



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

H.E Paul BIYA

SPEECHES AND INTERVIEWS

4th Volume

2014

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Speech by the Head of State in response to New Year wishes from the Diplomatic Corps

Yaounde, 9 January 2014



The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Representatives of International Organizations,

I. Though the crippling effects of the economic and financial crisis are fading, who would dare say that it is definitely behind us?

With a few exceptions, industrialized countries are still in recession or struggling to return to growth. Austerity policies based on public spending cuts and tax hikes are the order of the day. In many cases, the social fabric remains plagued by unemployment.

Emerging countries have not been spared by this downturn. They bear the brunt by opting for an inward-looking policy.

Developing countries are relatively less affected due to their limited integration into the global economy. They are striving to stimulate growth and emerge from being merely suppliers of raw materials by developing and diversifying their industrial sector.

Everyone has a vague feeling that the causes of the crisis have not truly been addressed. Therefore, a relapse is not to be ruled out.

For the time being, public opinion is content with this lull. In contrast, confidence which is indispensable for economic progress is yet to be restored. The major powers are giving no assurance of having adequately addressed the failings of the global economy, or of having understood the need for regulation. However, with the agreement reached by the WTO following years of negotiation, there is every reason to hope for the facilitation of trade, agriculture and development.

Under these circumstances of uncertainty though, it is not surprising that each State or group of States which is fortunate to have been spared by bankruptcy or recession should prefer to address the most urgent needs in a bid to restore equilibrium and growth. It seems such a long time ago since globalization heralded harmonious economic and financial development worldwide! Indeed, it has been a long time since solidarity ceased being the watchword in relations between industrialized and developing countries.

Is this a reason to lose all hope of restoring relations between rich and poor countries based on the principles of human solidarity? I do not believe so. I think that it will be possible to resume discussions on these issues once the turbulence of the crisis subsides. An example of this assertion is the debate that took place during the last United Nations General Assembly on development after

2015, the target year of the Millennium Development Goals.

It is heartening to note that despite the current difficulties, the international community has not lost sight of issues related to the conditions of living of the majority of people.

II. Unfortunately, human beings have their share of responsibility for the problems plaguing them, as evidenced by the tragic events rocking some regions of the planet.

I will begin with Syria which for so many months has been torn by a bloody civil war claiming countless victims. Mediation has failed. Negotiations between major powers at the Security Council have ended in stalemate. The agreement on the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons is yet to pave the way for a genuine settlement. The situation is deadlocked. In addition, the conflict, which is causing hundreds of thousands of refugees to stream into Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, could destabilize these countries and the region.

The situation in Iraq is far from stable. Recurrent attacks have already claimed thousands of victims. All efforts should be made to prevent Afghanistan from

drifting along the same path when American troops withdraw.

The election of a new leadership in Iran has raised hopes for the normalization of relations between the country and the international community. Can one anticipate a lasting solution to negotiations on the nuclear capability of this great country?

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has lasted several decades. There seems to be hope for a two-State solution based on the mutual recognition of each other's right to exist. However, it is difficult to predict the outcome of the never-ending negotiations between the two parties under the auspices of the major powers.

Of course, they intervene in these conflicts either bilaterally or within the framework of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council. Insofar as they have strategic national interests, it is inevitable for them to oppose each other when such interests are at stake. Yet, it is necessary for them to consider the concerns of the populations affected and their accession to the United Nations Charter when defining their positions. By so doing, they would earn more esteem and enhance the credibility of the Security Council.

The situation in Africa is hardly more encouraging. In North Africa where the “Arab Spring” raised great expectations, restoring equilibrium is proving difficult. In Tunisia, Egypt and Libya in particular, transition to democratic forms of government remains challenging. It is hoped that these countries with early and brilliant civilizations will, through dialogue, restore harmony among the different components of their populations.

III. Closer to us geographically, our brothers in Mali had to deal with aggression by armed factions jeopardizing their territorial integrity and the foundations of their society. The situation was brought under control thanks to the intervention of France and Chad, with the support of ECOWAS and the African Union. However, the threat remains, as evidenced by several incidents in the Kidal region.

In fact, the threat extends far beyond the Sahel region, as seen in Northern Nigeria, CAR and even as far as Somalia and Kenya. Cameroon is not spared either, as attested by the hostage taking incidents witnessed lately in the Far-North Region of the country. Of course, we have always used all available means to ensure their release. Fortunately, we have succeeded. Once more, we would like to thank the French and Nigerian authorities for supporting our services.

In recent years, the African Union has examined security issues and developed a “peace and security architecture”. The events in Mali highlighted some gaps in the responsiveness of this mechanism. It will be necessary to pursue the review of this issue which we started last May. In fact, we have established the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC). It is a new and, therefore, more effective rapid response mechanism.

The painful events that CAR has been experiencing for some time now have raised awareness that Africa should find the means to ensure its own security. France, through a United Nations mandate, intervened urgently to stop acts of brutality and strengthen MISCA which includes a Cameroonian contingent.

Faced with the worsening situation, we had to repatriate about four thousand of our compatriots. We want to salute the work of MISCA and Operation SANGARIS in protecting civilians and disarming the groups involved.

Each passing day reveals to us the complexity of the situation and the numerous humanitarian, security, law enforcement and administrative challenges to deal with. Hence, the pressing need for a holistic approach. Only a United Nations peacekeeping operation would

effectively address such challenges. That is why this seems to be the right time to speed up preparations to transform MISCA into a peacekeeping operation, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2127.

At this juncture, I would like to mention the Paris Summit on Peace and Security in Africa in which I participated. The overall security issues on the continent were discussed. I think the involvement of European powers - and especially France –, the United Nations and the international community is an expression of greater solidarity with Africa, and should thus be welcomed.

But terrorism is not limited to the continent. For some time now, it has reached the oceans, particularly the Gulf of Guinea. Countless ships have been boarded or crews kidnapped in this area.

To address this situation, an ECOWAS and ECCAS Heads of State Summit on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea was held in Yaounde on 24 and 25 June 2013. The summit appears to have met expectations. The Final Declaration provides for the establishment of an intercommunity framework for cooperation on maritime security. A code of conduct for the prevention and repression of acts of piracy was also adopted. Lastly, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed, providing for the setting up, in Cameroon, of an

Inter-regional Centre for the coordination of measures taken by States.

IV.Our diplomacy, which is mainly focused on affairs concerning our continent, also played its rightful role at the multilateral level, notably at the United Nations, but also at the continental, regional and bilateral levels.

In this regard, it should be noted that I paid an official visit to Paris at the beginning of the year to establish contact with the new French authorities. I also paid a state visit to Turkey in March. With the latter, which is becoming a major power, we signed various cooperation agreements which augur well for the development of our ties.

I also visited the Holy See at the invitation of His Holiness Pope Francis. During our discussions, I noted a broad convergence of views on topical international issues. Similarly, His Holiness and I share the feeling that in attempting to settle disputes and deal with migration issues, the international community should accord greater importance to human solidarity.

I also wish to recall that the process initiated by the Greentree Agreement came to an end in August. Our country has thus recovered its full sovereignty over the Bakassi area. The settlement of this case paved the way for strengthening friendly ties between Nigeria and

Cameroon. It will remain, I believe, an example of dispute resolution in accordance with international law.

We also received in Yaounde special envoys from friendly countries, notably the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Turkey - already mentioned - , eager to learn about our positions and to explore ways of boosting our trade. I also had the opportunity to meet with leaders of major international industrial groups willing to invest in our country.

V. I cannot conclude this overview before you who are informed and objective observers of the Cameroonian political scene without mentioning the various elections held in Cameroon in 2013.

First, I would like to tell you that everything possible, everything necessary was done to make them free and fair. If there were some failings, responsibility for them is attributable not to the government but to inexperience or inevitable human error. In any case, they did not affect the results. Besides, there were very few disputes which after examination, generally proved groundless.

I am very keen on setting the record straight, because it is very important for my country and for me personally, that our commitment to building a democratic Cameroon should not be called into

question. Although, by definition, elections are an internal affair, the prominent representatives of the international community that you are, will appreciate, I hope, our determination to stay on that course.

However, democracy, lest it be perfunctory, must be accompanied by economic and social progress. This forms the very foundation of our vision of society. To achieve this, we rely primarily on our own strength, but also on cooperation with the partners you represent. I want to thank them for their great contribution to our development efforts. I would like to reaffirm that Cameroon will always welcome foreign investors, be they public or private. We will offer them win-win partnerships.

Before concluding, I would like to pay tribute to Nelson Mandela who passed away recently. He, who was the African conscience, is irreplaceable and will remain in our minds and hearts, and continue to illuminate our path to freedom and to embody the dignity of Africans.

Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

It is now time for me to thank your Dean for the kind wishes he has extended to me on your behalf and for his encouragement which I appreciate. I would also like to

thank him for his thoughtful and kind appreciation of my wife's humanitarian activities.

In return, I would be much obliged if you would convey my own wishes to the distinguished authorities that you represent.

I also extend to you, your families and your loved ones, my most sincere wishes for happiness, health and success.

Thank you for your kind attention.





Head of State's Message to The Youth

Yaounde, 10 February 2014



My dear young compatriots,

Last year, under the same circumstances, I told you that I was aware of your doubts and worries about an uncertain future. But I added that we had reason to hope and that, to me, the country's prospects seemed brighter.

Recent trends in employment statistics seem to bear me out.

The 2013 forecasts for new jobs stood at 200 000. The number of jobs actually created was about 12% higher, reaching nearly 225 000. Private enterprises in various sectors, alone, provided 165 000 jobs. For its part, the Administration, through its different branches, provided 60 000 jobs.

Higher targets have been set for 2014. With the possible increase in the country's growth rate, we hope to create more than 250 000 new jobs. Of course, this will not benefit only the youth. However, one can surmise that they will be the main beneficiaries.

This vision stems from a logical analysis of the situation of our economy which is expected to grow by about 5% in the coming months. In this regard, I expressed my view a few weeks ago. I still believe that we can do better. I am strongly convinced that we will.

My dear young compatriots,

In this race for growth which, in 20 years, should set our country on the path to economic emergence, you have a vital role, a crucial role to play.

In the coming years, who will build our:

- major energy, agricultural and industrial projects;
- road, port and aviation infra structure;
- water supply and electricity distribution works;
- thousands of low-cost houses; hospitals and health centres;
- primary and secondary schools and universities?

You, of course, my dear compatriots.

Therefore, you should right now start preparing yourselves seriously for this task, whether in primary school, secondary school or university. We need and will need thousands of skilled workers, qualified technicians, excellent engineers, competent accountants and salespersons, and so on. Our educational system at its

different levels had already opted for professionalization. We will soon witness its impact, which you will find remarkable.

Those who have already entered the work force and who are practising the trades learned “on the job” will need more training opportunities. As we expect a revival of our economy, we should be capable of meeting the demand for many specialists in various trades. We can no longer be content with supplying mere labourers, leaving the best jobs to others. Such better-trained professionals will join the ranks of craftsmen who are in high demand.

Last year, using the example of motorcycle taxi riders who play an obvious social role, I underscored the need to organize this profession. I am pleased to note that government services, following consultations with stakeholders, have developed a collective mentoring programme. By so doing, motorcycle taxi riders will be able to participate more - and better - in our national development projects.

This programme involves various aspects of this profession, notably training, management and organization. Perhaps this experiment can be replicated in other informal sector activities.

My dear young compatriots,

I equally expressed my concern about the decline in public morality in our country. I deplored the fact that the youth, who are our most valuable asset, our future and the future of our country, have not been spared. I commend Government's prompt response to this alert through the holding of an international conference on the theme in Yaounde. Its ambitious objective is to "make Cameroon an exemplary country". This objective concerns us all to the utmost level: parents, teachers, religious authorities.

Respect for public morality also means commitment to national integration which is the cement of our Nation. Furthermore, it means attachment to the rules of democracy, a model that we have chosen in order to build a just and cohesive society. This affords me the opportunity to hail the high turnout of the youth in the election of 30 September and the election of some of their peers into the National Assembly and council executives.

I also wish to express my satisfaction with the refocusing of the activities of the National Civic Service for Participation in Development Agency. The new leadership in place should improve the mentoring of the first 6 000 volunteers trained. In this regard, I also wish

to recall that in 2013, the Rural and Urban Youth Support Programme with its Youth Socio-economic Integration Project through the Manufacture of Sports Equipment, contributed, through its supervision, to creating 1 000 jobs. These came to add to the 225 000 that I mentioned earlier on.

Regarding the general youth policy, I would like to welcome the election of new executives of the National Youth Council at both the national and local levels. Through these elections, which were conducted satisfactorily, the Cameroonian youth showed that they are part and parcel of our lofty vision which is to make Cameroon an emerging country by 2035. In this respect, the Government has established more than 400 multi-purpose youth promotion centres in subdivisions and divisions. Such mobilization will continue in the months ahead.

My dear young compatriots,

As you can see, things are happening in Cameroon. The momentum is building and it is irreversible. You will be its main actors.

Before concluding, I would like all of us to go fifty to sixty years down memory lane. This is History, you may say. Yes, but perhaps we have not learned all the lessons from it.

During that period of turmoil, those who dreamed of independence and national unity were young people like you. They differed in many respects: ideology, party, strategy and tactics. But the goal was clear: FREEDOM. And many engaged in this struggle putting their lives on the line.

Today, the stakes are different. Although the commitment I expect from you does not require you to make the ultimate sacrifice, it is nonetheless crucial. It is about enabling our country to reach a level of development such that every Cameroonian can: live decently on his work, raise his children properly, and have decent housing and protection from disease.

My young compatriots, such is the task before you.

When, in a few weeks, we celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification which complements our Independence, I urge you to spare a thought for those who sacrificed their lives for you to be able to live in a society of freedom and progress.

**Happy Youth Day to you all.
Long live Cameroonian youth!
Long live Cameroon!**



Statement of the Head of State after the Inauguration of Fiftieth Anniversaries Monument

Buea, February 19, 2014



“The monument is beautiful. A reunified Cameroon has just restored the Cameroonian identity in all its diversity. I think that the monument is a great achievement. The celebration of the Jubilee is great. We have done our best. The most important thing is in the hearts. It is primarily an internal event. Cameroonians must feel more united, closer to each other beyond cultural and linguistic diversities. This is the ultimate goal. Monuments are symbols. What we want is for Cameroonians feel more united.

About the remission of sentences, this is to show how important it is to cultivate unity. I wanted it to be a great moment of joy, and that this joy reaches even to those people who were somehow on the margins of society. Some of them will find freedom too. We want this to be a great moment of joy and gladness to strengthen national unity.”





On the Occasion of the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Reunification of Cameroon

20th February 2014



***The President of the Senate,
The President of the National Assembly,
The Prime Minister, Head of Government,
The President of Economic and Social Council,
The President of the Supreme Court,
Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Representatives of
International Organisations,
The Governor of the South-West Region,
The Senior Divisional Officer of Fako,
The Mayor of Buea,
My dear compatriots,
Ladies and gentlemen,***

I would like to thank the Mayor of Buea for the warm words of welcome addressed to my wife and me.

I wish to extend my warm greetings to the dynamic people of the South-West Region who have come out in such great numbers, from Fako, from Kupe Manenguba, from Lebialem, from Manyu, from Meme and from Ndian to welcome my wife and me on this great occasion. As you all know, the South-West Region has always been very close to my heart.

I also thank you all who have come from the other regions of the country, from the Adamawa, from the Centre, from the East, from the Far-North, from the Littoral, from the North, from the North-West, from the

South and from the West. Your massive presence here today is a testimony not only to our unity in diversity, but also to the importance you attach to the Reunification of our country.

I have not forgotten our friends, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations, who have come to attend this important ceremony. I thank them immensely for their participation and support.

At the beginning of this commemorative ceremony, I would like to express our great appreciation to the United Nations and to friendly countries who have worked with us for the independence and reunification of Cameroon.

I also want to thank all our external partners whose support to our development efforts, over the past fifty years, remained constant. We know we can continue to rely on their friendship, for the future.

**Fellow compatriots,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

At long last, here we are in Buea ! Here we are in Buea to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Reunification. As the English people say, BETTER LATE

THAN NEVER. In fact, after a long period of preparation, we are finally glad to be here in this historic town of Buea, the town of LEGENDARY HOSPITALITY. I am glad to be in Buea, the bedrock of our Reunification. History has not forgotten that Buea was the headquarters of West Cameroon. History has not forgotten that Buea was the capital of Southern Cameroons. And history has not forgotten that Buea was once the capital of German Cameroon. That is why I say that Buea is a historic town.

I am proud, very proud to be in Buea, proud to walk on the same soil like our heroes who fought for Reunification.

I have been to Buea several times. Today, I can see that Buea has changed a great deal. I hope that you are also of the same opinion. I hope that you too see the same things I see. There is no doubt that Buea is now a befitting capital for the South-West Region. A lot of work has been carried out here. It is my wish that other regional headquarters look as beautiful as Buea.

**My dear compatriots,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

During this cycle of festivities of the Fiftieth Anniversaries, we have revisited our history; we have helped the young generations to discover it.

Our youths have thus been able to learn about the men and women who wrote the glorious pages of the history of Cameroon. They have been able to realize how challenging it is to found a nation, rally its people and forge its unity.

For, on 1 October 1961, after more than forty years of separation, Cameroonians on both sides of the Mungo came together again.

The march towards reunification was a risky odyssey. It was a journey fraught with challenges, delicate negotiations for our budding diplomacy and, at times, internal opposition to be reckoned with. Our national unity saw the light of day only thanks to the courage, determination, audacity and wisdom of Cameroonians of conviction, who believed in their people and in their capacity to take their destiny into their own hands.

Today, we want to pay a glowing tribute to these worthy sons and daughters of Cameroon whose patriotism enabled us to achieve the independence and reunification of our Fatherland.

We are thinking of these compatriots who, by signing the Protectorate Treaty, refused to give away the essence, that is, the land of our forefathers. Such

determination to preserve Cameroon's heritage remains ingrained in us today notably through our valiant armed forces that are ready to sacrifice their lives to defend our borders.

We are also thinking of our representatives who relentlessly championed the cause of our reunification, first at the League of Nations and subsequently at the United Nations Organization. We have remained true to this tradition of tabling our legitimate claims before international organizations. We adopted this resolute but peaceful approach to restore Cameroon's sovereignty over the Bakassi Peninsula.

The students of the Foulassi Teacher Training College, who wrote the rallying song that became our national anthem of which we are proud today, deserve to be mentioned as examples. The same applies to students of the Diaspora who, in their days, contributed significantly towards restoring our unity of yesteryear.

Today, we celebrate the memory of our national heroes, in meditation and with gratitude. We also pay tribute to the participants at the Fouban Constitutional Conference held from 16 to 21 July 1961.

On behalf of the entire Nation, we thank them for

their bravery, for their sacrifices and for their abnegation. They bequeathed us a Cameroon that once more became One and Indivisible. On this special day, we should spare a thought for them and express our profound gratitude.

We would like to tell them that today, more than ever, we are attached to the national unity which they handed down to us. We are preserving our sovereignty which they conquered and our independence for which sometimes they shed their blood. We urge our youths to be proud of the history of our country. We urge them to fervently perpetuate the memory of our national heroes and the founding milestones of our country. There is no great people without memory of its past.

Fellow Cameroonians,

1 October 1961 is a historic day; a day of great joy for all Cameroonians. After 42 years of uncertainty, trials and tribulations, brothers long separated who never ceased seeking out one another, were finally reunited ... and reunited forever.

1 October 1961, the day of Rebirth of greater Cameroon, is a day of immense glory for our country.

**My dear compatriots,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

What have we done over the last fifty years? We have, step by step in unity, been striving to build this much-desired Cameroonian nation. But, we should remember that shortly after our independence and our reunification, doomsayers predicted our failure; some even said that Cameroon would sink into chaos.

And as a matter of fact, during the first fifty years, we did not have an easy ride. An agonizing civil war was followed by a severe economic crisis. Throughout these challenges, Cameroonians showed exceptional courage and confounded all pessimistic prognoses. They worked towards building patiently, in unity and peace, this Cameroonian nation of which we are so proud. They strove to close the gap and to remedy the injustices accumulated during colonization.

Although it goes without saying that we have a duty of remembrance, we also have the obligation to tell the truth. The duty of remembrance would have no value or existence without the obligation to tell the truth.

Building the Cameroonian nation meant enabling everyone to have access to education that ensures equal

opportunity. At independence and reunification, that is, after seventy years of foreign occupation, only 3% of Cameroonians were attending school. There was not a single university. Today, according to UNICEF, our school enrollment rate is 90%. We have built 15 123 primary schools and 2 413 colleges and high schools. We have built eight State universities nationwide.

Building the Cameroonian nation meant providing universal access to health services. At independence and reunification, there were in all 555 health units. To date, we have 2260 public health units, including 4 general hospitals, 3 central hospitals, 14 regional hospitals, 164 district hospitals, 155 subdivisional medical centres and 1920 integrated health centres. I wish to note by the way that life expectancy which was 40 years in 1960 has risen to 52 years today.

Building the Cameroonian nation meant opening up the country internally and to the outside world. At independence and reunification, our road network comprised 621 km of paved roads. Today, Cameroon has 250 000 kilometres of roads, of which nearly 5 000 kilometres are paved, 21 airports, 4 of which are international, a river port and three seaports. Douala Port is the largest port in the CEMAC zone. It's no secret.

Building the Cameroonian nation meant creating wealth and employment. The State of Cameroon is our country's largest employer. It has fostered the development of a vibrant private sector. Talented men and women have set up hundreds of businesses which generate employment and wealth, thereby significantly improving the standard of living of our citizens.

Building the Cameroonian nation also meant industrializing the country. We have embarked on the second phase of our industrialization. With the ongoing development of our energy potential, we will be able to process our agricultural and mining raw materials and, using our oil deposits, lay the basis of a chemical industry. At the same time, we will continue to develop our aluminium industry and to use gas as a source of energy for our factories.

Thus, we have demonstrated our capacity to free ourselves from the barter economy to which we had been confined for a long time.

Building the Cameroonian nation also meant creating a truly sovereign State. We have transformed an embryonic State into a truly democratic State with modern, strong and functional institutions: an Assembly, a Senate and, imminently, a Constitutional Council. We have established a justice system and an administration

nationwide and built a strong army that can be deployed to guarantee our territorial integrity.

**My dear compatriots,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

This remarkable success has been underpinned by our National Unity. It is what constitutes the framework of our society. The very existence of our people depends on it. That is why I urge all our fellow citizens, particularly our youths, to jealously watch over it so that it never withers. I urge them to avoid the trap set by some regional, tribal or religious centrifugal forces which can jeopardize national cohesion.

**Fellow Cameroonians,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

When we talk about National Unity, it does not mean that we ignore our linguistic and cultural pluralism. Our diversity is part of our identity. It is what helps Cameroon to adjust more easily to the changes brought about by globalization, particularly thanks to our bilingualism.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Three years ago, we launched the jubilee period with celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of our

independence. With the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Reunification here in Buea where it took place, we will be closing this cycle which has helped us to revisit our history.

We have every reason to be proud of our Reunification and the best way of being worthy of it is to spare no effort to preserve our national unity, our most precious asset.

Long live Independence!
Long live Reunification!
Long live Cameroon!

I now invite you to join me in singing our National Anthem.



Speech by The Head of State during the meeting on the Situation in the Central African Republic

2 April 2014



***Excellencies, Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
The President of the European Council,
The Chairman of the African Union,
The Chairperson of the African Union Commission,
The President of the European Union Commission,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

First of all, I wish to congratulate the initiators of this meeting on the situation in the Central African Republic. As a neighbouring country, Cameroon is most concerned.

I wish to thank in particular the United Nations, France and the European Union for intervening with Africa in this brotherly country.

The purpose of this concerted action was to restore peace, order and security in the Central African Republic. By so doing, we hoped to prevent the chaos that loomed on the horizon, protect the innocent and defenceless populations that have been taken hostage by Seleka and Anti-Balaka armed gangs.

The continuous violence on the ground suggests that our efforts to save CAR are insufficient.

The speeches made, particularly that of the President of the Transition Government of CAR, have had the merit of helping us to gauge the full and exact scale of the gravity of a situation that is deteriorating with each passing day.

We must therefore take a quick and reasoned decision. We must act.

First, we must keep all the promises made to provide financial and humanitarian assistance and troops. Second, we must act within the framework of the United Nations. I welcome the recent Security Council proposal to upgrade MISCA to a major peacekeeping operation, with more staff and resources.

Since January 2014, Cameroon has been clamouring for this. The President of the Transition, Her Excellency SAMBA PANZA, has strongly appealed for the setting up of this operation. We are calling on all the friendly countries of CAR and the entire international community to support this idea. We must help the Security Council to accelerate its implementation. In this regard, I wish to commend the action of France and the commitment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Time has come for action. Ending the war in CAR is a categorical imperative. The stability of all neighbouring countries and the entire sub-region and peace in Africa depend on it.

Thank you.





**Statement by The Head of State during
the working session No. 1 on “Peace and Security”**

2 April 2014

***Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
The Current Chairperson of the African Union,
The President of the European Council,
The President of the European Union Commission,
The Chairperson of the African Union Commission,***

The theme of our discussion, “Peace and Security in Africa”, is always on the agenda of our meetings. This shows the importance we attach to it.

The insidious activities of terror organizations, various forms of trafficking, hostage taking and piracy, do pose a constant threat to peace and security in our Continent.

Regrettably, our sub-region, Central Africa, is no exception to this. The current situation in the Central African Republic, Cameroon’s neighbour, is a prime concern for us. I use this opportunity to hail the mobilization and commitment of the international community to back us up. I specially commend the United Nations Organization, France and CEMAC countries which have stepped in to end the atrocities and restore civil peace.

For its part, the European Union is lending Cameroon its support in dealing with the influx into its territory of tens of thousands of refugees fleeing

the CAR. We would like such solidarity, which is so highly appreciated, to continue. The worsening situation, as well as the scale of the security and humanitarian disaster in the CAR, has reached the critical threshold. They call for the establishment of a peacekeeping force under the aegis of the United Nations. We commend and support the action taken in this direction by France within the Security Council.

Extreme poverty is fertile ground for all types of extremist movements; it thus represents a threat to peace. Therefore, fighting poverty is essential for preserving security and peace.

More than ever before, the Africa-European Union partnership is the effective way of moving forward in that direction. It is imperative that we adopt joint programmes of concrete and concerted action to roll back poverty.

I believe that the proliferation and circulation of light weapons and the activities of money laundering and drug trafficking rings are also closely linked to insecurity. All of these issues should be given special attention during this Summit.

Beyond the domestic measures it has taken to deal with these threats, Cameroon organized a Summit on

Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea in June 2013 in Yaounde, where a common regional strategy and legal instruments were adopted.

These instruments deserve the support and involvement of the international community. Because the battle we are waging is for and on behalf of the international community. The same applies to our counter-terrorism initiatives.

We must join our efforts.

Ensuring peace and security in Africa, means, to a certain extent, contributing to peace and security in the rest of the world.

Thank you.





Conférence de presse conjointe des Chefs d'Etat à l'issue du Sommet de paris pour la sécurité au Nigéria

17 mai 2014

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Président de la République Française d'avoir pris l'initiative de nous inviter pour nous pencher sur ce problème très sensible de la lutte contre le terrorisme et, en particulier Boko Haram au Nigeria. Je remercie également les Etats-Unis, la Grande-Bretagne et l'Union européenne qui ont montré beaucoup d'intérêt.

Nous sommes ici pour affirmer notre solidarité et notre détermination à lutter vigoureusement contre Boko Haram. Le Président HOLLANDE l'a dit : pendant que je suis ici, ils ont commis un attentat de plus, ils ont attaqué des entrepreneurs et ceci vient après l'enlèvement des otages français. A l'heure qu'il est, nous sommes à la recherche de deux prêtres italiens et d'une sœur canadienne.

Le problème Boko Haram a donc cessé d'être uniquement un problème nigérian, il est devenu un problème régional, sinon continental. Nous sommes ici pour déclarer la guerre au Boko Haram. On va le poursuivre et on vaincra cette chose terroriste parce que les inconvénients sont nombreux. C'est un groupe qui éloigne les missionnaires, les entrepreneurs, les investisseurs ; appauvrit le pays et

veut faire revenir les populations du Nigeria au Moyen-âge. On ne peut pas accepter cela.

Nous remercions encore une fois le Président HOLLANDE d'avoir pris l'initiative de nous réunir. Nous allons prendre des mesures encore plus fortes pour éradiquer le phénomène Boko Haram. Merci.



Toast by H.E. Paul BIYA on the occasion of the luncheon offered in honour of President Idriss DEBY ITNO

Yaounde, 22 May 2014



Mr President, Dear Brother,

As always, it is a great pleasure to welcome you here in Yaounde. You are welcome in our midst.

We have so many things in common that the term “fraternity” does not adequately describe our relations. Another term needs to be coined!

In fact, everything unites us: our history, our customs, our cultures, our economies and even our policies.

Need I give examples?

The commissioning of the Chad-Cameroon Pipeline a few years ago demonstrated the advantage of getting on together for the implementation of mutually beneficiary projects. In future, the other resources of the Chadian subsoil could be exported through the development of our roads and the extension of our railway network.

Such complementarity of our economies may also result in more fruitful trade in the agricultural and energy sectors.

This is what can be said concerning our bilateral relations.

However, it goes without saying that within CEMAC, our common Organization, significant progress can also be made in terms of rapprochement between our economies and regional integration. And I am aware that we share similar views on these issues.

At present, our major concern is the security of our two countries.

The events that have destabilized the Central African Republic and the terrorist activities of Boko Haram in Nigeria, two countries with which Chad and Cameroon share a common border, pose a serious threat to the security of our countries.

Concerning the Central African Republic, a pacification process in which we participated from the outset is ongoing. Given the present commitment of the international community, we have great hope that this process will be successfully implemented.

The terrorist activities of Boko Haram, which unfortunately occur everyday, remain a permanent threat to peace and security in Chad and Cameroon.

The Paris Summit which was initiated by France provided a number of solutions to the problems posed by this threat. The measures that were adopted by participants

should be implemented immediately at the regional and bilateral levels.

Cameroon, for its part, is willing to discuss with Chad, in the most minute detail, the conditions under which these measures, be they coordinated patrols, intelligence sharing, exchange of information or border surveillance mechanism, could be implemented by both countries.

Mr President, Dear Brother,

For countries like ours, security is a categorical imperative. It conditions not only our political stability, but also our development efforts. This is an issue over which we cannot make concessions.

I know that President DEBY and I are in full agreement on these issues. This is why I heartily thank him for visiting us at a time when our consultation was necessary.

Long live the friendship between Chad and Cameroon!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now invite you to raise your glasses to the health of our brother and friend, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Chad.

Thank you for your attention.



Address by the Head of State during the Pan-African Lawyers Union “Peaceful Conflict Resolution” Prize Award Ceremony

06 juin 2014



- ***The President of the Pan-African Lawyers Union,***
- ***Members of the Pan-African Lawyers Union Executive Committee,***
- ***President THABO MBEKI and dear brother,***
- ***Excellencies,***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

I am particularly pleased to take the floor on this solemn ceremony of the award of your organization's "Peaceful Conflict Resolution" Prize.

On this occasion, I wish to heartily thank you for choosing Cameroon to host the Triennial Assembly of the Pan-African Lawyers Union.

Permit me also to acknowledge the presence in our midst of Mr THABO MBEKI, our brother, former President of the Republic of South Africa, whom I would like to welcome.

- ***Excellencies,***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

In the world today, many armed conflicts undermine the stability of States or peace among nations. Unfortunately, Africa illustrates this fact, as epitomized by the tragic situation presently faced by the Central African Republic.

The causes of conflict in Africa are many and varied. It would be tedious to review them. I would limit myself to pointing out the threat posed to peace by border and land disputes.

For example, I would like to dwell briefly on the efforts made by Nigeria and Cameroon to find a peaceful solution to the land dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula.

I dare say that on both sides, all the resources of diplomacy and international justice were used and that such efforts helped to bring about an honourable outcome for both parties.

It was thus demonstrated that the use of force poses more problems than it resolves. This fact is stipulated in the United Nations Charter which prohibits the use of force and calls for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

It is therefore possible to achieve peace on the basis of law; provided, however, that force gives way to law; provided also that States recognize the supremacy of international law and the pre-eminent role of the United Nations.

Moreover, world peace can only be assured if the International Community upholds solidarity as one of the fundamental values in relations between nations. We

can only rejoice in the ever-growing awareness of this obligation by a majority of States.

In this respect also, the role of the United Nations is crucial.

On the other hand, conflicts, whether internal or between State entities, affect the economic take-off of African States and their development in general. In this regard, I am pleased to congratulate the Pan-African Lawyers Union for its outstanding work by proposing solutions to our States within the scope of its missions.

Until international law finally prevails over the use of force, I remain convinced that it should be guided by law, notably in the case of self-defence.

It is in this spirit that we have taken measures to defend ourselves against the terrorist actions of Boko Haram in Nigeria.

At this juncture, I would like to underscore the relevance of the theme of your General Assembly, namely “Illicit Financial Flows from Africa”. In fact, it has been established that the resources derived from organized crime are used to finance terrorism and arms trafficking.

- ***The President of the Pan-African Lawyers Union,***
- ***Excellencies,***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

A prestigious award like the one dedicated to the peaceful resolution of conflicts fills the person receiving it with a feeling of joy and pride.

Permit me to share the honour bestowed on me with all those who worked for the peaceful settlement of the border dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon.

I am thinking particularly of:

- the International Court of Justice;
- my brother, President OLUSEGUN OBASANJO and the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr KOFI ANNAN;
- my successive Nigerian counterparts;
- witness States, namely Germany, the United States of America, France and the United Kingdom; as well as
- the current Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr BAN KI MOON.

Lastly, permit me to express my profound gratitude to you for the prize that your Organization, in agreement with the African Union, has kindly awarded me.

To conclude, I cannot say it any better than quoting

an extract from the UNESCO Constitution, I quote: “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”.

This is a programme, an entire programme, which is more topical than ever. A great programme that is a challenge to all of us.

Thank you for your kind attention.



Statement by the Head of State at the Session on Peace and Security Issues in Africa

Malabo, 27 June 2014



***Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

For a long time our continent held the unenviable record for coups d'état, civil wars, ethnic clashes, territorial disputes and open inter-State conflicts, with horrific losses of human life, destruction of property and displacement of populations.

Lately, a new misfortune has befallen Africa. It takes the form of terrorism which seems to have come from the depth of ages and is all the more dangerous as it strikes at random and with no obvious reason. There again, the thousands of innocent victims attest to the scale of danger.

Our brothers in Mali suffered the painful experience during the months when the jihadists ruled the northern part of the country. The people of Nigeria, exposed to the atrocities of Boko Haram, are in turn suffering the oppression of this mediaeval sect. In Kenya, a week does not go by without the Somali "Shebab" carrying out deadly attacks.

My country is well-positioned to fathom the scope of the danger. Threatened from the west by Boko Haram incursions and from the east by the impact of the events

in the CAR, it is currently at the frontline. Of course, we are determined to defend ourselves. But I would like to point out to brotherly countries that to such an adversary, distance is no guarantee of invulnerability.

So I think what is happening in Mali, northern Nigeria and Kenya concerns us all.

It is high time we stopped the advance of these new invaders. And, of course, our continental organization has a crucial role to play in that regard. For several years, we have been discussing the building of a “peace and security architecture” on the continent. This, admittedly, is a complex issue. Nonetheless we have made progress.

Today, African troops are present in some brotherly countries in difficulty or are taking part, with AU approval, in stabilization or peacekeeping operations. But the threat is now global and requires urgent action commensurate with the danger. I believe it is now time to draw the practical lessons from the doctrine of intervention we have defined at the continental level.

Permit me to say the African Standby Force can no longer wait and the African Capacity Immediate Crisis Response (CARIC) should go operational without delay.

Besides, initiatives in this direction have already been taken and should be hailed. The summit meeting held in Paris on 17 May 2014 on the initiative of France, attended by the Heads of State of Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Chad and Cameroon was devoted to the activities of Boko Haram and the appropriate response to it.

Representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, France and the European Union attended the meeting.

Although this is a different type of threat, I would like to recall that terrorism also has a maritime dimension, notably off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea, also involving kidnapping, looting and killings.

To counter this threat, we held a summit in Yaoundé in June 2013 on Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea.

An inter-community cooperation framework and an anti-piracy code of conduct were adopted as well as a document establishing in Yaoundé an interregional centre to coordinate measures taken by the States concerned. The centre will soon go operational.

Whether on land or at sea, whether its activities are near or far, terrorism remains terrorism. It defies the rules of civilized societies which advocate fraternity and tolerance. It is driven by hatred and brute force. It thrives on obscurantism and regression. In the face of such danger, we need not hesitate. We must join forces.

Thank you.



**Statement from H.E Paul BIYA on the occasion of the
First African Diaspora - US Summit
Read by the Minister in charge of Special Duty at the
Presidency of the Republic,
Paul ATANGA NJI
Theme: "Investing in Africa"**

Washington D.C., le 31 juillet 2014



***Your Excellencies, Distinguished personalities,
The Chair of Developing Market Associates (DMA),
Business Leaders,
Dear Members of the African Diaspora,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is with great pleasure that I meet you in this fraternal setting, on the occasion of the first summit dedicated to the contribution of the African Diaspora in the United States of America on the promotion of investments in Africa.

This subject which is the focus of our meeting is very important, for its economic impact, and political relevance.

Allow me therefore to join other participants to commend this good initiative of bringing us together because increasing investments in Africa is both a necessity and a challenge we must overcome.

It is essential for the African Diaspora, armed with proposals and experience, to contribute to the dialogue between American businesses and the African public and private sectors. The involvement of its members, who will bring an emotional touch to the debate, could be decisive.

The action of the Diaspora is likely to boost the talents and confidence that Africans have in themselves. It indeed refers to the idea raised by the President of the United States of America, Mr. Barack Obama, during his address to the Ghanaian Parliament: “We must assume that it is up to Africans to decide the future of Africa”.

If we accept that our continent needs quality material, financial and human resources for its development, we can only welcome the commitment of African and Cameroonian business leaders in particular, members of the Diaspora based in the United States, to support the efforts of the Government and people of Cameroon.

Distinguished personalities, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, Cameroon is often referred to as “Africa in miniature”. Indeed, its history, geography, natural resources and cultural diversity represent the essential features of the various parts of the continent.

In the same geographical area Cameroon can boast of the forest, savannah and steppe. It has a long coastline and large rivers. It is also crossed by significant mountain ranges. Its geographical position interlinking West and

Central Africa gives it an important strategic position. It is notably the maritime gateway to several other countries in the sub-regions.

On the political level, our country enjoys “peaceful democracy” with solid and stable republican Institutions. The Diaspora has the right to vote during presidential elections. There is a harmonious coexistence between ethnic, cultural and religious groups.

Our economy is based remarkably on natural and human potential. Consequently our efforts to accelerate growth have paid off.

In recent years, the Government has implemented an economic policy based on improving the business environment, particularly through the implementation of attractive investment incentives, the establishment of economic zones, the reform of the public contract code and a well renowned banking sector.

We recognize that the efforts undertaken on the economic front to achieve our goals of becoming an emerging country must go along side with new habits.

That is why emphasis is also laid on strengthening the fight against corruption and embezzlement of public funds, thus illustrating President Barack OBAMA’s

formula, namely “development (also) depends on good governance”.

Lastly, special efforts has been made in the implementation of major projects such as the construction of numerous infrastructure (roads, bridges, deep-sea ports, etc.) as well as the development of our energy supply through the construction of hydroelectric dams and gas plants.

Cameroon is a case in point of the efforts made by African countries to meet the expectations of their populations.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Personalities, business leaders,

I wish to express our gratitude to those members of the African Diaspora who trust us by investing in our countries.

The commitment of my Government to facilitate the establishment of your businesses in Cameroon is unequivocal. Cameroon is a good risk and a land of exemplary hospitality.

I therefore commend the initiative of Developing Market Associate (DMA), which has brought together members of the Africa Diaspora to discuss on matters of

common interest. We must now go further, since we have the will, we must mobilize our resources. Investing in Africa, especially in Cameroon, is a necessity, but it is also a duty for those Africans who can do it. Furthermore, nowadays, it is an opportunity and Cameroon is a good risk.

Thank you for your kind attention.





Cameroon/United States Economic Forum

Theme: "Investing in Cameroon, the time is now"

Statement of the Head State read by the Minister of Economy

Washington D.C., 31 July 2014



- ***Ministers,***
- ***Cameroon's Ambassador to Washington,***
- ***The Chair of the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA),***
- ***Distinguished Members of the U.S. Private Sector,***
Members
- ***of the CCA,***
- ***Distinguished Public and Private Business Leaders,***
- ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

First and foremost, I would like to thank President Obama for initiating this US-Africa Summit, the very first in the history of our relations.

It is within this context and as a prelude to the Summit that this maiden Cameroon/USA Economic Forum is taking place.

My country feels honoured by it.

I heartily thank the Chair of the Corporate Council on Africa and all its members for participating in the preparation and organization of this gathering.

By choosing to bring together American investors and representatives of Cameroon's private sector and members of Government, the CCA made a bet based on trust. And rightly so.

Cameroon is here to invite you to participate in the development of its potential. In many respects, my country is indeed a land of opportunity. During the forum, the Cameroonian delegation, which includes Government ministers, private sector representatives and U.S. investors already operating in Cameroon, will present the said opportunities to you in detail.

In a word, note that:

- Cameroon is a stable country which enjoys a peaceful democracy;
- Its growth rate is rising: it currently stands at 5.5% in 2014, up from 4.6% in 2013;
- Major infrastructure projects are underway in sectors such as energy, ports, roads, agro-industry, mining, etc.;
- We have huge potential in the areas of energy, agriculture, forestry and mining;
- Our tourist industry is worth developing.

Investment opportunities abound in Cameroon. Incentives meeting international standards have been put in place.

Our business environment is the focus of an ongoing

public-private dialogue. In short, investing in Cameroon is a good risk.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN CAMEROON:

- through joint ventures, or
 - by setting up your businesses in developed and serviced economic zones.
- Therein, you will enjoy accompanying measures.

I hope that in the course of this forum, will make useful contacts for fruitful discussions that will lead to mutually beneficial projects.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.-





« BELIEVE IN AFRICA »

Roundtable conference on investment in Cameroon Statement by the head of Stat read by the Minister of Finance

Washington D.C, 3 August 2014



***Distinguished Ministers,
Investors and business leaders,***

First, I would like to thank President OBAMA for initiating this maiden US-Africa Summit in Washington D.C.

This roundtable event, organized by the African Union Commission and Africa24, is a prelude to the said summit and I would like to thank its organizers for making Cameroon the guest of honour.

I particularly wish to salute US members of Congress and Administration, investors and business leaders, whose presence here reflects their interest in Africa, and hence in Cameroon.

The title of this roundtable is “Believe in Africa”. It is also the theme that will be the focus of debates at the maiden US-Africa Summit.

Do we actually have any reason to believe in Africa?

Some have thought or said that Africa has gotten off to a bad start. Others have claimed that Africa has hardly gotten off. But today, things have changed. Africa has not only started, but has gotten off to a good start. Also, Africa is a land of the future and the 21st century will be Africa's.

Within this context, this meeting between America and Africa is therefore a historic event.

For Africans, America means the War of Independence, an expression of the humanism of a great President, Abraham Lincoln, for whom the abolition of slavery was a lifetime struggle.

America is also this great power wherein progress and democracy are indissociable, a country whose evolution foreshadows the future of the world.

In light of the foregoing, it is natural to envisage with the United States, a partnership commensurate with the expectations of peoples and nations.

Such is the partnership Africa has come to seek in Washington. It has not come empty-handed. Africa is endowed with abundant natural and human resources. In 2050, the continent will have a population of 1.8 billion. Africa's youthful population is its wealth. By 2025, one out of two youths aged below 25 will be African.

Just as it supported Europe's recovery in the aftermath of World War II through the Marshall Plan, I believe the US is in a position to partner with us in major projects for the development of Africa's enormous potentials.

In my opinion, it should not be a question of aid, strictly speaking, but of cooperation in projects where enterprises will have a great share. We all stand to gain. This partnership will enable us to better combat terrorism, to have a sound knowledge of conflicts and strengthen democracy and human rights.

• ***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

The organizers of this roundtable conference have chosen my country as guest of honour of this “believe in Africa” day. I once more thank them for that.

Cameroon is said to be Africa in miniature. The country however has some peculiarities. For instance:

- In 72 hours, you can create a business in Cameroon,
- We have put in place private investment incentives meeting international standards,
- Economic zones and geographical areas developed and serviced to accommodate businesses have been created. Business leaders established therein receive support in the form of advice on tax and customs proceedings among others,

The legal protection of investments is a reality that is guaranteed by an effective judicial system, Cameroon being a member State of OHADA,

- It is also easy for you to freely manage revenues derived from your investments. Furthermore, we have an efficient banking system,
- Another advantage is that Cameroon is a bilingual country. English and French are our official languages,

American or British business leaders established in Cameroon such as General Electric or Standard Chartered Bank could testify to this reality.

Permit me to recall that Cameroon is a market of about 22 million consumers. But in reality, an investor established in our country can access a market of over 300 million consumers made up of countries of the Central African Economic Community and Nigeria.

Furthermore, I would say that the business environment is improving day by day. The Government is engaged in an ongoing battle against corruption and administrative red tape.

In addition to these incentives, I should underscore the dynamics of our macroeconomic framework. With a growth rate of 5.5% in 2014, our economy is growing steadily. Inflation has been contained at 3%. I should also mention the increase in credits to the economy, just to mention a few indicators.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mining, agriculture, energy and tourism are sectors that abound with investment opportunities. These sectors form the pillars of our development strategy.

Cameroon's members of Government and business leaders will come back to all of that during your discussions.

I wish to add that a lot has already been done to strengthen the rule of law in Cameroon.

By and large, what we call "peaceful democracy" is practised in Cameroon and is contributing towards building a peaceful business climate.

You can therefore confidently engage in public/private partnerships or joint ventures with our business people. Cameroon will be happy to welcome you. To conclude, permit me once again to express my satisfaction with President Barack OBAMA's initiative to invite Africa and America to this historic summit. It is expected to lay the foundation for a true win/win partnership between Africa and the United States of America. I wish you every success in your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.-



Statement by the Head of State on “Regional Peace and Stability”

Washington D.C., 6 August 2014

***The President of the United States of America,
Heads of State, Prime Ministers or their
Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

We have come here to chart Africa's future, in partnership with the United States. Africa's future hinges on stability and peace.

For several decades, Africa has witnessed numerous conflicts. That is why it has been said to have gotten off to a bad start.

At a time when, thanks to the patriotism and nationalism of Africa's children, internal conflicts are beginning to subside, a new type of threat to peace has emerged in the form of terrorism:

- off the coast of Somalia,
- in the Gulf of Guinea,
- in the Sahel region, in particular, in Mali and northern Nigeria, and
- in Kenya.

Terrorism comes under the guise of religion, but its workings bear all the hallmarks of ruthless criminality.

Today, Cameroon has to grapple with Boko Haram

incursions. We have taken self-defence measures. However, Boko Haram is a transnational phenomenon which also calls for a transnational response. This is a form of fundamentalism that defies the values of democracy and of our societies. It poses a threat not only to Africa but also to other parts of the world.

We must pool efforts to stem its tide.

Terrorism begets piracy, illegal arms trade, and trafficking of all kinds. There again, we must pool our efforts.

Lastly, the most pernicious threat to peace is poverty.

The global nature of this threat to regional peace and stability equally requires a global response to which all members of the international community must contribute.

Here also, we believe it is worthwhile to establish a true partnership for, as elsewhere, peace and security are prerequisites for the stability and development of African States. They are the sine qua non for harmony between nations.

Thank you for your attention.



Petit déjeuner de travail sur l'agriculture Intervention du Chef de l'Etat lue par le Secrétaire général des services du Premier Ministre

Washington D.C., le 7 août 2014



Au Cameroun, le développement du secteur agropastoral est au centre des priorités du Gouvernement.

L'agriculture traditionnelle a jusqu'à présent réussi tant bien que mal à assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans notre pays, mais on doit constater que nos potentialités sont encore sous utilisées. D'où la nécessité de changer de cap pour s'engager résolument vers une «agriculture de seconde génération»; c'est-à-dire, une agriculture plus productive et plus compétitive; productrice de matières premières dans l'optique « chaîne de valeurs ».

De quoi s'agit-il ?

Il est question de relever un défi qui implique une transformation totale de notre agriculture à la fois sur la vision, les techniques, les pratiques, les technologies et les normes.

Il est également question de s'orienter vers une agriculture qui traite la filière de production comme une chaîne de valeurs, afin de contribuer davantage à la création de la richesse nationale.

Le développement d'une telle agriculture devrait permettre d'atteindre notre objectif stratégique qui vise

à «renforcer le Cameroun dans son rôle de puissance agricole sous régionale, où le secteur rural est un moteur de l'économie nationale, assurant la sécurité alimentaire des populations, dans un souci de développement durable, respectueux de l'environnement».

Nous sommes entrain d'élaborer le Programme National d'Investissement Agricole (PNIA) dans le cadre du Programme Détaillé de Développement de l'Agriculture Africaine (PDDAA). Ce programme dont le coût est estimé à 7 milliards de dollars sera mis en œuvre dans une approche holistique et multisectorielle.

Quels sont les principaux segments du PNIA ?

- 1.** la formation, la recherche et le développement ;
- 2.** la construction de routes et la réhabilitation des routes rurales ;
- 3.** la mise à la disposition des agriculteurs de facteurs modernes de production, notamment le matériel végétal et animal amélioré, les engrais, les produits phytosanitaires et les machines agricoles;
- 4.** la maîtrise de l'accès aux financements et au foncier ;
- 5.** La construction et la mise à la disposition des producteurs, d'infrastructures de stockage et de conditionnement ainsi que la promotion de la transformation locale des produits agricoles.

Dans le cadre du PNIA, nous allons lancer deux grands projets

- Le Programme d'Appui à l'Entreprenariat et à l'emploi Agropastoral des Jeunes (\$65 millions). Il sera lancé avant fin 2014 avec l'appui du Fonds International de Développement Agricole (FIDA). Ce programme prévoit la création d'un incubateur d'entrepreneurs agropastoraux ;

- Le Projet d'Investissement et de Développement des Marchés Agricoles (\$100 millions) avec l'appui de la Banque Mondiale. Le lancement est prévu avant fin 2014. Ce programme permettra de produire et de transformer le manioc, le maïs et le sorgho.

Qu'il nous soit permis de saisir l'occasion de ce petit déjeuner pour vous parler rapidement d'un projet qui nous tient à cœur.

Il s'agit du Projet de développement agropastoral de la plaine centrale et des forêts dégradées de l'Est Cameroun.

Ce projet doit permettre de viabiliser et de mettre en valeur 3 millions d'hectares de terres agricoles et pastorales ainsi que les différents plans d'eau.

A l'horizon 2020, nous voulons faire du Cameroun un

grand producteur de produits horticoles et d'élevage, notamment, de fruits (mangue, pomme granate, citron, ananas, tomate), de produits maraichers, de fleurs, de produits sans glutens (à base de manioc, plantain, igname), de viande bovine et porcine, volaille, de produits laitiers ainsi que de poisson d'eau douce.

Les paramètres écologiques, l'âge et le bon niveau d'éducation de la population, les infrastructures disponibles, bref notre potentiel nous prédispose à faire plus et mieux.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, deux autoroutes sont à construire (plus de 1000 km) ainsi que des unités de transformation et de stockage des produits, sans oublier le développement de la mécanisation. Des dispositions sont prévues pour les investisseurs désireux d'installer des fermes de grande taille. Plusieurs milliers de jeunes seront répartis dans les bassins de productions.

Vous êtes les premiers à prendre connaissance de ce projet qui, mis vigoureusement en œuvre, pourrait faire du Cameroun une nouvelle destination en matière de développement agricole. Les équipes sont à pied d'œuvre pour que les détails de ce projet soient disponibles avant juin 2015.

L'essor de notre agriculture passe impérativement par la mobilisation harmonieuse de tous les acteurs étatiques et privés, notamment en développant des partenariats publics privés (PPP).

C'est dire que les investisseurs privés pourront occuper une place de choix dans ce processus. Avec eux, le Cameroun compte avancer main dans la main, dans un esprit gagnant-gagnant, afin de développer son secteur agricole et atteindre le stade de pays émergent à l'horizon 2035.

Nous sommes disposés à vous apporter des éclaircissements additionnels sur ce projet agricole à haute valeur ajoutée ainsi que sur tout autre projet que vous souhaiteriez venir réaliser au Cameroun.

Before I conclude, permit me to say this in English.

I want to underline that We came here because We want to DO BETTER, yes. Ladies and Gentlemen, together, We can do better. Since investing is a game, a win win game.

Thank you and Bon Appétit.





Toast by the Head of State at the luncheon offered in honour of Mrs Irina BOKOVA

Yaounde, 16 september 2014



Madam Director-General of UNESCO,

Permit me to tell you how delighted my wife and I are to welcome you on the occasion of your visit to Cameroon.

I need not remind you that you are very much at home in Cameroon. By some happy coincidence, you bear the same name as a well-known locality in the south-west of Cameroon. By the way, you are an illustrious dignitary of Bokova. The custodians of tradition have granted you the attributes of that status.

This once again shows how pleased we are to welcome you here today, Madam Director-General.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, our relationship with UNESCO is longstanding, coming on the heels of our accession to international sovereignty over half a century ago. Our belonging to this body was driven by our desire to draw closer to all peoples of the

world. As a protector and promoter of the equality of cultures, UNESCO was the most appropriate interlocutor.

We stand proud of the ground covered together. To refresh your memory, I would like to recall the leading role played by your Organization in the creation, running and functioning of the Yaounde Higher Teachers Training College (ENS) which recently commemorated its 50th anniversary.

Your support in the preservation, promotion, expression and influence of our culture is equally immeasurable. We proudly remember the brochure containing the findings of the survey conducted under your supervision on all the dances of Cameroon. We do remember your assistance in preparations for Cameroon's participation at the first-ever Festival of Negro Arts in Dakar and the first Pan-African Cultural Festival in Algiers.

Lastly, I would like to mention UNESCO's contribution towards restoring historical monuments such as the Foumban Palace and

preserving our wildlife, especially the Dja Reserve which features on your Organization's list of World Natural and Cultural Heritage since 1987.

***Madam Director-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

With increasing ideological conflicts and trouble spots, UNESCO's role in the quest for peace, highly commendable as it is, needs to be stepped up. For, we must bear in mind that victory through the force of arms cannot alone ensure peace, that is, lasting peace.

Lasting peace cannot be imposed, it is built and lived daily by mutual acceptance and tolerance which lead to and promote dialogue. All these virtues indeed constitute the *raison d'être* of UNESCO.

The Preamble of UNESCO's constitution clearly states and I quote: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". Unquote.

Madam Director-General,

The preservation of peace also entails the fight against inequality and poverty.

You know this very well because in 2009 you placed your first tenure under the banner of promoting a “new humanism”; humanism based on solidarity and focused on the full development of the individual and all mankind.

You gave priority to the development programmes of African countries. The geographical and operational reorganization of UNESCO’s services is also credited to you. By establishing five Regional Offices in Africa, you have brought your Organization closer to the people, making them more aware of UNESCO’s work.

Cameroon highly appreciates your support in your various areas of competence and we are sure that your visit will further enhance our multidimensional cooperation.

In this regard, I wish to commend the opening in Cameroon of a major UNESCO office for Central Africa. Pursuant to my instructions, the Government

has taken all necessary measures to facilitate its establishment and ensure its proper functioning.

Madam Director-General,

Allow me to conclude where I should have started. I wish to heartily congratulate you on your re-election at the helm of UNESCO. I wish to commend the mastery and skill with which you devote yourself to the service of humanity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My wife and I now invite you to raise your glasses in honour of Madam Irina BOKOVA, Director-General of UNESCO, to the success of her mission at the service of peace and to the sustainability of Cameroon-UNESCO relations.

Thank you.





60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Opening speech by the President of the Republic

Yaounde, le 06 october 2014



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I deliver my speech, I wish invite you to stand up and observe a minute of silence in memory of Mr. William SHIJA, Secretary General of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association... Thank you.

***The President of the Senate of Cameroon,
The President of the National Assembly of
Cameroon, Current Chairman of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association,
Distinguished Heads of House of Parliament,
The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of
Nations,
The Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary
Union,
The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth
Parliamentary Association,
The Prime Minister, Head of Government of the
Republic of Cameroon,
Distinguished Members of Government,
Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and
Representatives of International Organizations,
Distinguished Members of Parliament,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

First, I would like, on behalf of the Cameroonian people, to wish you a warm welcome to Cameroon, on African soil, and a pleasant stay in Yaounde. I salute in particular our good friends who have come here from afar and those who are setting foot on African soil for the first time. As you know, it is always a great pleasure to welcome friends from distant places.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your conference is taking place in an international context marked by the persistence of many hotbeds of tension. Several parts of the world continue to witness political, economic and social crises. Armed clashes abound. There are repeated and senseless terrorist attacks and acts of maritime piracy which challenge the international community.

This gloomy picture has been compounded by the outbreak of the Ebola viral epidemic. Within months, it has already claimed thousands of lives in Africa. The virus poses a real threat that transcends State boundaries, while the international

community is yet to find an appropriate response to contain it.

Therefore, we should hail this conference which is opening today despite the hostile international context. Your presence affirms and confirms your determination to address the challenges of this century.

My country is delighted to have been chosen to host the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The people of Cameroon are honoured by this mark of esteem and confidence.

The massive turnout of Commonwealth Members of Parliament is an eloquent testimony to their interest in fostering solidarity among the peoples they represent. For the great Commonwealth family, it is also an excellent example of its deep commitment to working relentlessly and resolutely for a better world. This is truly a source of satisfaction, but also and above all, of hope.

***Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Participants,***

The theme of your discussions at the Yaounde Conference is “Repositioning the Commonwealth for the Post-2015 Development Agenda”.

Besides being fully in line with the very foundations of our organization, this theme is highly topical.

In fact, social progress and human development issues are prime concerns of the Community of Nations. They are interwoven with those of peace and security, as there can be no development without minimum security and stability.

The 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly which has just opened in New York is working on the framework and content of the world’s Post-2015 Development Agenda.

As you are aware, the adoption of the Declaration on the Millennium Development Goals on 8 September 2000 raised new hopes for a world

where peace, security and prosperity would be shared at last.

Fifteen years following the adoption of these goals, it must be acknowledged, unfortunately, that they will not be achieved by 2015 as agreed.

Certainly, significant progress has been made in some areas such as education, immunization coverage, the fight against HIV and malaria, and gender promotion in school. This is commendable.

These appreciable efforts notwithstanding, it should be admitted that much remains to be done in key areas. Hunger has not been eradicated, poverty reduction is extremely slow, unemployment, especially among the youth, remains a thorny problem and health coverage remains inadequate

The international community must learn lessons from the difficulties faced over the last fifteen years.

The Post-2015 Agenda should devise new strategies to substantially improve the population's living conditions.

All players will need to demonstrate a stronger political will, greater generosity and more effective, more concrete and more active solidarity. Such are the demands of the interdependence of States and unity of humanity on us. Without this extra touch of the soul, development by the end of the new Agenda may remain a distant goal.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN's adoption of a Post-2015 Development Agenda reflects reckoning with past lapses as well as recognition of the need for immediate action, with greater determination and greater commitment in order to secure the future.

To that end, African countries have prepared a common position which proposes the alignment of the Agenda with national and international development programmes, fully consistent with the African Union's 2063 Agenda. This common position also comprises new cooperation thrusts aimed at eradicating poverty, creating endogenous conditions for economic transformation, preserving peace and progressing towards prosperity and sustainable development.

Distinguished Commonwealth Parliamentarians,

The challenges I have just outlined are not peculiar to Africa. They are common to all peoples of the world of whom many of you are the elected representatives.

It behoves you to plead with national and international authorities to honour their commitments. It is your bounden duty to work towards giving such commitments force of law in your respective countries.

While hoping that the Yaounde Conference will be a confirmation of your commitment to shared development in the world, and wishing you every success in your proceedings, I declare open the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

Long live the Commonwealth and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II!

Long live Cameroon!

Thank you very much.





Statement by the Head of State at the solemn ceremony to receive Freed Cameroonian and Chinese Hostages

Yaounde, 13 october 2014



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Permit me first of all to welcome you to the Palace of the Republic.

Today is a day of joy, joy equalled only by the anguish and anxiety which gripped us throughout your detention.

The Ambassador of the Republic of China,

It is with pleasure and joy that I hand over to you your compatriots who were detained under awful conditions. I would like to say that they were able to survive thanks to their courage, their will and their determination. I congratulate them for that and wish them good luck for the future. I wish them a safe return to your great country.

My dear compatriots,

I cannot hide the joy we feel to see you back safe and sound. Mrs ALI, the Lamido of Kolofata and their entire families are back among us. You demonstrated courage, endurance and faith in God. That is what saved you.

All this, all what is happening and which brings us great joy, we should bear in mind, is thanks to the

bravery of our armed forces. Our army is fighting courageously day and night to ensure that Cameroon remains a country of peace and stability.

We also owe this good result to the commitment of the Cameroonian people, be they in the North, the South, the East or the West, and especially the people of the Far North who are going through the ordeal everyday but still provide commendable support to the forces of law and order.

It is all this that has enabled us to see you again. We cannot hide our joy. We wish you a happy return to your families and to your countries.

For its part, the Government of Cameroon assures you that it will not relent in its fight against Boko Haram until it is completely wiped out.

I wish you good luck and a safe return to your families.



**Libération de 15 otages camerounais enlevés à l'Est du Cameroun et d'un prêtre polonais enlevé en RCA :
Le Président de la République félicite les forces de
défense et de sécurité camerounaises pour leur
bravoure et leur dévouement.**

Yaounde, 13 october 2014

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

Le Président de la République, Son Excellence Monsieur Paul BIYA, annonce à l'opinion publique nationale et internationale qu'une opération spéciale des forces de défense et de sécurité camerounaises a permis la libération cette nuit de quinze (15) otages Camerounais enlevés les 20 Septembre et 24 Octobre 2014 dans la Région de l'Est, par un groupe armé centrafricain, ainsi que du Prêtre Polonais MATEUSZ DZIEDZIC enlevé le 12 Octobre 2014 en RCA.

Le Président de la République remercie sincèrement tous ceux qui de près ou de loin ont œuvré pour cet heureux dénouement.

Il salue tout particulièrement à cet égard, la contribution appréciable de S.E.M. Denis SASSOU NGUESSO, Président de la République du Congo et Médiateur dans la crise centrafricaine.

Le Président de la République félicite chaleureusement les forces de défense et de sécurité camerounaises pour leur bravoure et leur dévouement et réitère sa détermination à continuer à promouvoir la résolution pacifique des crises et des conflits dans la sous-région et à œuvrer sans relâche à la préservation

de la paix, de la stabilité et de la sécurité du Cameroun, gages de la prospérité et du bien-être de nos populations.

Yaoundé, le 26 NOV 2014

**Le Ministre, Secrétaire Général
de la Présidence de la République,**



Ferdinand NGOH NGOH



**15th Summit of the International Organization
of the Francophonie (OIF)
Speech by H.E. Paul BIYA,
President of the Republic of Cameroon**

(Dakar, 29-30 November 2014)



**Mr Chairman of the Conference,
Heads of State, Government and Delegation,
The Secretary-General of the International
Organization of La Francophonie,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have long known that the world is unfair. We also know that overcoming poverty and exclusion will require much time and effort.

We equally know that the world is a dangerous place and that trouble can break out at any time in the form of civil or foreign war, ethnic or religious rivalry, oppression of the population by factions, you name it.

Faced with these challenges, one may wonder what more our Organization can do.

The answer will be that it is already greatly involved in the preservation of peace and the furtherance of democracy and human rights. Mention will also be made of its role in the defence of solidarity between nations and its support for education and training. That is true. And on that score, I wish to heartily congratulate my brother and friend, President Abdou DIOUF, for all the remarkable work he has done.

I simply wish to say that lately, we have been facing new challenges.

The first of these challenges concerns our security. Hitherto, we had to deal with local conflicts whose consequences rarely went beyond the sub-region. Today, we are threatened by a multifaceted global destabilization campaign. From the offensive in Iraq and Syria, it has spread its tentacles right to Mali and to the entire Sahel zone in recent years. It is also threatening the whole world through terrorism.

For instance, I would like to draw your attention to the situation in my country which is currently facing attacks from the Boko Haram sect. I will mention in passing that all of Nigeria's immediate neighbours are OIF members and just like Cameroon, are concerned.

Faced with a common "enemy" who rebuffs every value we hold dear, solidarity must come fully into play. Recent history teaches us that there can be no compromise with such an opponent.

I need not say that we remain determined advocates of peace. We will not give up the "dialogue of cultures" so dear to President SENGHOR, champion of universal brotherhood.

Secondly, I believe that the spirit of solidarity existing between us must be kept up in the area of development. We are aware that the Millennium Development Goals scheduled to end next year will not be achieved. The Post-2015 Agenda will take over.

Making up for lost time is an imperative. There is no other way to roll back poverty which is a breeding ground for extremism and revolt.

To that end, OIF's new strategic framework will be a precious asset. By advocating for more active solidarity towards least developed countries, our Organization will contribute towards reducing inequalities between the North and the South.

I would like to add that if women and youth, who make up three quarters of the population of most of our countries, have equal access to health, education and training as OIF is striving to ensure, we would have made great strides towards progress in our societies. Therefore, the theme chosen for our 15th Summit, namely "Women and Youth in La Francophonie: vectors of peace, actors of development" is apt. In this regard, we will focus on the aspirations of women and youth through concrete programmes and projects. By so doing, we will be providing women and youth with the wherewithal to combat poverty, hunger and disease. "This new frontier" is fully in line with our Organization's humanist tradition.

Besides these fundamental tasks, many other issues require our in-put, not least among which is environmental protection.

The countries of the Central African sub-region feel that by preserving the great Congo basin forest, they contribute significantly towards reducing greenhouse gases. Hence, they are pleased that China and the United States of America seem to have embarked on that. This augurs well for next year's Paris Conference on Climate. The situation of Lake Chad is another cause for concern to us. We are almost helplessly watching its tragic progressive disappearance. In addition, there are security and socio-political challenges. The Paris Conference should work towards establishing a Lake Chad rescue plan. It is a suggestion.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that our Organization has what it takes to be in the vanguard of the international community. To continue to be a veritable think tank, it should remain true to its values and be bold enough to adapt to an ever-changing world.

In these threat-filled times when barbarism is once again raising its ugly head, OIF must show that the destiny of humankind lies in a future of brotherhood and tolerance, and not one of hatred and violence.

I would now like to thank the Senegalese authorities and people for their warm welcome and brotherly hospitality on the occasion of the 15th Summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie.

Thank you for your attention.



Council of Ministers Meeting Special Statement by the Head of State

Unity Palace, december 9th 2014



**- Mr Prime Minister;
- Ministers;**

The Emergency Plan that has just been presented takes up my recommendations to accelerate our economic growth and improve the living conditions of the people.

One could, of course, regret that the Plan took so long in coming. However, I can understand that it required time to choose the best options in order to lay a solid foundation.

That said, there are a number of points I would like to underscore.

The Emergency Plan is a special programme comprising measures and projects aimed at addressing the immediate needs of the people. It will be implemented nationwide over a three-year period.

It should be noted that the Emergency Plan is different from our growth and employment strategy which remains our development “compass”. It also does not overlap with ministerial roadmaps which must continue to be implemented with the required diligence and rigour.

I commend the readiness of the banking sector to finance the Emergency Plan. I hail the Government for the seriousness with which it conducted the negotiations to the point of final agreements and for its efforts to obtain the best possible terms.

I expect the same seriousness in the award of contracts to enterprises. You must make sure the enterprises have the financial and technical capacity to fulfil their commitments. On that score, I appeal for vigilance by each and every one of you, in particular the Ministry in charge of public contracts and the relevant control entities.

Generally, expenditure under the Emergency Plan must comply with the financial package authorized for each operation. The financial cost of the Plan must indeed remain compatible with public finance equilibrium and debt management.

In that respect, I wish to once more draw your attention to the need to rationalize spending and improve its quality in an international context marked by scarce financial resources.

In fact, it has unfortunately come to my notice that the quality of public spending has continued to

deteriorate with, notably, an increase in unnecessary expenditure. I will give a few examples:

- the unbridled increase in expenditure on goods and services;
- the excessive increase in missions, especially abroad;
- the proliferation of inappropriate committees and projects ; and the excessive increase in subsidies.

Such a situation calls for moderation and rationalization.

I enjoin the government to streamline spending by blocking expenditures on goods and services, and drastically cutting mission expenses as well as vehicle and fuel purchases.

These guidelines will help to leverage resources which could be better used to finance our major projects and improve the living conditions of Cameroonians.

They will be a continuation of actions already undertaken such as the reform of oil price subsidies which, as everyone knows, helped us to generate substantial resources.

I am pleased to note that the recent triennial assessment report of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper reached the same conclusion.

“The spirit of reform” must become a constant in the attitude of ministers and government services.

Concerning the Emergency Plan proper, we have a peculiar challenge ahead of us.

It is first of all an efficiency test for you and your services. Within a limited period of three years, you are expected to deliver specific results using the financial resources allocated to you.

Your responsibility, in the strict sense of the word, will also be put to test as the country’s economic progress and the well-being of our fellow citizens will depend on the success of your actions.

You will also have to act fast in order to strictly comply with prescribed timeframes and give full meaning to the Emergency Plan.

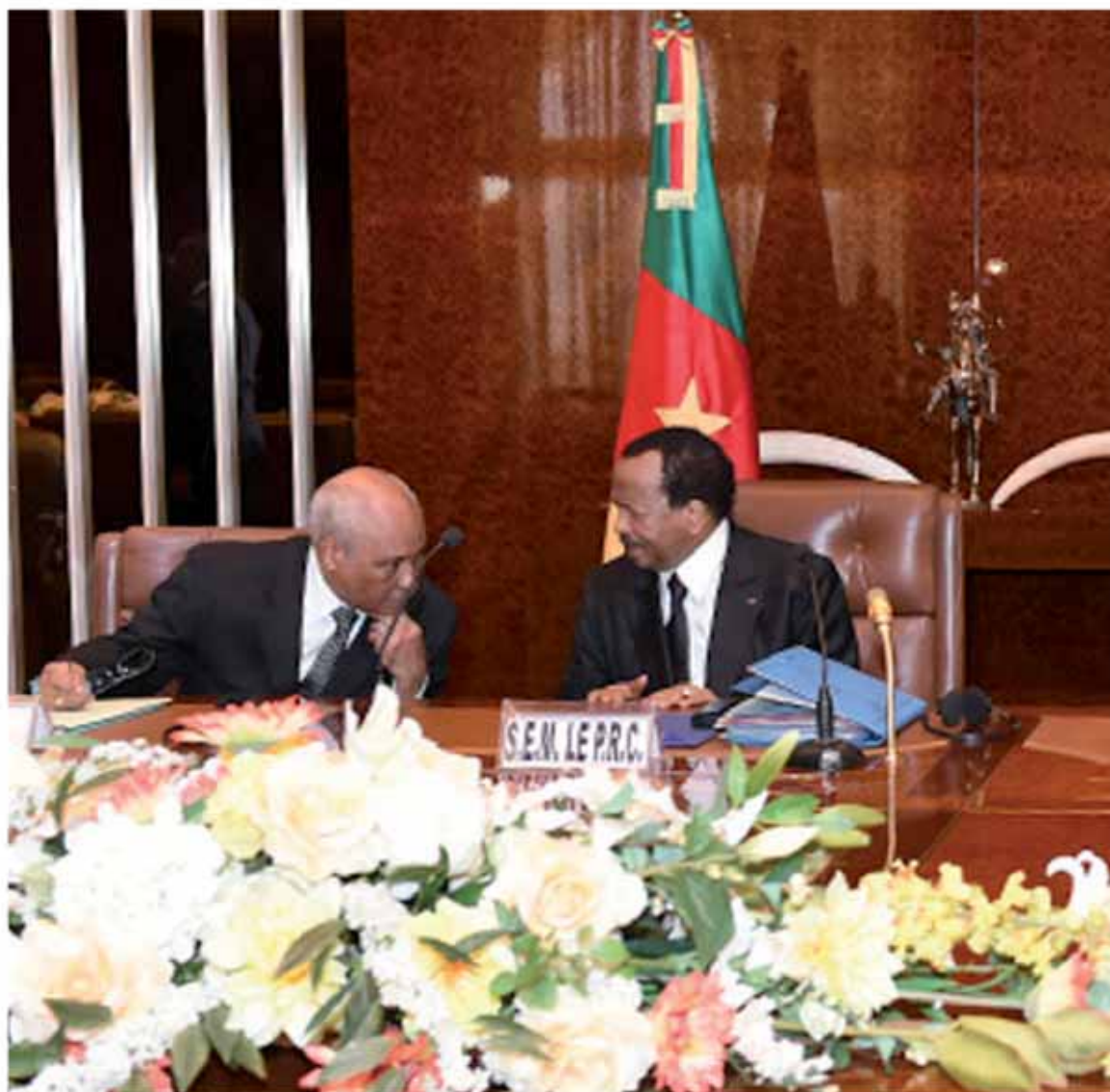
Lastly, I wish to draw your attention to the financial resources which will be put at your disposal. They must be managed with utmost rigour and their allocation

scrupulously respected. The monitoring and supervision committee will see to this. You must bear in mind that the loans we have contracted must be repaid and their value depends on the benefits of the projects under your responsibility.

The success of the Emergency Plan will be assessed in light of its impact in improving our economic growth and the living conditions of Cameroonians.

I trust that you will do everything in your power to meet the challenge. Such is the sacrifice we must make in order to meet the deep aspirations of the Cameroonian people.

Thank you for your attention.



The Head of State preside the High Magistrature Council at the Unity Palace

Unity Palace, december 18th 2014



Head of State's New Year message to the nation

Yaounde, 31 December 2014

**Fellow Cameroonians,
My dear compatriots,**

It was our hope, following a period of intensive political activity, that as 2014 was not an election year, we would be free to devote ourselves primarily to reviving our economic growth which, as you are aware, is a prerequisite for improving the living conditions of our populations.

Such was not exactly the case owing to the escalation of attacks against our national territory by the Boko Haram sect. Besides this, there were the criminal activities of armed gangs on our border with the Central African Republic.

Initially, the Boko Haram terrorist organization carried out raids to seize isolated hostages or loot public or private property.

Buoyed by their grip on north-eastern Nigeria, the so-called “jihadists” launched major attacks on the Far-North Region of our country, for instance, the attack on the workers’ camp of a Chinese company at Waza and the raid on Kolofata, resulting in several deaths and the abduction of many hostages.

This could not be tolerated. We therefore set up a response and prevention mechanism which quickly

proved its worth. Since then, Boko Haram has suffered heavy human and material losses in each of its attacks. It is hoped that they would learn their lesson.

At this juncture, I would like to pay glowing tribute to our defence forces whose valour has been demonstrated in recent fighting.

I have had occasion to say that the Nation as a whole ought to mobilize and rally behind its defence forces.

Such seems to be the case by all accounts from our regions. I have most particularly appreciated the stance of our Muslim compatriots. They, like all the other Cameroonians, have clearly understood that this war is by no means based on religion. They have clearly understood that it is a response to external aggression by a terrorist organization that does not subscribe to the values of a fraternal society.

My dear compatriots,

The growing threats on our borders have prompted us to take measures to safeguard against their effects on our internal security. Such is the purport of the law on the suppression of terrorism which Parliament recently passed by a large majority. It is far from serving as a pretext for restricting civil liberties, as claimed by

some ill-intentioned people. Besides, the instrument is very clear on this point.

Furthermore, faced with an upsurge in terrorist activities, most leading democratic countries have in recent years passed new laws to prevent terrorism. By so doing, they have complied with the recommendations of international organizations, particularly the United Nations and the African Union. Such is what we deemed appropriate to do. Therefore, our objective is to safeguard against any terrorist-related risk as far as possible. Every State not only has the right, but also the duty to protect its citizens. I am convinced that the vast majority of our compatriots do understand.

I would also like to recall here that Cameroon is not the only country facing this threat which knows no boundaries. Some of our neighbouring countries, namely Benin, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, are collaborating with us to form a united front against Boko Haram.

The United Nations Organization and several big powers, particularly the United States of America, Germany, France, Russia and China, also back us. I will be revisiting this issue before long.

It goes without saying that mobilizing the required resources for our defence means additional spending.

As you are aware, the situation in the Central African Republic also warrants our vigilance on our eastern border. We are forced to host tens of thousands of refugees from this brotherly country. I take this opportunity to commend the valuable assistance we are receiving from humanitarian organizations. It is clear that our duty-bound solidarity has an impact on the budget. But, we must also understand that security has a price.

My dear compatriots,

As I said at the onset, we were obliged to prioritize the defence of the national territory, for, there can be no peace without security and no development without peace. Nonetheless, we have not relented in our efforts to revive growth. Now that our democratic institutions are fully functional, growth is the focus of our policy. As I stated earlier on, our growth is a prerequisite for a strong economy and, hence, our capacity to roll back poverty and progress towards emergence.

A quick evaluation of our economic programme shows that our first-generation major projects are either completed, nearing completion, or on track. Such is the case, in particular, for the Kribi Gas-fired Plant and Port, dams and hydroelectric power plants, as well as some road and various infrastructure projects.

Thanks to these projects, there is renewed activity in various sectors of our economy. The impact on employment and the improvement of living conditions is also visible. The year 2015 should therefore be characterized by the launching of second-generation projects in the energy, water, road and highway and transport sectors.

My dear compatriots,

Most of the major undertakings announced in my address on 31 December 2013 have been fulfilled.

1. We celebrated the FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CAMEROON'S REUNIFICATION last February in Buea with all the necessary pomp and solemnity. The town of Buea, which has been provided with various infrastructure, has been completely transformed. The impact of this celebration was also felt in neighbouring towns. This key moment of national unity is a milestone in our history.

2. I also promised substantial improvements in the health domain. These are now realities. Malaria treatment for children aged below five is now free. Our health map now comprises three new referral hospitals: the Yaounde National Emergency Centre, the Douala Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Paediatric Hospital and the Sangmelima Referral Hospital.

3. The employment spin-offs of our growth policy which I referred to a while ago have been confirmed. In 2014, 283 443 new jobs were created against 250 000 projected, as you would recall.

4. You would also recall that I underscored the need for Cameroon to have a viable emergency plan for the coming years. This announcement as well has been translated into reality. The said plan was adopted and launched during the Council of Ministers meeting held on 9 December. I will come back to this later.

My dear compatriots,

Should we be content with these results which can objectively be considered positive? Substantial progress has been achieved as confirmed by the recent triennial appraisal report on the implementation of the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper. That being the case, I will simply say that we can and should do even better. I am convinced, as I pointed out last year under the same circumstances, that we must increase our growth rate at all costs. Are we sure we have done all we can?

Take the case of investment for instance, which has so far been largely initiated by the State and reserved especially for anchor and social projects. Public Investment Budget allocations have increased

considerably in recent years. In 2014, they represented about one-third of the overall budget, or approximately CFAF 1 000 (one thousand) billion. This is commendable. However, in terms of execution, there are hurdles and project implementation is often slowed down. I decried such under-utilization of budgetary appropriations. As you know, our needs are obvious and urgent. I am pleased to note that this year, there has been a marked improvement in contract execution rates which should increasingly match commitment rates.

Although in 2013 the public authorities, through Parliament, adopted major incentives for private investment, the latter still seems unable to take over from the State.

However, there seems to be progress in this direction among local and foreign entrepreneurs thanks largely to awareness-raising campaigns by investment promotion bodies. This is proven by the recent signing of 13 agreements in the Ministry of Industry, worth CFAF 180 billion.

I want to believe this is just the beginning. We do need an ambitious industrial policy. There can be no great country without industry. Even agriculture, which I love to say is the principal source of our wealth, is also expected to go “industrial”.

It is understandable that the implementation of our major iron and bauxite mining projects, whose ultimate goal also is industrialization, is dragging as such projects are complex. Conversely, there is no plausible reason for our slowness in developing industries to process our agricultural commodities.

Besides the benefits we could derive in terms of value added and employment, local processing will contribute towards rebalancing our foreign trade which is showing a structural deficit.

In fact, our trade balance is characterized by a significant import surplus against exports which largely depend on the sale of three or four commodities whose prices are unstable. Our imports, for their part, mostly concern manufactured products, notably capital goods for our major projects. Obviously, it is difficult for us to restrict our purchase of capital goods. That, we understand. On the other hand, we should be able to limit the importation of the commodities we are able to produce.

These remarks which I am compelled to make once more reflect the difficulty we are facing moving from a State-dominated economy to a more liberal system which is now the rule. The situation is such that sometimes we suffer the disadvantages of both systems.

This, to me, explains the resistance to structural reforms which is stifling our growth revival efforts.

Some of these reforms concern our governance, particularly public finance. Significant progress has been made in this area and needs to be consolidated by ensuring budget sustainability, reducing subsidies as much as possible and reviewing the tax base. On the whole, our administration would stand to benefit by streamlining its procedures and, as I said recently and instructed, cutting down on its spending.

My dear compatriots,

To jumpstart our growth, I have instructed the Government to implement a three-year “emergency plan”. Its objective is to achieve visible progress and measurable improvements in vital areas such as urban development, health, agriculture, roads, energy, low-cost housing and security. I expect the said plan to meet the most urgent needs of our populations nationwide.

This initiative is different from our Growth and Employment Strategy which will continue to be implemented by the Government. About CFAF 1 000 (one thousand) billion will be allocated to the plan. The implementation of this plan will determine whether we are capable of meeting the challenge whose outline and timeframe we have ourselves defined.

Of course, it is crucial for our country to meet this challenge. We have the wherewithal.

My dear compatriots,

In a few hours, you will be happily celebrating New Year's Day.

However, before that, let us spare a thought for our soldiers who have fallen defending our Fatherland. Let us spare a thought for those securing our borders, their grieving or anxious families and our compatriots who are suffering physical and psychological pain.

I would now like to extend to you all my best wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year.

Happy and prosperous New Year 2015!

BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

A Singular Destiny

His Excellency Paul BIYA was born on 13 February 1933 in Mvoméka'a, in the District of Meyomessala, Département of Dja-et-Lobo in the Southern Region. He was born to Etienne MVONDO ASSAM and Anastasie EYENGA ELLE.

H.E. Paul BIYA is the second Head of State of Cameroon. He came to power on 6 November 1982 following the resignation of President Ahmadou AHIDJO.

Primary and Secondary Education

- First School Leaving Certificate: June 1948 (Catholic School of Nden).
- Pre-Seminary at Saint Tharcissius in Edéa (1948-1950).
- Minor Seminary of Akono (1950-1954).
- GCE Ordinary Level: June 1953.
- Lycée Général Leclerc (1954-1956).
- GCE Advanced Level Part 1: June 1955.
- GCE Advanced Level Part 2 (Philosophy Stream): June 1956.

Higher Education

- Lycée Louis Le Grand de Paris;

- Paris-Sorbonne University (Faculty of Law);
- Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Paris Institute for Political Studies);
- Institut des Hautes Études d'Outre-Mer (Institute for Advanced Overseas Studies).

Degrees

H.E. Paul BIYA holds the following degrees:

1960: Bachelor's degree in Public Law;

1961: Diploma of the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Paris Institute for Political Studies);

1962: Diploma of the Institut des Hautes Études d'Outre-Mer (Institute for Advanced Overseas Studies - IHEOM);

1963: Master's degree in Public Law.

Decorations

- Grand Master of the National Orders;
- Commander of the National Order of exceptional class (Federal Republic of Germany);
- Commander of the National Order (Tunisia);
- Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit of Senegal;
- Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour (France);
- Great Commander of the Medal of St-George (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- Grand Collar of the Order of Wissam Mohammadi (Morocco);

- Great Commander of the Order of Nigeria (Federal Republic of Nigeria);
- Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Maryland (USA);
- Professor Emeritus of Beijing University (People's Republic of China);
- H.E. Paul BIYA holds several decorations from various other countries.

Career

- October 1962

Mr Paul BIYA is appointed Chargé de mission (Special Adviser) at the Presidential Office upon his return from Paris.

- January 1964

Mr Paul BIYA is appointed Director of the Office of the Minister of National Education, Youth and Culture.

- July 1965

Mr Paul BIYA is appointed Secretary General of the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Culture.

- December 1967

Mr Paul BIYA is appointed Director of the Civil Cabinet of the President of the Republic.

- January 1968

While keeping the position of Director of the Civil Cabinet, Mr BIYA is appointed Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic.

- August 1968

Mr Paul BIYA is appointed Minister, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic.

- June 1970

Mr Paul BIYA is appointed Minister of State, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic.

- June 1975

Mr Paul BIYA is appointed Prime Minister of the United Republic of Cameroon.

- June 1979

Law No. 79/02 of 29 June 1979 designates the Prime Minister as the constitutional successor to President of the Republic.

- 6 November 1982

Following the resignation of President Ahmadou AHIDJO on 4 November 1982, Mr Paul BIYA is sworn in as President of the United Republic of Cameroon, the second president in the history of the country.

This ceremony takes place at the National Assembly, before the representatives of the people.

At the time of his accession to the presidency, Mr Paul BIYA is the first Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Cameroon National Union (CNU) and Member of the Political Bureau of the Party.

- He was elected President of the Republic on 14 January 1984, then re-elected on 24 April, 1988, 11 October 1992 (first presidential election by universal

suffrage with multiple candidacies in Cameroon), 11 October 1997, 10 October, 2004 and 9 October 2011.

- He was elected Chairman of the Cameroon National Union on 14 September 1984.
- He was elected Chairman of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement after the UNC was turned into the CPDM on 24 March 1985 in BAMENDA.

By enacting the law on associations and political parties on 19 December 1990, Mr Paul BIYA also restored multiparty in Cameroon (the country was living in the one-party system since 1966).

To date, more than 200 political parties are legalised. The CPDM won with an absolute majority in the parliamentary elections of March 1997, June 2002, July 2007 and September 2013.

Despite these victories, the President of the Republic has always chosen to form governments based on a policy of openness.

Four parties are represented in the Government: the CPDM, UNDP, ANDP and FNSC. Five parties are represented in the National Assembly: the CPDM, UNDP, SDF, UDC and the MRC.

Publications

Mr Paul BIYA is the author of a political essay, **"Communal Liberalism"**, published by Marcel Perez, Lausanne, 1987.

This book has been translated into English, German and Hebrew. In this book, the Head of State announces the advent of the multiparty system (which became effective in 1990) after the provisional ruling of the one-party system. He explains his choice for economic liberalism and private initiative while promoting national solidarity, equitable distribution of the products of growth, social justice, the emergence of a culture of inventiveness and the harmonious coexistence of the values of the various communities that make up the nation. He finally reaffirms the need to modernise the State and maintain cooperative relations with other countries.

On the eve of the presidential election of 1997, he granted a lengthy interview to Charles NDONGO, Journalist at the Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV). This interview was published under the title: **"Un nouvel élan" (A New Impetus)**.

He is also the co-author of **"L'émergence de l'Afrique" (The Emergence of Africa)**, published by Le Cherche Midi, Paris, 2010.

Married Life

His Excellency Paul BIYA is married to Chantal Pulchérie BIYA. He is the father of three children: Frank BIYA, Paul BIYA Junior and Anastasie Brenda BIYA EYENGA.

