

**PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE  
DU CAMEROUN**  
Cabinet Civil



**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF CAMEROON**  
Civil Cabinet



**Participation of H.E. Paul BIYA,  
President of the Republic of Cameroon,  
At the 71st Ordinary Session of the  
UN General Assembly**

**(New York 18 - 26 September 2016)**

**Press Kit**



# CAMEROON - UNITED NATIONS COOPERATION

## I) Landmarks

- 20 September 1960: Cameroon's admission into the United Nations (UN).
- President of the Republic: His Excellency Paul BIYA.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: H.E Lejeune MBELLA MBELLA.
- Permanent Representative of Cameroon to the United Nations in New York: Ambassador Michel TOMMO MONTHE.
- Resident Coordinator of the UN System and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Cameroon: Her Excellency Najat Rochdi (a Moroccan), since 14 May 2013.

## II) Cameroon-UN Cooperation

Cameroon has maintained excellent and cordial ties with the UN since its admission into the organisation on 20 September 1960. Historic and privileged ties bind Cameroon to the UN.

Our country is considered "a UN pupil," because of the essential role played by this organisation towards Cameroon's attainment of international sovereignty, from 1945 to 1960.

This cooperation witnessed a high point in recent years, with the peaceful settlement (one such model) of the Bakassi conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria under the auspices of the United Nations.

### a) Status of Cameroon before independence : under

the mandate of the League of Nations (LN) and supervised by the Trusteeship Council of the UN.

### b) Fundamental values defended in the United Nations :

peace, international solidarity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

### c) Basic objectives :

- Strengthen Cameroon's image on the international stage ;
- Ensure that Cameroon's position is clearly stated on the issues discussed and addressed in resolutions adopted ;
- Consolidate friendship and solidarity with other countries of the world ;

To this end, Cameroon's interest is focused on :

- Promoting the country's image ;
- Safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the State ;
- Participating in some UN bodies ;
- Hosting several sub-regional structures ;
- The presence of Cameroonian employees in the organisation.

### d) Participation in the main organs :

#### ➤ General Assembly

#### Highlights :

- 1969: President Ahmadou Ahidjo was nominated by his African peers to present the Lusaka Manifesto on behalf of Africa at the United Nations General Assembly. The former Head of State of Cameroon subsequently participated in three different sessions of the UN General Assembly.

On these occasions he will reiterate among others, the commitment of the people of Cameroon with

countries of the frontline (Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana etc.) and black South Africans; victims of the Apartheid.

- The Head of State, H.E Paul Biya has actively participated in major international meetings held at the UN headquarters in New York (1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010). On these occasions he initiated indelible ideas considered as Cameroon's labels: World Ethics Committee; Hunger Observatory; and Active Solidarity.

- In addition, President Paul Biya's personal enthusiasm towards a peaceful resolution of the Bakassi case by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), under the auspices of the United Nations, reflects his commitment to respect international law. It also demonstrates the continued commitment of Cameroonians for peace, dialogue and good neighbourliness. It can therefore serve as an example.

- Cameroon occupied the Vice-Presidency of the 63rd and 64th Sessions of the UN General Assembly.
- Cameroon was a member of the Council for Human Rights (subsidiary) from 2006 to 2009 and was re-elected in 2009 for a three-year term which ended in December 2012.

#### ► Economic and Social Council

##### Highlights :

- Cameroon chaired the bureau of the council as a first-term member in 2001. The third term expired in May 2014.
- Currently, Cameroon sits on several committees and specialised agencies:
  - Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) of UNESCO;
  - Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) of UNESCO;
  - Executive Council of the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO);
  - Board of Directors of the Universal Postal Union (UPU);
  - Board of Directors of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
  - Board of Directors of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO);
  - Board of Directors of the United Nations Devel-

opment Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA);

- Executive Council of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO);
- Commission on Social Development (ECOSOC);
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) under which the Central Africa Regional Office is hosted by Cameroon;
- Board of UNICEF;
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ECOSOC);
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) - (ECOSOC);
- Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Board of UNIDO;
- Board of Governors of the IAEA; etc.

#### ► Security Council

##### Key fact :

- Cameroon has served as a non-permanent member of the Security Council (1974 to 1975, and from 2002 to 2003).

#### ► Trusteeship Council

As a trust territory of the United Nations, Cameroon had to benefit, as part of this body, actions of the Organisation including the organisation of a referendum on self-determination in the Western part of the country.

#### e) Visits of high officials of the United Nations System in Cameroon

The Secretaries General and Presidents of the General Assembly

The current Secretary General, H.E. Ban KI-MOON paid an official visit to Cameroon from 9 to 11 June 2010.

Former Secretary General, H.E. Kofi ANNAN paid three visits to Cameroon (2000, 2002 and 2005).

The President of the 64th session of the General Assembly Ali TRIKI paid a visit to Cameroon in May 2010. His successor Joseph DEISS also visited Cam-



eroon (27 to 29 January 2011).

Other high-profiled personalities of the UN system have visited Cameroon.

For example: Koichiro MATSUURA, Director General of UNESCO (9 January 2009) ; Antonio GUTERRES, High Commissioner of UNHCR (2 to 4 March 2010, and 24 and 25 March 2015) ; Kanayo F. NWANZE, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in 2006 and on 29 February to 3 March 2012) ; Olivier de SCHUTTER, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in July 2012; Irina BOKOVA, Director General of UNESCO (15 to 16 September 2014) ; Mukhisa KUTIYI, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

- UNCTAD (19 to 21 May 2016), Helen CLARK, Administrator of the UNDP (29 to 30 August 2016).

#### **f) Cameroonians in the United Nations System**

Several Cameroonians hold or have held top positions in the UN system. For example:

- Florence ARREY, elected in February 2012, Vice President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR);  
- Simon MUNZU, appointed on 7 October 2014 by Ban KI-MOON, Deputy Special Representative of UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI);  
- Victor KISOB, Director of Management's Learning, Development and Human Resource Service Division of the Secretariat.

- Jean Victor NKOLO (P-5) UN Department of Public Information, Spokesman of the President of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly and re-appointed to the post for the 65th session. Appointed Head of Communication to the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary General for Africa on 6 January 2012.

- Sammy Kum BUO, Director of the West Africa Division (Department of Political Affairs at the General Secretariat) allowed to claim his pension rights in 2012;

In addition, other senior officials were also elected or appointed to positions within certain universal organisations. These include: Antoine MANGA

MASSINA as Director of Tariff and Trade Affairs at the World Customs Organisation (November 2007 to 24 April 2010); Emmanuel ZE MEKA as Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organisation

- ITTO (2007 to 2015); Emmanuel KALNGUI, re-elected member of the Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf (CLCS) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for a five-year term in July 2012 (2nd term); and Vera SONGWE, Director of Operations of the World Bank for Senegal, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania (2011-August 2015), currently serving as Resident Representative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Senegal.

Cameroonians occupied important UN positions in the past. For example:

- Michel DOOH KINGUE, Director General of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) - (1983-1992);  
- Claude ONDOBO, UNESCO Director of Development and Communication (1991-2002);  
- Jacques BOOH BOOH, Personal Representative of the UN Secretary General in Rwanda;  
- Bernard MUNA, Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda – ICTR (1997 to 2002);  
- Benjamin Itoe MUTANGA, Judge at the UN Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone (2002 to 2009);  
- ENGO Bamela, Judge at the Court of Law of the Sea;  
- Amos Namanga NGONGI, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC and Head of MONUC (21 September 2001 to 1 July 2003). He currently holds a position at the UN headquarters in New York.

### **III - Cooperation with the UN system in Cameroon**

#### **a) Development**

The UN System in Cameroon is comprised of 18 agencies (WB, UNECA, UNIC, FAO, IMF, OHCHR, UNHCR, ILO, WHO, UNIDO, UNAIDS, WFP, UNDP, ITU, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM).

A new roadmap of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (2013 to 2017); a

key instrument of the reform of the UN System, was signed on 30 March 2012. It constitutes the reference framework of all UN System interventions in our country for the duration of the aforementioned cooperation cycle.

UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) proceeded to the signing of their respective Country Programme and Action Plan on 2 April 2013.

This signing marks a significant step in the implementation of an agenda for a reform of the UN System in Cameroon. It is part of the logic of the Paris Declaration, and in line with the harmonisation and simplification advocated by the UN Secretary General and supported by the Government of Cameroon.

UNDP helps Cameroon to develop and share solutions to problems related to the following questions: democratic governance; poverty reduction at the base; crisis prevention and recovery; environment and energy.

UNDP is also helping Cameroon to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

On 30 June 2010 the UN action in Cameroon was felt through the financing and implementation of the following programs:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): US\$ 21.344 million over 5 years (2008-2012) ;  
World Bank (IBRD/IDA): 12 IDA and GEF projects;

3 Projects of Regional Operations; 6 projects of the Trust Fund ;  
International Monetary Fund (IMF) : Cameroon has agreed with the IMF seven (7) credit agreements for a total of US\$ 530.57 million of special Drawing Rights (SDRs) since 19 September 1988 (signing of the first stand-by credit agreement).

The success of the 5th economic program was crowned on 28 April 2006 with the attainment of the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative - HIPC, which resulted in a substantial reduction of Cameroon's debt of about FCFA 1,402 billion decided by the Paris Club.

World Health Organisation (WHO): WHO provides financial support to various health programmes in Cameroon.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO): Cooperation with Cameroon is marked by the approval of the Sustainable Industrial Development Integrated Programme in Cameroon.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO): Cameroon enjoys funding in the areas of primary and secondary education, higher education, science, technology and the environment, culture, communication, and cross-disciplinary programmes.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) : The FAO granted 21 projects to Cameroon recently.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): The programme of cooperation between Cameroon and UNFPA, focused primarily on women and young people. It aims to improve the quality of life and well-being of Cameroonians through : the promotion of quality services in the areas of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS ; and to promote an enabling environment for gender equality and gender equity.

The World Food Programme (WFP): completed or ongoing projects: School Feeding Project, Emergency Projects: drought in the north, Rapid Action Project: Food Security in the Far North Region, Emergency Project: Support for flood victims in Limbe, and an Assistance to Nigerian refugees in the Adamawa and Northwest regions, etc.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): the Action Plan of the current country programme comprises the following sub programmes; Young Child Survival, Basic Education, and Child Protection. It also has a transversal programme on social policy and partnership.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): In total, seven projects have been funded by this institution. In May 2009, IFAD granted Cameroon a loan of US\$ 13.5 million and a grant of US\$ 0.2 million for the project to support the development of micro rural finance, which will help reduce poverty, increase income and improve

the living conditions of poor people in rural areas.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) : The ILO is funding and monitoring many projects in partnership with donors. These include: the US\$ 420,000 education programme on HIV/AIDS in partnership with the UN ; the US\$ 2,448,270 project on the “Promotion of decent work through economic empowerment of communities vulnerable to ICTs”; and the US\$ 649,000 sub-regional project against child trafficking for purposes of exploitation in Central West Africa in partnership with the United States of America; etc.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU): ITU’s achievements are many in our country. These include: the implementation of the first telecommunications plan in Cameroon; the study of connecting 200 villages; the establishment of public key infrastructure valued at FCFA 200 million; support studies on Telemedicine and e-commerce; the development of a Posts and Telecommunications strategy etc.

#### **b) Peace and collective security**

Cameroon’s opinion has often been sought especially during decolonisation, apartheid, internal crises in some brotherly countries, disputes between our countries and other African countries or conflicts between States.

Indeed, thanks to the strong commitment of the Head of State, H.E Paul Biya, in favour of a peaceful resolution of the Bakassi crises by the ICJ, Cameroon has preserved its territorial integrity and sovereignty over a disputed part of its territory. The implementation of the ICJ decision was followed by a series of tripartite meetings with the UN Secretary General as a key player.

Our country is home to several sub-regional offices of the United Nations: the Sub-regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHRD-CA) - (created under the leadership of Cameroon); the Sub-Regional Centre of the United Nations Information; etc.

Cameroon has participated in a number of UN peace-keeping operations, Cambodia (1992), Koso-

vo, and now in Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire (2004), CAR, DRC, Haiti and Sudan, etc.

On the sub-regional level, Cameroon has invested significantly in the implementation of UN and African Union (AU) Resolutions on security issues in Central Africa. Thus Cameroon is at the initiative of the creation of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX).

A summit of Heads of State and Government of EC-CAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (CGG) was held in Yaounde on 24 to 25 June 2013, for the adoption of strategic documents to maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea.

This was guided by the framework on the implementation of Resolution 2039 (2012) of the UN Security Council. On 16 February 2015 a special session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of COPAX was held in Yaounde. It was dedicated to the adoption of a sub-regional strategy on fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram. In this context, Cameroon has provided a contingent of 2,450 soldiers to the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to suppress Boko Haram.

Created in 2008, the International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) of Awae has as mission to educate, train, and develop the Police, Gendarmes and Civilians of the African continent in areas related to security and support operations for peace.

Furthermore, Cameroon was actively involved in the development and implementation of a binding instrument in controlling the flow of small arms and light weapons in our sub-region at the 30th session of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC) held in Kinshasa (DRC) in April 2010.

Cameroon chaired the Conference on Disarmament (CD) - (3 August to 24 September 2010). Thus our country had the honour to present this institution’s Activity Report to the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.





## CAMEROON : A REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE KEEPING IN THE WORLD

recommendations for furthering such progress.

Cameroon has always taken an active part in Peace-Keeping Operations (PKO) initiated by both the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU).

The different Cameroonian contingents were often made up of military, police, military observers and others. The participation of Cameroon's Defense Forces (CDF) in Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) at times takes the individual form, at times the collective form, with respect to the strategic, operational and / or tactical level of (PKO).

Overall, the participation of (CDF) in (PKO) in Africa is quite often individual, as was the case in Darfur (Sudan), Angola, DRC, Rwanda, CAR, Ivory Coast and Mali.

In these cases, many warrant officers and officers of (CDF) were sent on request of the UN and / or the AU as observers.

They often meet at the operational and even at the strategic level, either because of their individual skills, or through seats reserved for Cameroon.

In 1955, a contingent of 20 Cameroonian soldiers intervened in South Kivu (DRC) at the request of the High Commissioner of Refugees. Thereafter, groups of 03, then 05 officers also intervened in Rwanda and the DRC as observers in 1995.

A staff officer of our forces also participated in the United Nations mission in Congo (UNMC), which ensures the implementation of peace agreement in the country.

Furthermore, the Cameroonian government has

placed at the disposal of the United Nations Mission in Central African Republic (UNMCAR), on the 8th of February 1999, a staff for the training of civilian police.

At expiration of the mandate of the (UNMCAR), in February 2000, a Cameroonian senior officer was occupying the head of training of the civilian police, function that was maintained within the framework of support office of the United Nations for the Consolidation of Peace in Central African Republic (SOUNCPCA).

In July 2009, another element of the (CDF) held the position of senior officer for logistics within the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM).

Cameroonian Defense Forces responded by contingents of four officers on behalf of the AU in South Sudan within the framework of «Darfur DESK» (operations monitoring program for the benefit of the AU).

From 2005, contingents of 10, then of 20 observers succeeded one other. Since the transition from African Union Mission in Sudan (AUMS) to the United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNMD), they are groups of 05 officers in relays.

In Ethiopia, a Cameroonian officer was part of the staff of the African Standby Force (ASF), and since 2003 in Ivory Coast; another one is part of the staff of the United Nations mission in Ivory Coast (UNMIC) serving as a military representative of the President of the AU Commission.

One can recall that Cameroonian police were of the humanitarian mission in Goma (actual DRC) between 1994 and 1998 - 2000, and later in the

framework of the (UNMC), in the DRC in 2006.

Cameroon also participated in peace-keeping missions in Cambodia, Haiti, etc.

The case of CAR is even more remarkable. In point of fact, since 2008, Cameroon is present in CAR alongside other ECCAS countries for the mission of peace building in the country. It is a contingent of 107 people in addition to the 4 staff officers, 12 support staff and the Chief of Staff.

And since June 2013, within the framework of the international support Mission in Central African Republic under African leadership (ISMCA) decided upon by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (PSCAU), Cameroon still sent 517 soldiers and 320 policemen, given a total of 837 elements.

In recognition of the professionalism of the Cameroonian army, two Cameroonian generals succeeded one another at the head of these CAR missions. In 2009, Brigadier General Hector Marie Tchemo was commander of the (UNMCAR) and since 2013; the General Tumenta Chomu Martin is the Commander of the International Support Mission in Central African Republic (ISMCA) under the aegis of the UN.

Other Cameroonians have also held leadership positions with a political dimension in the UN, within the framework of peace-keeping operation missions in Africa, with the rank and prerogatives of UN Secretary-General:

- Jacques Roger Booh Booh, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to (UNAMIR) in Rwanda ;
- Amos Namanga Ngongi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to MONUC in the DRC ;
- Dooh Kingue, Managing Director of UNITAR (Training and Research), with the rank and prerogatives of Deputy UN Secretary General.
- Barrister Bernard Acho Muna, (03 times Dean of the lawyers of Cameroon), Deputy Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) from 1997 to 2002 ;
- Paul Bamela Engo, Judge at the International Tribunal on Sea Law in Hamburg.

With the creation of the African Standby Force (ASF), and the establishment of regional brigades, Cameroon takes an active part in the multinational force of Central Africa (MFOCA) and Rapid Alert Mechanism of Central Africa (RAMCA).

Cameroon is also a candidate to host the Continental Logistics Base (CLB) where the logistic devices will be stored to later on be assigned to peace - keeping missions initiated and conducted under the banner of African institutions.

Our country, which in its cooperation with the UN and the AU puts its seaport and airport infrastructure at the disposal of the Peace-Keeping Operations (PKO), is highly appreciated by the UN and African organizations coordinating the conduct of this peace - keeping missions.





## CAMEROON AND THE HANDLING OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Cameroon has a tradition of welcoming refugees and migrants and continues to a policy of open borders for asylum seekers. It is in this spirit that Cameroon is a signatory of all the major treaties on refugees, notably the Convention of 1951 on the status of the refugee (known as Geneva Convention) and the Convention of the OAU of 1969 regulating aspects of refugees in Africa.

Also, Cameroon adopted in July 2005, a law defining the judicial framework for the protection of refugees, which was applied as from November 2011.

President Paul BIYA has always called for total solidarity in the handling of issues related to refugees and migrants. He notably declared at the rostrum of the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, in September 2008, that: "The troubles they go through are very inhuman.

The extortions and discrimination they face on a daily basis are unacceptable. It is urgent to seek concerted solutions, in order to stop the exodus which is emptying Africa of its human resources that it badly needs. It goes without saying that the economic development of the continent is the one and only solution to this painful problem".

The sub region being prone to violence and persistent instability, Cameroon continues to receive refugees and asylum seekers coming from the neighbouring countries, mainly the Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria. Presently, Cameroon is hosting nearly 350 000 refugees and migrants of several nationalities with about 250 000 refugees from the Central African Republic.

It is in Cameroon that one finds the greatest number of refugees from the CAR (there were 247 245 as of 8

June 2015, according to the HCR). These are recent refugees who have fled the CAR since December 2013 (almost 139 000), because of the waves of violence and political instability (confrontations between armed groups of seka and anti-balaka) ; and refugees who fled from the North-West of their country between 2006 and 2010, as a result of the increase in banditry and other forms of criminality.

Most of the Central African refugees are implanted in at least 314 sites and villages, dispersed in the East, Adamawa and North Regions. The length of the Central African border, which has over 30 entry points, renders the work of the human actors operating on the field fairly difficult.

The attacks of the terrorist organisation Boko Haram in Nigeria have caused a massive flow of Nigerian refugees to Cameroon since May 2013 (over 75 000 Nigerians have crossed the border, with over 15 000 in February 2015).

Many have found refuge in the Far North Region. There are tens of thousands in the Minawao camp, in the Mayo Tsanaga Division, where the existing infrastructure was increased.

Before that, more than 3 000 Nigerian refugees who fled from their country because of inter-ethnic conflicts were found since 2003 in the Adamawa, South West and North West Regions.

Cameroon offers hospitality to refugees and asylum seekers in urban centres to people from 35 countries, including Congo, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, CAR, Rwanda and Chad.

About 96 000 Cameroonians are internally displaced within the national territory, following the incur-

sions of Boko Haram into the country. The problem of the internally displaced persons, who run away from zones where Boko Haram and the security forces are fighting, has become very serious.

In a spirit of spontaneous solidarity, the Cameroon people have always mobilised to bring assistance to the refugees. Confronted by massive influx of refugees and migrants, the Cameroonian Government has taken measures to provide their basic needs.

The Government gives protection and asylum to persons who are legible for HCR and has provided land for 08 refugee camps in Cameroon. Minawao in the Far North Region, Gal and Borgof in the Adamawa, Gado-Badzez, Timangolo, Mbile, Lolo and Ngari-Singo in the East Region.

The authorities provide armed escorts to refugees and humanitarian workers in the operational zones,

facilitating access to the refugees and local health centres, with the support of the HCR.

It is in this wise that the Government signed a convention with the HCR on 23 August 2016 for the provision of health care to refugees. Cameroon will henceforth bear 30% of the medical costs of refugees while the HCR will bear the remaining 70%.

According to the United Nations system, Cameroon needed 95.32 billion FCFA in 2015 to efficiently handle refugee problems. The money was to provide for portable water, hygiene and the refurbishing of the living space of the refugees as well as their health care.

The New York declaration on the issues of refugees and migrants and related documents will be adopted by the Heads of State and Government taking part in United Nations Summit on refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016.



## BRIEF PRESENTATION OF CAMEROON

Cameroon is a country in Central and West Africa. It shares its western borders with Nigeria and part of the Atlantic Ocean. Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo are on the south. The Central African Republic and Chad are on the east, while Lake Chad is on the north. Thus Cameroon is at the heart of Africa. The country has all shades of relief, climate, flora and fauna found in other parts of the continent. Hence its nickname "Africa in miniature".

### Administration

- Official name: Republic of Cameroon
- Form of Government: Republic
- Motto: "Peace, Work, Fatherland"
- National Anthem "O Cameroon, cradle of our fathers"
- Head of State: Paul BIYA, President of the Republic (since 6 November 1982, elected in 1984, re-elected in 1988, 1992, 1997, 2004 and October 9, 2011).
- Official languages: French, English

### Geography

- Total area: 475,442 km<sup>2</sup>
- Capital: Yaounde
- Major cities: Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam, Garoua, Maroua, Bamenda, Ngaoundere, Buea, Ebolowa, Bertoua.

### History

- Date of independence: 1 January 1960 (Cameroon under French administration) and 1 October 1961 (Cameroon under British administration)
- National Day: 20 May
- Date of admission to the United Nations: 20 September 1960

### Demographics

- Population: 21.7 million inhabitants (WB) (ranked 56th)
- Density: 44.8 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> (WB, 2012)
- Population growth: 2.54% (WB, 2012).
- Life expectancy: 52.1 years (UNDP, 2012).
- Literacy rate: 70.7% (UNESCO 2012)
- Religion(s): Christianity (35-40%), Islam (15-20%), animism (45%).
- Human Development Index: 150th out of 187 (UNDP, 2012).

### Economy

- Currency: Franc CFA
- Nominal GDP 2013: US\$ 27.88 million
- GDP per capita (PPP) 2013: US\$ 1,268
- GDP growth rate in 2013: 4.6%
- 2013 Trade balance (percent of GDP): -8.8%.
- Major customers in 2012: China (15.3%), Portugal (11.4%), the Netherlands (11.3%)
- Main suppliers 2012: Nigeria (17.8%), France (11.9%), China (10.4%)
- Share of main sectors in GDP: agriculture: 18.4%; industry 23.2%; mining: 8.8%; services: 43.4%.
- Annual oil production 2013: 24.3 million barrels





# BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA

His Excellency Paul Biya was born on 13 February 1933 at Mvoméka'a, Meyomessala Subdivision, Dja-et-Lobo Division, South Province. President Paul Biya is the second President of the State of Cameroon.

He assumed office on 6 November 1982 following the resignation of President Ahmadou Ahidjo. President Paul Biya is married and has three children.

Born on the 13th February 1933 at Mvoméka'a (Meyomessala) of the late Etienne Mvondo Assam and Mrs MVONDO (born Anastasie Eyenga Elle).

## 1. - Education

1948 : First School Leaving Certificat (CEPE) (Nden) ;  
1948/1950 : St. Tharcissius Pre-seminary, Edea;  
1950/1954 : Akono Minor Seminary;  
June 1953 : BEPC  
1954/1956 : Lycee General Leclerc  
June 1955 : Baccalaureat 1<sup>re</sup> partie  
June 1956 : Baccalaureat 2<sup>e</sup> partie Lycee Louis le Grand (Paris).

## University Education

Degree in Public Law, Diploma of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Diploma from the Institut des Hautes Etudes d'Outre-Mer.  
Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures in Public law.

## 2. - Professional Career

- Charge de Mission in the Presidency of the Republic: October 1962 ;
- Director of Cabinet, Ministry of National Education: January 1964 ;
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Education, July 1965 ;

- Director of Civil Cabinet, Presidency of the Republic, December 1967 ;
- Secretary General and Director of Civil Cabinet: January 1968 ;
- Minister of State, Secretary General in the Presidency of the Republic June 1970 ;
- Prime Minister; 30th June 1975 ;
- As Constitutional successor, he becomes President of the Republic after the resignation of Ahmadou Ahidjo on the 6th November 1982 ; this according to the constitutional amendment instituted by law n° 79/02 of 29th June 1979.

On taking the oath of office, he undertook to democratise political life, to bring about social and economic liberalisation, to introduce rigour in management and moralise attitudes, and to reinforce international co-operation.

- Elected President of the Cameroon National Union (CNU): 14 September 1983.
- Elected President of the Republic on 14th January 1984, reelected on the 24th April, 1988, 11th October 1992 (First election with direct universal suffrage with many candidates) : 12th October 1997 and 11th October 2004.

- Elected President of the CPDM, Cameroon Peoples Democratic Party after the CNU was transformed to the CPDM; 24th March 1985 in Bamenda.

- When on the 19th December 1990, Mr Paul BIYA promulgated the law on associations and Political parties. He was in effect restoring multiparty politics in Cameroon (since September 1966, when Cameroon was under the one party system).

As of today, over two hundred parties have been legalised. The CPDM obtained an absolute majority during the March 1997 legislative elections and its candidate won the Presidential election of October, 1997.

The President however chose to form a government that included other political parties. Three parties are represented in government; the CPDM, the NUDP and the UPC.

5 parties are present in the National Assembly : The CPDM, NUDP, SDF, UPC and CDU.

His Excellency Paul BIYA married Mrs Chantal BIYA on 23rd April, 1994.

He is a father of three children: FRANK Biya, Paul BIYA Junior and Anastasia Brenda BIYA EYENGA.

### **3.- Honorary Distinctions**

Mr BIYA is a holder of many decorations and honorary distinctions :

- Grand Master of the National Orders (Republic of Cameroon);
- Grand-Croix of the Legion of Honour (Republic of France) ;
- Great Commander of the Medal of St-George (United Kingdom and North Ireland) ;
- Grand-Croix de classe exceptionnelle (Federal Republic of Germany) ;
- Grand Collier de l'Ordre du Ouissam Mohammadi

(Kingdom of Morocco) ;

- Great Commander of the Order of Niger (Federal Republic of Nigeria) ;
- Grand-Croix de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Republic of Senegal) ;
- Commander of the National Ordre (Republic of Tunisia);
- Doctoris Honoris Causa (University of Maryland, USA) ;
- Professor emeritus (University of Beijing, Republic of China).

### **4. - Publications**

Mr BIYA is the author of a political essay entitled "Communal Liberalism".

This work has been translated into English, German and Hebrew.

In it the Head of State announces the advent of multiparty politics (which became effective in 1990) after the temporary period of the one party State.

He explains his choice for economic liberalism and private initiative while at the same time advocating national solidarity, equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth, social justice, the development based on inventiveness and peaceful co-existence of various cultures and peoples who make up the nation.

Finally, he reaffirms the need for modernisation of the State and the desire to maintain close cooperation ties with other countries of the world.



## BIOGRAPHY OF PETER THOMSON (FIJI) : CHAIRMAN OF THE 71<sup>st</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

***1. For the first time, the General Assembly will be headed by a representative of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Pacific.***

On 13 June 2016, Peter Thomson (born in 1948 in Suva) Fiji, was elected President of the 71st session, which will begin on 21 September. He will hold this position for a year.

He will replace Danish-born Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th session.

Peter Thomson said his election “represents a significant moment for Small Island Developing States of the Pacific.” He has promised to speak “much on climate change.”

Mr. Thomson was elected in the first round, but with one voice beyond simple majority, facing Mr. Andreas Mavroyiannis of Cyprus. Both candidates respectively received 94 and 90 votes. However, Mr Thomson’s nomination was supported by the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Thomson has assured that his presidency would be “a presidency for all.”

“We must provide the impetus for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Program in 2030 and overcome, to this end, structural barriers,” he announced.

He pledged to serve the Assembly “at any time, in a spirit of loyalty and commitment to the common good and respect for the principles of the UN Charter.” Mr. Thomson has extensive experience on the international stage.

Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations since February 2010, he chaired the Group of 77 and China. He was also Vice President of the UN General Assembly from 2010 to 2011.

Thus he has accumulated an extensive knowledge of the UN development system since he served as Chair of the UNDP Board), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

### **2. The General Assembly also elected 16 of its 21**

Vice-Presidents and restructured the bureaus of its six Main Committees.

The 16 Vice-Presidents are from Congo, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Mauritania, Nigeria and Zambia for the African Group ; Bangladesh, Nepal, Solomon Islands and Turkmenistan for the Asian Group; Armenia on behalf of the Eastern European Group ; Bahamas, Belize and El Salvador, for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; Belgium and Germany for the Group of Western European and other States.

The remaining five seats are allocated, as required by the regulation, to the five permanent members of the Security Council : China, USA, Russia, France and the UK.

A Cameroonian diplomat Cécile MBALA EYENGA will be the Rapporteur of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly and the 3rd Committee (in charge of Social, Humanitarian and Cultural activities).





## BIOGRAPHY OF BAN KI-MOON UN SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr Ban was born in Korea Republic on 13 June 1944. He is married to Mrs. Yoo (Ban) Soon-Taek, with whom he has a son, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Ban Ki-moon is the current and eighth UN Secretary General since 1 January 2007. He was reappointed on 21 June 2011 for a second term. His mandate ends on 31 December 2016.

### **The election of his successor is underway.**

Previously, Mr. Ban was Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea (January 2004 to November 2006). During his 37-year career in the Ministry, he served, among others, in New Delhi, Washington and Vienna, and held various positions including Adviser to the President on Foreign Policy, Senior Advisor to the President on National Security, and Deputy Minister for Policy Planning. Mr. Ban was also the Chief of Staff during the Republic of Korea's tenure at the presidency of the UN General Assembly (2001 to 2002).

Mr. Ban's priority is to gather world leaders around new global challenges such as climate change and economic upheaval, pandemics and the growing problems related to food, energy and water. He wanted to be the voice of the poorest and most vulnerable while strengthening the Organisation itself. The following facts have marked his tenure :

### **Promoting sustainable development**

One of his first major initiatives was the organisation of the 2007 Summit on Climate Change, followed by intense diplomatic efforts that helped make this issue a global priority. The initiatives taken since then to focus on the main target of the fight against world poverty; the Millennium Development Goals,

helped to garner more than US\$ 60 billion in pledges (priority given to Africa).

**Women's empowerment** He managed to obtain the creation of UN Women; a large new institution that brings together the UN system in this area.

His action in favour of women's rights and gender equality also includes the "Unite to End Violence against Women", the initiative "Stop Rape Now: UN Action against sexual violence in conflict," and the establishment of a new post of Special Representative of the Secretary General on the issue of sexual violence in conflict.

**Assistance to countries in crisis or instability** He sought to strengthen UN peacekeeping efforts; establishing the New Horizon initiative, the Global Strategy support missions and study of civilian capacity to deal with situations in the aftermath of conflicts. A set of measures to improve the action of 120,000 UN peacekeepers involved in conflict zones.

He also wanted to strengthen the humanitarian response in the wake of major disasters in Myanmar (2008), Haiti (2010) and Pakistan (2010).

**New impetus to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation** He tried to revive the disarmament program by setting up a five-point plan and initiatives to break the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament.

### **Strengthening the UN**

The Secretary-General has introduced new measures to make the UN more transparent, efficient and effective.



## - THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1. A forum for multilateral negotiations

• Created by the United Nations Charter in 1945, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, decision-making and representative arm of the UN. Comprising all 192 Member States of the Organisation, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion on a wide range of international issues covered by the Charter.

It also plays an important role in establishing rules and codification of international law. The General Assembly holds an ordinary session annually. It becomes intensive from September to December (it may be extended beyond this period).

### 2. Functions and powers

Under the UN Charter, the functions and powers of the General Assembly are to:

- Study the general principles of cooperation for maintaining peace and international security, including the principles governing disarmament and make recommendations on these principles ;
- Discuss questions related to peacekeeping and international security and make recommendations on these issues, except where a dispute or situation is being discussed in the Security Council ;
- Discuss all matters within the scope of the Charter or related to the powers and functions of one of the organs of the Organisation and with the same exception, make recommendations on these issues;
- Request the establishment of studies and make recommendations for developing international cooperation in the political field, to encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification, to facilitate the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to promote

international cooperation in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, education, and public health;

- Recommend measures for the peaceful adjustment of any situation likely to impair friendly relations among nations ;

- Receive and consider the reports of the Security Council and other organs of the Organisation;

- Review and approve the budget of the Organisation and determine the distribution of contributions between Member States;

- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of other boards and bodies of the Organisation and on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary General.

The General Assembly may also take action if the Security Council fails to act, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member, in any case where there appears to be a threat against peace, breach of peace or act of aggression.

Although the General Assembly cannot be sent to States as recommendations on matters within its competence, which is not binding, it nevertheless took initiatives - in the political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal - which have directly affected millions of people worldwide.

The adoption at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in New York of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the planet for the next 15 years (2015-2030) reflects the willingness of member states to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda - the "agenda 2030" -.

### 3. Finding a consensus

Each state has one vote in the General Assembly. Decisions on important questions, such as recommendations on peace and security, admission of new members, the election of members of the Security Council, and budgetary matters are taken by a two-third majority of Member States. But decisions on other matters are taken by simple majority.

In recent years, Member States have made a particular effort to make decisions by consensus rather than a vote, which has helped to broaden the support of decisions taken by the Assembly.

Thus, the President consults delegations to determine if they are ready to adopt a resolution without a vote.

The General Assembly has its internal procedures and it elects a President for each session.

#### Six Main Committees

Each Member may be represented by one person on each Main Committee and any other committee that may be established upon which all Members have the right to be represented.

It may also assign to these committees advisers, technical advisers, experts or persons of similar status.

The General Assembly has six Main Committees :

#### ► **First Committee - Disarmament and International Security**

It deals with issues of disarmament and international security.

It was created with the function of making recommendations in the field of disarmament. Every year at the end of its deliberations, it shall forward its recommendations to the General Assembly, which is a subsidiary body, as well as five other Main Committees.

#### ► **Second Committee – Economic and Financial**

It deals with economic and financial issues. Its task is to reflect on the strategies and initiatives that can

help Member States to meet these challenges, many threats to their economic achievements and their future. While it is now clear that developed countries cannot act alone, international cooperation plays a key role in strengthening the foundations of the global economy.

#### ► **Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian and Cultural**

It deals with social issues related to humanitarian affairs and human rights, affecting the population worldwide. It deals with important issues related to social development such as the promotion of women, the protection of children, indigenous people, the treatment of refugees, the protection of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racial discrimination and the right to self-determination.

The Commission also addresses issues related to youth, family, aging population, disabled persons, crime prevention, criminal justice or international drug control.

#### ► **Fourth Committee – Special Political and Decolonisation**

It deals with various topics such as decolonisation, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, the Mine Action, Space Affairs, Information, Ionising Radiation and the University for Peace.

Originally established to discuss decolonisation, it was entrusted in 1990 with “special policy” questions after the independence of most of the colonies and trust territories.

#### ► **Fifth Committee - Administrative and Budgetary**

It is responsible for administrative and budgetary questions. It is based on the reports that the General Assembly considers and approves the budget of the Organisation, in accordance with Article 17 of Chapter IV of the UN Charter. This function was also reaffirmed by resolution 45/248 B, Sect. VI.

The General Assembly also reviews and approves financial and budgetary matters of UN specialised agencies and makes recommendations in this regard.



The Fifth Committee also considers issues related to the financing of peacekeeping operations.

➤ **Sixth Committee - Legal Affairs**

The Sixth Committee deals with legal issues of the General Assembly. All UN Member States have a right to representation.

**Other Commissions**

The Credentials Committee is mandated to examine the credentials of representatives of Member States and report to the General Assembly.

The Bureau shall meet periodically throughout each session to review the progress of work at the General Assembly and its committees and to make



## - Some Excerpts of President Paul BIYA at the Rostrum of the United Nations.

### ***65th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (September 2010: Speech during the high level meeting on Sustainable Development Goals).***

“Since the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ten years ago, an assessment of the ground covered shows that although significant results have been obtained, the achievement of all the goals by the year 2015 remains uncertain.

The United Nations and the African Union note that, while Africa, to mention only that continent, has made remarkable progress towards achieving the MDGs, the pace, and even the quality of the results obtained, are not such as can stir optimism; rather, at best, they are a reason for cautious satisfaction”.

(...) “Africa is the only continent which may not achieve the MDGs on schedule”.

“However pertinent the complementarity between the MDGs may be, it should not make us lose sight of the fact that there is one of them on which the achievement of all the others depends, namely Goal No. 8.

Indeed, to successfully mobilize development resources, we need to develop a more equitable trading and financial system; deal comprehensively with the debt problem; provide official development assistance that is constant, predictable and effective; provide access to essential drugs; and reduce the digital divide.

If together we cope with these challenges, which constitute the targets of Goal No. 8, I believe that all the others will stand a chance of being achieved”.

“The second factor that I consider important for the achievement of the MDGs is access to energy. Today, there is no doubt that energy resources have a multiplier effect on the achievement of the goals relating to poverty reduction, education, health, gender and environment.

Energy resources facilitate not only increased agricultural production but also water supply and the development of income-generating activities for the poorest segments of the population, in particular, women.

Experience further teaches us that access to energy leads to the institution of quality education, while facilitating the dissemination of new communication technologies. Also worth recalling is the role of energy in boosting girl child education by reducing household chores.

The benefits of access to energy are also reflected in maternal and child health through improved monitoring of pregnancies and child delivery as well as conservation of vaccines and medicines”.

“Lastly, we cannot reasonably expect to achieve the MDGs without addressing the challenge of employment. Indeed, employment is more than ever before a crucial factor in alleviating poverty and fostering personal dignity, collective wellbeing, sustainable economic growth and, unquestionably, the political stability of our States.

Hence, achieving the MDGs will necessarily hinge on resolving the employment crisis and, in particular, youth employment, as the youth do not only represent the bulk of our population, but also the future of our countries”.

“To conclude, Cameroon wishes to affirm its faith in a united and indivisible human community, capable of acting in unison in what, in the final analysis, seems to be a global ideal, namely the wellbeing and fulfilment of all its members”.

***65th General Assembly of the United Nations (23 September 2010).***

“As the first decade of the 21st century draws to a close, it is certainly not useless to review the ground covered since we proclaimed some ten years ago in this very hall, our common resolve to reduce poverty by half worldwide in 2015.

We all recall the enthusiasm raised by this solemn commitment.

Today, one is forced to note that we are quite far off the track.

More than one billion people are still living in extreme poverty. The development gap between the North and South continues to widen instead of narrowing. International assistance is stagnating and remains below the level of commitments made by developed countries to devote 0.7% of their GNP to it.

The results in the eight priority areas of the Millennium Development Goals are disappointing, and even unsatisfactory, whereas the deadline of 2015 is just around the corner.

**What has therefore gone wrong ?**

The economic crisis caused by the recent upheavals in financial markets is certainly to blame. The slowdown in activities worldwide and recession in some cases monopolized the attention of the countries of the North. They gave priority to the revival of their economies and the resolution of their social problems.

However, even though we understand that, it does not explain everything.

In effect, the awareness, at the turn of the last century, of the disastrous consequences of the deepening poverty in the Third World seems to have waned significantly. Yet, this situation has not only failed to improve, but it continues to deteriorate.

I have, on several occasions, from this rostrum and under other circumstances, drawn the attention of the international community to the problem posed by the increase in poverty worldwide.

I pointed out that, for ethical reasons, it obliges all to express solidarity with the most underprivileged.

I further indicated that this was, of course, in everyone's interest, for the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor would only exacerbate tensions and jeopardize international peace and security.

You will, I am sure, understand me for dwelling a bit on the case of Africa. It is undeniably the continent most affected by extreme poverty, which is generally accompanied by food shortages, epidemics, population movements and insecurity.

Is it any wonder that such profound misery sometimes reaches explosive proportions, as was the case two years ago during what was dubbed “food riots”?

The international community cannot remain indifferent to this threat that could undermine our efforts to advance democracy and ensure our development.

Let me make myself clear. The aim is not to engage in recrimination for the sake of any ideology, to impute motives on this or that country or group of countries, or to sermonize.

I am the first to acknowledge that the United Nations and its agencies have provided assistance and guidance to our continent since independence ; that most countries of the North have, through their cooperation, financial assistance and debt cancellation, lent and continue to lend vital support to Africa; that emerging countries have taken over.

Of course, we are grateful to all of them.

However, obviously, that is not enough.

I am not trying to apportion blame for this state of affairs. I merely want to say that the solutions applied were perhaps not the best. I wish to add that from the African perspective, we have been burdened



with too many obstacles over time: slavery, colonization, economic dependence, internal and external conflicts and, of course, that we lacked rigour and the steadiness of mind.

For reasons of mutual interest earlier mentioned, I think we should review the issue thoroughly, without ulterior ideological or prejudiced political or economic motives.

No matter what is said, Africa has changed significantly over the last fifty years, and seems to be ready for a broad-based ideological debate, provided that it is conducted in a true spirit of partnership.

It is through this approach that we can realize the famous “Marshall Plan” for Africa, which is often mentioned but is yet to see the light of day.

This concern induced Cameroon to organize an International Conference – Africa 21 – in Yaounde during the celebration of fifty years of its independence.

The conference made an objective assessment of the fifty years of independence of African countries as well as of future opportunities for our continent.

It was attended by several Heads of State and Government, former Prime Ministers, distinguished representatives of international organizations, world famous experts, major corporate executives, as well as Nobel Peace Prizes.

The final declaration of the Conference which will be made available to you by members of my delegation, can serve as a genuine “guide” for the rehabilitation of Africa, regarding both its economic recovery and its participation in international life.

That is what it is all about: ensuring that our continent does not remain forever aid-dependent and that it plays its rightful role in global affairs.

Permit me in this assembly to dwell on the second point. How can we today explain why Africa is the only continent without a Permanent Member on the Security Council ? How can we explain that it is unable to make its voice heard when its problems are examined in global economic and financial bodies whereas the decisions taken will be imposed on

it? At a time when emerging countries are rightly clamouring for a seat on the Security Council commensurate with their economic and political weight, Africa as a whole should not be forgotten”.

“For a long time, our continent has been treated, I dare say, as an object of international relations.

Yet, it is directly concerned by most of the major problems confronting humanity today, be it migratory flows, global warming, economic and financial regulation, terrorism, etc. In short, it is sometimes the victim of phenomena for which it is not responsible.

From this standpoint also, there is a need to make progress where major negotiations appear to be bogged down.

Africans seek more understanding and sympathy in the true sense of the term. Indeed, the delayed development they suffer cannot be reduced to the Millennium Development Goals.

Admittedly, they want to come out of poverty, to eat their fill, but above all, to be free from fear and want, to be freer, and to embrace the future without anxiety.

In short, they want to live in a society that guarantees them these minimum conditions of existence and wellbeing.

Most African countries have embarked on this path.

For its part, Cameroon has, over the last decades, set up representative institutions, established the rule of law and promoted respect for human rights.

On the economic and social front, significant progress has been made in the areas of public finance, education and health. Should this trend continue, our country can, in the medium term, attain the status of an emerging country.

That to me seems to be the mind set of most African countries. Certainly, the international community has a role to play in supporting them in their effort to join the mainstream of global society.

To that end, it needs to show proof of more understanding, solidarity and, of course, fraternity”.

**64th Session of the General Assembly (25 September 2009).**

“the International Community is still reeling under the shock of a global financial and economic crisis which has spared no country.

Through the extraordinary mobilization that has followed the crisis, one can fathom its scope and extent as well as the serious threat that it poses to the stability of the global economy”.

“Without any doubt, it has fully demonstrated the responsiveness of the International Community when it is driven and underpinned by true political will.

This is certainly a good example of solidarity, international solidarity as we like to have it and as we would have also loved to see manifested in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in our common desire to narrow the gap between North and South, in the our daily struggle against poverty, hunger and the pandemics.

In other words, if we have been able to mobilize so strongly to contain the effects of the financial crisis, we can also do so to cope with the other challenges facing us, notably poverty and underdevelopment which remain the plight of so many people throughout the world. For, while the crisis has spared no continent, there is no doubt that its effects vary according country, region and level of development.

Today, Africa, in particular, which had no hand in this crisis, is paradoxically among its worst affected victims”. (...).

“Furthermore, there is good reason to fear that if the crisis were to persist, this would contribute to increased indebtedness of developing countries.

We now find ourselves confronted by new difficulties when we have barely come out of many years of economic recovery efforts under rigorous structural adjustment programmes implemented with determination by our peoples, in collaboration with international financial institutions.

Our efforts and our sacrifices have not been in vain, and we believe that our gains, which are the fruit of the meritorious efforts of our people, must absolutely be preserved and supported.

We therefore believe that in the face of adverse effects of the crisis, we must strive together to find a global, coordinated and effective response for the benefit of the weakest economies.

In our opinion, such response should consist as much as possible, in providing without conditionalities, substantial financial resources to be used to cushion or even offset the consequences of a crisis that we could not avert.

In the absence of such support, our developing countries run the risk of witnessing the weakening of their economies and the disappearance of signs of revival which they could reasonably expect.

It is obvious that development and improving living conditions, as well as peace and stability in our countries all hinge on it. This also holds true for international peace and security, inasmuch as the numerous problems confronting the world today, be it illegal immigration or all sorts of trafficking, for example, are partly a result of inadequate cooperation and solidarity. This calls for greater equity in international relations.

In this connection, I do hail the good decision taken at the G20 Summit in London last April urging the IMF to grant more and softer loans to the weakest economies with lighter conditionalities.

Incidentally, it is within this context that my country, Cameroon, received substantial financial support from the IMF under the exogenous shocks facility.

I am pleased and I would like to seize this opportunity to thank International Monetary Fund officials”.

“Accordingly, in Cameroon, we have strengthened the productive sectors and carried out actions to reduce the prices of basic commodities and improve the business climate.

In the sub-region, Member Countries of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community have agreed to adopt tax incentives and set up a fund to

support the sectors most affected by the crisis.

This means that while accepting assistance from the International Community, we are aware that it can bear fruit only if based on stringent management and good governance centred on the primacy of public interest.

By the way, it is in this regard that a few years back I recommended from this rostrum the establishment within the United Nations of a Global Ethics Committee for, it is a combination of moral flaws and serious ethical deviations that is at the root of the current global financial crisis.

We do hope that in the nearest future, we will surmount this crisis through collective awareness and mobilization”.

“Regarding climate change in particular, Africa, like the other continents, is hard hit, despite its low level of greenhouse gas emissions.

Global warming, which is its most significant feature, affects many socioeconomic sectors, including energy, health, agriculture, livestock production and ecosystems, as well as rapid desertification.

In this regard, the spectacular drying up of Lake Chad whose size has gone from 26 000 km<sup>2</sup> in the 1960s to 1 500 km<sup>2</sup> today, clearly requires the collective action of Central African States, which, in our opinion, needs strong support from the International Community.

One thing is certain: African countries are, individually and collectively, pulling their full weight in actions carried out at the national, sub-regional and global levels to provide concrete solutions to the challenge of climate change.

Such participation is significant. In Cameroon, it has taken the form of numerous actions including the establishment of a national environmental management plan, and the adoption at the sub-regional level of a convergence plan for the sustainable management of the Congo Basin forest which, we are all aware, is the world's second largest forest block.

The implementation of all these measures is very costly, especially in terms of acquiring adapted tech-

nologies and requires our people to accept to make huge sacrifices.

Furthermore, without denying the fact that the fate and future of the planet is everyone's business, it seems legitimate, in my opinion, to ask that the peoples of Africa be duly compensated by the International Community for their efforts and sacrifices. In this regard, we do hope that the Copenhagen Climate Conference which is scheduled for December will provide satisfactory answers to the specific case of Africa.

Regarding world peace and security, we continue to deplore the persistence of numerous conflicts or hotbeds of tension, despite significant progress made towards a return to calm.

I am referring to the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Darfur and in Somalia, among others.

Cameroon is playing an active role, including the dispatch of Cameroonian contingents, in a bid to find lasting solutions to these long drawn-out conflicts. In this respect, I wish to hail the action of the United Nations which is making tireless efforts to stabilize these situations. However, the UN requires more appropriate human, financial and material resources for greater efficiency.

Furthermore, the UN should be able to reflect the common will of all its members, big and small to ensure its efficiency and credibility.

It must very clearly assert and further strengthen its role as the crucible par excellence of multilateralism, that is a forum for the exchange of ideas, solidarity, equity, and equality where all voices and opinions of developed and developing countries are expressed and taken into account.

These values go hand in hand with the dialogue of civilizations proposed for consideration during this session.

Such dialogue should not ignore differences, but rather promote diversity so as to foster knowledge and mutual understanding among peoples.

From this perspective, the dialogue of civilizations or cultures advocates tolerance and mutual respect and rejects all forms of fanaticism which pose a threat to international peace and security.

Such is the dual role that the UN, which is an experimental ground for multilateralism and a crucible of the dialogue of civilizations, should assume if it must embody the noblest and deepest aspirations of humanity and seek global and relevant solutions our peoples' expectations.

The question is how can the UN achieve this if it does not adapt to the current trends and changes in international relations ?

Such is the purpose of the recommendations we have been making for the reform of the Security Council, the revitalization of the United Nations General Assembly and increasing the means of action of the Secretary-General of the Organization.

We therefore need to fast-track the overhaul of an Organization which, by its universal nature, symbolizes our common destiny and constitutes our common abode.

This is because, the hopes and trust of peoples will remain upheld only by a UN that is new, more democratic, more credible and more efficient”.

### ***63rd Session of the General Assembly (22 September 2008).***

“By proposing “The impact of the global food crisis on poverty and hunger in the world as well as the need to democratize the United Nations’ as main theme of the general debate at this 63rd session, you focused our deliberations on core problems currently faced by the international community”.

“In fact, the food crisis which is one of its manifestations, has taken worrying proportions throughout the world. All economies, irrespective of their sizes, but particularly those of poor countries, are affected. The most vulnerable populations are forced to forego health care and education to feed themselves.

If appropriate responses are not rapidly found, there will be reason to fear dramatic repercussions on international trade, economic growth, social progress, political stability and hence global security.

It is therefore an urgent necessity to act rapidly and

collectively. We believe an appropriate response to this situation lies in ensuring coordination at the highest level”.

“In fact, we are of the opinion that a lasting solution to the crisis requires short- and medium-term actions, including notably increased food aid and investment in agriculture, the promotion of social welfare initiatives, reduction of agricultural subsidies in developed countries and restrictions on food exports from countries of the south”. (...).

“As the mid-term assessment of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is being conducted, the global food crisis appears as one of the major challenges the international community will have to face.

In that regard, Cameroon wishes to join the United Nations Secretary-General in appealing for financing of the measures recommended by the Task Force.

However acute the food crisis may be, it is far from being the only snag in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Concerning Africa in particular, there are many other challenges, such as persistent poverty, peace and security issues, as well as the effects of climate change.

Concerning poverty alleviation, our continent placed a lot of hope in globalization which it supported in good faith, despite the legitimate fears it could nurture concerning the globalization of trade. It should be acknowledged that, on the whole, these hopes were dashed.

Without returning to the global food crisis, it is obvious that Africa felt the negative effects of the international financial crisis and the exponential oil price hikes, all of which were phenomena beyond its control. In addition, it helplessly watched the erosion of official development assistance and the failure of the Doha Round negotiations where its interests were relegated to the background.

This role of powerless onlooker can only cause deep frustration and cast doubts on its chances of achieving, within the set deadlines, the Millennium Development Goals.

Nevertheless, Africa wants to believe that the inter-



national community will not give up assisting it to come out of poverty and under-development.

That is why we fully appreciate the initiative of the United Nations to organize high-level meetings devoted to the development of our continent, on the sidelines of this session.

As it were, on the economic front, Africa's immense potential remains largely untapped. But, although many African countries have been recording generally good economic performance, the continent remains the poorest on the planet. Hence, the need for increased solidarity of the international community.

The growing impact of climate change in Africa especially is particularly disturbing. In this area on which depends, more than elsewhere, the fate of future generations, there is an urgent need for a joint action by the international community.

Such solidarity should also be shown in the handling of the issue of migrants. The tragedies they experience are, to put it bluntly, inhuman. The atrocities and acts of discrimination they endure on a daily basis are intolerable. There is urgent need to jointly seek solutions to check this exodus which drains Africa of the human resources it greatly needs.

There is no gainsaying that the economic development of the continent is the one and only solution to this painful problem.

As regards peace and security, perhaps more than in any other area, Africa needs the active solidarity of the international community.

There is reason to be satisfied with the progress made in several countries that were hitherto plagued by deadly confrontations, though it should be acknowledged that many hotbeds of tension and conflict still exist on the continent.

Here, the peace agreements signed after lengthy negotiations are yet to fully enter into force. There, force is used to jeopardize democratic achievements. Continuing confrontations in Somalia, the chronic instability along the borders of Chad, the Central African Republic and the Sudan, the daily tragedy faced by the population of Darfur, the recurrent eruption of violence in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Burundi, are all cause for serious concern.

Our continent is, unfortunately, not also spared by the threat of terrorism which has henceforth taken a global dimension. I am convinced that only global and resolute action will help address this issue. Cameroon will contribute its quota as necessary.

The international community and the United Nations in particular are making commendable efforts to promote peace in Africa.

This is why the Organization must receive from all its members the resources that it needs to ensure effectiveness of its action.

To that end, it should constantly express the common will and continue to be the crucible of the democratization of international relations".

"The historic achievement recorded in the settlement of the dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula is one of the best examples of the remarkable results that can be generated by an authentic desire for peace that is shared by the parties, with the judicious support of the international community.

The ceremony which established on 14 August 2008 in Calabar the withdrawal of the Nigerian administration and police force from Bakassi, as well as the transfer of authority to Cameroon is undoubtedly due to the attachment of the leaders and peoples of both countries to peace.

I wish, in this respect, to express my profound gratitude to friendly countries for the support they continued to give to the implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice and to the Greentree Agreement.

I wish to thank in particular the Witness States of the Agreement, namely, the United States of America, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom.

The UNO also played a decisive role in the settlement of this matter. The tireless efforts of the Secretaries-General, Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-Moon, and their representatives within the Mixed Commission, deserve our recognition. It is, thus, the dawn of a new era in relations between