws and regulations, in entrusting its administrative, financial and academic management to a college of personalities or to one of his collaborators, in accordance with the conditions and limits laid down by the law in force;
- have one or more of its officials suspended;
- be temporarily or permanently closed down;
- be downgraded;
- be imposed any other precautionary measures or sanctions provided for by international conventions as well as the laws and regulations in force.

(2) Without prejudice to the measures provided for in (1) above, promoters of private higher education institutions shall be liable to the sanctions provided for by the Penal Code for offences covered by the said Code.

(3) Promoters of private higher education institutions shall be liable to the sanctions provided for in Section 124 of the Penal Code for the following offences:

- opening a private higher education institution without prior authorization;
- continuing to operate a private higher education institution which has been temporarily or permanently closed down;
- closing down a private higher education institution during the academic year without the express and prior authorization of the competent administrative authority;
- Issuing certificates and awarding grades and titles in violation of this law and its implementing instruments.

**PART IX**  
**INCENTIVE AND FINANCIAL MEASURES**

**SECTION 110:** (1) To promote youth employment, companies offering first-time employment to young Cameroonian higher education graduates aged below 35 years under on open-ended contracts may benefit from five-year tax exemptions as well as other facilities granted by the Minister in charge of finance on the salaries paid to these young people, excepting social security contributions.

(2) Without prejudice to the measures provided for by the legislation in force, higher education institutions may benefit from special tax incentives on transactions for the acquisition of movable and immovable property required to discharge their duties.

(3) Natural or legal persons investing in the construction of housing estates, residences and university campuses may benefit from special tax incentives.

(4) Any investor may benefit from tax credit provided he/she hires young higher education graduates annually, or promotes employment and professional training.

**SECTION 111:** Public higher education institutions may open deposit accounts with banking institutions, upon the express authorization of the Minister in charge of finance.

**SECTION 112:** Public higher education institutions shall be authorized to create university free zones in compliance with the legislation in force.

**SECTION 113:** The measures referred to in this Part shall be laid down, as applicable, by the finance law and its implementing instruments as well as by the legislation on private investment incentives.

**PART X**  
**TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 114:** The conditions for implementing this law shall be laid down, as and when necessary, by regulation.

**SECTION 115:** (1) Public and private higher education institutions shall, from the date of enactment of this law, have a period of twelve (12) months to comply with its provisions.

(2) Within the time limit laid down in (1) above, and with retroactive effect, a classification of private higher education institutions shall be established, in accordance with the provisions of Section 69 of this law.





**SECTION 116:** This law shall repeal law No.2001/005 of 16 April 2001 on the orientation of higher education.

**ARTICLE 117:** This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French./-

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE  
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS CARD INDEX SERVICE  
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YAOUNDE, 25 JUIL 2023



**PAUL BIYA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC**