



President of the Republic of Cameroon

H.E. M. Paul BIYA
SPEECHES,
DECLARATIONS
AND INTERVIEWS

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

Yaounde, 8 January 2015



The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Representatives of international organizations,

If we were to consider only the proliferation of pockets of tension or armed conflict, we might be tempted to conclude that 2014 was not a good year. On the other hand, we cannot fail to acknowledge that the global economy showed signs of recovery in some parts of the world. This does not, however, mean that the crisis is behind us. In fact, many countries are experiencing an economic slowdown or even stagnation.

Let us take a closer look at the situation.

Unquestionably, the situation in the Middle East has worsened. The Islamic State's stranglehold on northern Syria and Iraq and its attacks on the Damascus and Baghdad regimes have plunged the region into great chaos. The struggle for power has been compounded by religious or ethnic clashes, pitting Sunnis against Shiites, Muslims against Christians, Arabs against Kurds, etc. The toll is horrendous: destruction, slaughter of innocent people, flight and displacement of populations, weakening of neighbouring States, etc.

The airstrikes launched by the “coalition” appear to have slowed the advance of Islamic State fighters.

However, given that the fielding of coalition personnel is ruled out and that for the time being, the United Nations Organization is not directly involved, no prospects for a settlement are in sight. The overriding impression is one of a horrible mess.

Developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are hardly more encouraging. The negotiations initiated have stalled. While the Palestinian Authority seems to have given up mending fences with Hamas and its recognition as a State seems to be gaining ground, there is an escalation in incidents between Israelis and Palestinians, raising fears about the outbreak of another “Intifada”. As time goes by, the prospect of the mutual recognition of the right of both States to exist seems to be fading. How many more tragedies will it take before reason finally prevails?

In the north of our continent, the “Arab springs” have met with varying fortunes. The peaceful outcome of the democratic transition in Tunisia in keeping with the freely expressed will of the people is reason for satisfaction.

Furthermore, one can only hope that a great country like Egypt would return to the path of national concord so that it may play its role on the world scene. For its part, Libya, which is currently torn among multiple factions, can regain its rightful position only if it successfully

transcends its cleavages and rebuilds the foundations of its national unity.

Even the “old continent” could not preserve hard-won peace, after enduring the ravages of two world wars. Of course, I am referring to Ukraine, where there is an ongoing fratricidal war whose global repercussions instil the fear of a return to the cold war. No one would benefit from such a prospect. The big powers are duty-bound to use their influence to quell tension between the protagonists and convince them to resume dialogue.

However, permit me to revisit an issue affecting us more closely. In my message to the Nation a few days ago, I mentioned the escalation of attacks by Boko Haram in the northern part of my country and how we have responded.

As you are aware, we have beefed up our defence forces in the region concerned by taking measures to protect our population against repeated terrorist attacks and maintain our territorial integrity. As in many other countries around the world confronted by such threats, we have adopted laws and regulations to prevent and stamp out terrorism. Such is the purport of the law recently passed by Parliament. The law has been welcomed by the large majority of the Cameroonian people who clearly understand its rationale.

Today, I would like to underscore the global nature of the threat we are facing.

Those who tried to subjugate Mali, those who sporadically carry out raids into our country, those who probably influenced some factions in the Central African Republic and those who created chaos in Somalia have the same goals: to establish their authority on the Sahel strip from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean and set up their ruthless obscurantist regime therein.

A global threat calls for a global response. Such should be the response of the international community, including the African Union and our regional organizations. We must not delude ourselves. Although weakened by the losses it has suffered, our foe nonetheless remains capable of bouncing back. Its raids in northern Mali and the repeated attacks launched against our territory should convince us of this fact. We must bear in mind that the distance separating a country from the combat zones is no sure-fire guarantee of safety.

Personally, I still believe that the threat posed by Jihadists, Boko Haram and Shebabs may be defeated only through global mobilization. Many have understood this, but are yet to draw lessons from it. I would like to commend the multi-faceted support provided by the United Nations organization, but also some big powers,

notably the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and Germany. We thank them for their firm determination to stand by us in this struggle.

Let me now say a few words about my country's economic outlook within a highly varied global context. Following a recent mission to Cameroon, the IMF commended our efforts, while urging us to continue with our structural reforms and maintain our fiscal discipline.

However, we must also take into account the rather unstable international environment. In the documents prepared during its most recent General Assembly, the international financial organization forecasts that recovery, particularly in Europe, which is one of our leading partners, will be “weak” and “unbalanced”. The IMF is concerned about the “record high” level of the public debt of rich countries and does not rule out the likelihood of a third recession.

The outlook in countries that recorded average growth is uncertain. Furthermore, there is a significant slowdown in the economies of emerging countries. Markets for their part have periodically been edgy.

In such a context, we have no choice but to pursue our growth-based policy which, as you know, hinges on three main pillars, namely:

- development of infrastructure, notably transport and energy;
- modernization of our agriculture; and
- development of industries to process our raw materials.

By so doing, we hope to roll back poverty by creating jobs and improving the living conditions of our populations. By the same token, we will be better-positioned to resist any decline in global economic growth.

Fortunately, the picture I am painting is not entirely bleak. Some parts of the world are more resistant to the economic slowdown than others. Such is the case of the United States of America which is experiencing renewed growth, with employment spin-offs. Much to our satisfaction, this applies to Africa as well.

On the other hand, the international community is very concerned about the Post-2015 Development Agenda that will replace the Millennium Development Goals which, as we are aware, are far from being achieved. The last session of the United Nations General Assembly focused on this problem. We can reasonably hope that the new system that will replace the Millennium Development Goals will better reflect the aspirations and needs of the populations concerned and will hence be more effective.

Global warming which also constitutes a major issue was the theme of a summit held in New York on the sidelines of the recent United Nations General Assembly. It is considered urgent by experts. The last three decades have been warmer than any other since 1850.

Climate disruptions worldwide, Cameroon included, clearly illustrate this. We have ourselves taken measures to contribute to global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

I should mention that the last G20 Summit also considered the issue and that, shortly before the summit, China and the United States of America had taken a more positive stance thereon than previously. Hence, the climate conference to be scheduled for 2015 in Paris will be held under the best conditions. It will seek to arrive at a global, binding and equitable agreement.

I believe equitable here means that such agreement would mainstream each country's level of development and efforts made by some States to preserve their forests. Such is clearly the case of countries of the Congo Basin which is home to the world's second largest forest reserve after the Amazon, or one of the lungs of the world.

The Paris Summit should also focus on the drying up

of Lake Chad. As I suggested recently in Dakar, we believe that this Summit should work out a Lake Chad rescue plan.

If I were to summarize my ideas, I would say that the year that has just ended had its fair share of threats, but also reasons for hope. To cope with this situation, I believe that the international community should promote the values of modern society, namely solidarity and belief in progress.

In the moral sense of the word, solidarity is the obligation for wealthy nations to assist poor countries and forge equitable links with them. This is also what induces big powers and international organizations to intervene in conflict zones in order to end aggression or rescue populations.

Belief in progress is the determination of peoples to establish democracy, guarantee human rights, roll back poverty and provide access to education and health care for all.

That is why I believe that even though in some parts of the world oppression, misery and obscurantism persist, human society will ultimately triumph over tyranny and intolerance.

The hideous attack of 7 January 2015 against a newspaper in Paris shows how far fanaticism can go. I strongly condemn this awful act by supporters of violence and terror. It is clear that under such

circumstances, the only response is concrete mobilization and general determination to combat barbarism.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,

It is now time for me to thank you for the kind words you have spoken on behalf of Members of the Diplomatic Corps. As you reprepare to leave Cameroon, I take this opportunity to commend your actions as Ambassador of your country and as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. We wish you success in your new position.

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Kindly extend our best wishes for the New Year to the Distinguished Authorities that you so worthily represent here.

To you, your families and your loved ones, I extend 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 2015



Dear young compatriots,

In my address to you at this same time last year, I gave you a glimpse of our renewed economic growth and, of course, positive job creation prospects. Well, this recovery was confirmed in the course of last year. There are statistics to prove it.

As I mentioned in my 2014 end-of-year message, 283 443 jobs have been created by government services and enterprises. In 2015, we expect 350 000 new jobs to be created. At this time next year, we will have the opportunity to take stock of all the jobs created since 2011.

Obviously, this is commendable. However, we must also recognize that we are far from a glorious sustainable recovery that can alone transform our country into an eldorado.

Such bright spell must be sustainable and consolidated to lead to economic emergence. At any rate, our youth will continue to reap its benefits.

I am well aware that many of you, whether educated or not, are unemployed. I am well aware that to survive, many of you resort to precarious options that are unrelated to your training or qualification.

This situation is in several cases due to the global context as well as our educational system.

For nearly twenty years, unfair terms of trade and successive economic and financial crises have slowed down our development process and thus made job opportunities scarce.

Another possible cause is the delay in gearing our educational system towards professionalization.

For a long time, we believed that it sufficed to make education accessible to the greatest number and continually raise its level, to mechanically resolve the unemployment problem.

Our primary, secondary and high schools, universities and professional schools must constantly adapt to the changing world. In our quest for development, we should be guided by the need to train youths who are capable of building our country.

Technological advancement has changed the way things are done. The new economy is computer-dominated. We should focus on training technicians and engineers. The ongoing professionalization of secondary and higher education seeks to meet this requirement. In this light, manual labour, which has been neglected, will definitely need to be given its deserved place from primary school.

In a country like ours, whose ambitions in the areas of agriculture, mining, tourism, arts, sports and the environment are an open secret, and where handicraft and small enterprises still occupy a prominent position, it is indispensable to have better training institutions that prepare our youth for these trades.

These sectors are real niches for growth and skilled jobs such as plumbing, electricity and motor and industrial mechanics.

Industrialization, especially key anchor projects and our agricultural policy will only increase our needs in these specialties. Needless to point out that in more advanced countries, such trades are often better paid than those in the business and service sectors.

From that perspective, given the relatively recent adoption of professionalization of education in Cameroon, its impact on employment will definitely not be immediate.

You might then ask me: given the urgency and the fact that youth are naturally impatient, what do we do and how?

I urge the Government to use the existing structures to continue providing vocational training, promoting self-employment and micro-project financing. I also urge every trades chamber, employers' organization, in short,

the private sector, to pull its own weight.

Dear young compatriots,

Our country's ongoing and irreversible transformation is only possible with you, and for you.

How could it be otherwise when the youth represent one half of our population?

The youth are also known to be passionate. That, I understand. However, they should show some moderation in their drive and be realistic.

Do not be misled notably by birds of ill omen, dreamers and enthusiasts of virtual calls for destabilization through the social networks. These irresponsible prophets are desperately seeking to manipulate you.

Never has our national cohesion been as indispensable as during this delicate period when our country is facing external threat from barbaric enemies.

It is not at a time when our nation's outlook is bright that we should listen to calls for division and destabilization.

Dear young compatriots,

I have always trusted you. I know you treasure our unity. I know you cherish peace, progress and justice. I also know your good sense and your pragmatism.

I am certain that the horrific scenes being witnessed in some countries torn by civil war, religious conflicts, population displacements and anarchy will deter you from getting involved in such adventures.

Take the example of our young soldiers who are ensuring our security along our borders. Their bravery, their sense of duty and sacrifice show us what utmost love for fatherland can be.

The war they are waging on our behalf, at the risk of their lives, involves the entire Nation. There is no doubt that with the support of us all, we will emerge victorious. Friendly countries that cherish peace and freedom, the international community and world opinion are on our side.

Happy Youth Day to all of you!

Long live the Cameroonian youth!

Long live Cameroon!





Special Conference of Head of States of the Council for Peace and Security of Central Africa (COPAX) on the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram

Yaounde 16th february 2015



**Heads of State and Government,
Heads of Delegation,
The Representative of the UN Secretary-General,
The Representative of the Chairperson of the African
Union Commission,
The Secretary-General of ECCAS,
The President of the Senate,
The President of the National Assembly,
The Prime Minister,
The First President of the Supreme Court,
The Procureur General of the Supreme Court,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Cameroonian people, I wish you a warm welcome and pleasant stay in Yaoundé. I would like to heartily thank you for attending this summit.

Just as you desired, this summit is devoted to attacks on some of our countries by the Boko Haram terrorist sect. Your presence here testifies to the solidarity within our Organization. Above all, it also reflects our determination to implement the various decisions we have already taken against Boko Haram, a movement which, as you are aware, rebuffs the values of human life. It uses methods of blind and ruthless terrorism.

Its atrocities have already claimed thousands of lives – Muslims for the most part – and caused extensive property damage in Nigeria and in neighbouring countries.

Chad, Niger and Cameroon, and of course Nigeria, are currently at the front line, so to say. Their armed forces are bravely waging battle... Needless to point out that their battle is also the battle of our entire Organization.

I would like to pay fraternal tribute to President Idriss DEBY. With the support of the Chadian people and as a sign of solidarity, he took the courageous decision to send a large contingent of Chadian soldiers to reinforce our troops. Their bravery is well known and has been demonstrated in the latest battles.

Furthermore, Cameroon commends the decision taken by the African Union at end-January 2015.

As you know, the African Union's Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa, at its meeting of Heads of State and Government, authorized the deployment of a 7 500-man strong Mixed Multinational Force. It also decided to convene an experts' meeting in Yaounde from 5 to 7 February 2015 to specify the operational concept of this force. The meeting conducted an in-depth situation analysis and prepared the mandate of the Mixed Multinational Force.

The African Union's decision also paves the way for referral to the Security Council with a view to adopting a resolution.

Permit me to point out, once again, that this is in no way whatsoever, a "crusade" against Islam or an episode in some kind of "clash of civilizations".

The reality is simple. On one side, there are our forces, defenders of a modern and tolerant society which guarantees the exercise of human rights, including that of religion, as well as representative democracy. On the other side, namely Boko Haram and similar movements, there are partisans of an obscurantist and tyrannical society which has no consideration for human dignity.

You would agree with me that these two models of society are absolutely incompatible and, hence, compromise is absolutely impossible.

Therefore, we need to put an end to the actions and activities of terrorist movements. We need to eradicate Boko Haram. By so doing, we would be able to reassure our populations and better focus on the only worthwhile struggle: the struggle against poverty and for the dignity of Africans.

Thank you.



Toast by the Head of State during the Luncheon at the Unity Palace on the occasion of the official visit of Michaëlle Jean, Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie

Yaounde, 14 April 2015



The Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie,

The Cameroonian people, my wife and I are very pleased to have you in our country. Welcome to Cameroon.

Before addressing the lady who is currently at the helm of the International Organization of La Francophonie, I would like to say a few words to an exceptional woman.

Following an outstanding academic career, you had a brilliant stint in your country's media. It is no surprise that such varied experience qualified you for the prestigious post of Governor General of Canada, making you ipso facto a Head of State. At the end of your tenure, you accepted to undertake many humanitarian missions to Haiti to which you have naturally remained much attached. Your success in the said missions was universally recognized and commended.

As a widely respected woman of action and conviction, your candidacy for the post of Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie, which was put forward by your Government, was approved by consensus in November 2014 in Dakar. That decision, which makes you the first

woman to hold this high office, pays tribute to your personal record. It also recognizes Canada's prominent role in the francophone world.

As an African, I can only be pleased with your appointment. You are familiar with our continent, which you have visited many times. Like me, you are aware that the French language we share is among the five most spoken languages worldwide and particularly in Africa. If demographers' projections are correct, in 2050, Africa's population will be approximately one billion seven hundred million, and the majority French-speaking.

The bulk of our Organization's members are still developing countries. Some, if not the majority, belong to the so-called least developed countries. This is why, in Dakar, I advocated that the solidarity amongst us should be tangible, ongoing and sustainable in terms of development. It was in the same vein that in Montreux, I proposed the establishment of a solidarity fund for disaster-stricken countries.

Madam Secretary-General, as you are aware, contrary to our commitments, the Millennium Development Goals have not been achieved. The Post-2015 Agenda will take over. It is imperative to close the huge gap. In so doing, we will roll back poverty which is the crucible of extremism and rebellion.

In this struggle for human dignity, the International Organization of La Francophonie has its role to play. Its new strategic framework is a valuable asset to this end. By advocating more active solidarity for least developed countries, our organization will contribute towards reducing inequalities between the North and the South.

French is the main link between member countries of the International Organization of La Francophonie. Our Organization should not be a “closed world”. How could it be otherwise? Many of its member countries, particularly Canada and Cameroon, belong to other like-minded bodies. Such being the case, I see no reason why such bodies should not work together or pursue common goals such as peace, democracy and economic and social progress. In this regard, I wish to hail the ever-increasing opening up of our Organization to countries belonging to other linguistic and cultural spheres. I am referring to Arabic-speaking, English-speaking and Portuguese-speaking countries.

We hail our Organization’s contribution to the advent of the future civilization, the universal civilization.

- **The Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie,**

To conclude, I would like to thank you for your visit which comes a few months following your accession to the helm of our Organization. During your meetings, you will surely discover that we have a lot in common.

I will add that you have a huge task. Your distinguished academic career and your record as an admired stateswoman augur well for the successful discharge of your duties. You can count on Cameroon's as well as my own personal support.

- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

My wife and I now invite you to raise your glasses to that success and in honour of Ms Michaëlle Jean, Secretary-General of the International Organization of La Francophonie.

Thank you!



Graduation Ceremony of the “ Lieutenant Youssouf Mahamat Bahar” and “Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification” Batches of the Combined Services Academy

**Speech by the Head of State,
Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces**

Yaounde, 24 April 2015



**The President of the Senate,
The Prime Minister, Head of Government,
The President of the Economic and Social Council,
The First President and Procureur General of the
Supreme Court,
Ministers,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Generals,
Officers, Petty Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers
and Soldiers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This ceremony is taking place at a special moment in Cameroon's history. Our country is waging a merciless war against an enemy that is posing a threat to our territorial integrity, our lifestyle and our people.

Before I continue, please rise and let us observe a minute of silence in memory of our brave soldiers who fell defending our Fatherland, and in memory of our compatriots who were victims of atrocities perpetrated by the Boko Haram sect.
(... Thank you)

Young Officers of the "Lieutenant YOUSSEF MAHAMAT BAHAR" and "Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification" Batches,

I am very pleased today to preside over your graduation ceremony as is customary.

You have opted to pursue one of the best professions, the military profession, which affords you the opportunity to serve the Fatherland in a spirit of selflessness and sacrifice.

The names you have chosen to christen your batches following your training at the Combined Services Academy are particularly evocative.

Lieutenant YOUSSEUF MAHAMAT BAHAR bequeaths to posterity the indelible memory of a young officer who lost his life after neutralizing the entire group of attackers in the course of a dangerous operation he led at sea against a gang of pirates.

The Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification, which was celebrated with pomp and solemnity on 20 February 2014 in Buea, will go down in history as the commemoration of the fierce determination of the Cameroonian people to regain its unity.

In your career as officers, the names of your two batches should constantly serve as references in the discharge of your duties. Lieutenant YOUSSEUF MAHAMAT BAHAR's example will serve as a challenge and a permanent call to attain the highest level of

patriotism and sense of sacrifice, while the Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification will remind you of the absolute imperative to defend our national unity and territorial integrity.

Young Officers of the “Lieutenant YOUSSEF MAHAMAT BAHAR” and “Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification” Batches,

This graduation ceremony is undoubtedly a milestone in your lives. It confirms your accession to the military career, one that is definitely demanding, but no less exciting.

This graduation also crowns three years of efforts made by each and every one of you at the Combined Services Academy.

On behalf of the entire Nation, I am pleased to warmly congratulate you, before the military hierarchy and your respective families.

I equally hail the success of your comrades from Gabon, the Central African Republic, Mali, Niger, Benin and Senegal. Their presence in your midst is testimony to their countries’ confidence in the quality of your school’s label and, obviously, the excellent ties binding us.

I also wish to extend my profound gratitude to your academy's Training Command as well as all the civil and military instructors that accompanied you with competence and devotion throughout your training.

Lastly, I regretfully salute the memory of one of your comrades, Lieutenant DONKENG Joseph Kevin, who died alongside other soldiers during an attack by the Boko Haram terrorist group on 25 July 2014 at Bargaram in the Far-North Region.

Young Officers of the "Lieutenant YOUSSEF MAHAMAT BAHAR" and "Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification" Batches,

As I said, this ceremony is taking place under special circumstances. It is usually an occasion for the graduands, their families and loved ones to express legitimate pride and joy. This year, it is naturally tinged with a feeling of gravity at the thought of those killed in action or wounded in battle.

We must constantly bear in mind that our brave soldiers are engaged in a real war imposed on us by a merciless enemy who defies the laws of humanity.

We therefore had to defend ourselves against aggression of all types. Such is the primary mission of our armed forces: to defend the Nation. It should be

underscored that our soldiers have done better than defending themselves and defending us.

They have inflicted huge losses on the enemy and compelled him to leave our territory. I pay tribute to their courage and spirit of sacrifice. They have won our esteem, they have won our admiration.

Only a "republican" army whose action is rooted in the fundamental values freely chosen by the people can perform such feats. Such is the case of our defence forces which are an emanation of our people and, like all of us, hold dear our conception of a society of freedom, social justice and tolerance.

For their part, the Cameroonian people in their great wisdom clearly understood that it was their very existence as a people that was under threat. And obviously, they could not accept that.

From North to South and from East to West, Cameroonians have mobilized massively, and are still mobilizing enthusiastically and spontaneously, to make their generous contribution to the war effort in a remarkable show of solidarity.

I wish, here and now, to pay our people a glowing tribute for this undivided support to our defence forces. As Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, I congratulate them on this impressive

show of patriotism. I encourage our people to keep up this noble spirit.

We also commend the unreserved support received from the international community. It has understood that what is really at stake in our struggle is human dignity. It has also understood that a single State cannot overcome the security challenges of today's world, namely terrorism, piracy, arms proliferation and drug trafficking. These threats transcend State boundaries. They require from our countries a concerted operational response within the framework of a subregional, regional and even international coalition.

I take this opportunity to note and commend the historic decision of my brother and friend His Excellency Idriss DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad, who, as you are aware, engaged a large Chadian military contingent to fight against Boko Haram alongside Cameroon. We will always remember that.

I will conclude by inviting you, once again, to spare a compassionate thought for our soldiers killed in action and for their families. The Nation will forever be grateful to them.

Young officers of the "Lieutenant YOUSSEUF MAHAMAT BAHAR" and "Fiftieth Anniversary of Reunification" Batches,

Your mission is crystal clear.

I am convinced that you will accomplish it with the full strength of your patriotic commitment, with Honour and Loyalty.

You can count on my constant solicitude and total support from the Cameroonian people.

Long live Cameroon's Defence Forces!

Long live Cameroon!



**State Visit to Cameroon of H.E. François HOLLANDE,
President of the French Republic
Joint Press Conference by Presidents BIYA and
HOLLANDE at Unity Palace
Opening Statement by President Paul BIYA**

Yaoundé, 03 juillet 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,

I would like to first of all welcome you. The Cameroonian people and I are very pleased to receive the President of the French Republic, Mr François Hollande.

We wish to place this visit under the banner of friendship to which President François Hollande's presence today in our midst on a State visit bears eloquent testimony. It is therefore normal that we have had cordial discussions and convergent views on the issues discussed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fight against Boko Haram featured prominently in our discussions. The recent deadly attacks in Nigeria and Chad are part of the long list of atrocities committed by this terrorist group which has continued to wreak death and destruction in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon in recent months. The need for the countries concerned and the international community to pool efforts in order to end this senseless killing has never been stronger. Cameroon has remained steadfast in the face of attacks by this barbarous sect.

I commend the bravery and commitment of our soldiers who have inflicted heavy defeats on the enemy and preserved our territorial integrity. I pay tribute to our population for demonstrating admirable

commitment, cohesion and solidarity. I want to state here that we will spare no effort to protect our territory and population, and prevent these obscurantist forces from halting our march towards progress.

I expressed our heartfelt gratitude to President Hollande for the support France has given and continues to give us in this struggle. I seize this opportunity to sincerely thank the other countries and international organizations for their support. Such support is even more precious to us as we have to address many security, economic and humanitarian challenges against the backdrop of this crisis.

At the regional level, I reiterated to President Hollande Cameroon's appreciation for France's beneficial interventions in Mali and the Central African Republic which have helped to prevent the deterioration of the security situation and create conditions conducive to the resumption of dialogue between the warring factions.

Obviously, we also discussed the political situation in Cameroon. In this respect, I briefed President Hollande on the progress made in consolidating our democracy, especially the ongoing establishment of the institutions provided for by the Constitution, the regular organization of elections, the promotion of human rights and freedoms, etc.

I also briefed him on our determination to pursue efforts regarding governance, the fight against the embezzlement of public funds, the reduction of delays in the administration of justice and the improvement of the business climate. We reaffirmed our mutual commitment to the freedom of expression which is a reality in Cameroon with the proliferation and vitality of newspapers. However, efforts will be made by the Government, and by journalists themselves, to limit excesses.

Economically, Cameroon is pursuing its development efforts with the stated aim of becoming an emerging country. I lauded the support we are receiving from France in this respect. The successful implementation of the Debt Relief and Development Contract (C2D) and the presence of many French enterprises in Cameroon are eloquent proof of the dynamism, solidarity and solidity of our partnership.

President Hollande and I examined the issue of migration and its attendant human tragedies in recent years. This is a complex issue whose solution is not so simple. The international community should continue to explore ways and means of providing more prospects to migrants and aspiring migrants.

The upcoming United Nations Climate Change

Conference which will be hosted by France was also discussed. I commended President Hollande's leadership on these key issues. Cameroon will participate in this struggle to preserve our planet.

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, those are some of my conclusions from our discussions this evening. It goes without saying that I am at your disposal to answer any questions.







Toast by the President of the Republic on the occasion of the State Dinner offered in honour of President François Hollande

Yaounde, 3 July 2015



The President of the French Republic,

My Wife and I are pleased to welcome you to Cameroon, more especially, to this building which symbolizes the unity of our country and our people.

I welcome you with great pleasure in the name of the relationship that is etched in time, and the strong and true friendship existing between France and Cameroon, the French people and the Cameroonian people.

Your visit is a special honour to the Cameroonian people. It bears testimony to the long-standing and strong friendship binding our two countries.

Mr President,

From history and from my experience of relations between men and between States, I have learnt that what matters most between friends is not the time spent together.

I strongly believe that what matters most is the mutual respect friends have for each other, the quality, depth, sincerity and richness of the ties.

The relationship between Cameroon and France is special, and even singular and deeply rooted in time.

It must be recalled that France was here before Cameroon's independence. It was from Cameroon, the first territory to join free France, that French troops stationed in Equatorial Africa set out to re-conquer and liberate France. In that struggle, Cameroonians shed their blood.

When the German protectorate ended, France and Great Britain first ruled Cameroon as a mandated territory under the League of Nations and then as a trust territory under the United Nations. France therefore witnessed our aspirations for sovereignty.

As a key witness to our quest for freedom, France knows the history of our struggle for independence and is aware of the high price that Cameroonians paid. It is not France, which has journeyed with us since our independence, that will be tutored on why Cameroonians hold their national unity so dear.

Cameroon's unity has been built on its geographical, ethnic and cultural diversity. It is such diversity that gives my country its rich and varied character. The distinctive pride of my compatriots is also due to this diversity.

Mr President,

With valuable help from friendly countries, including France, we have laid the foundations of a free, democratic and prosperous Cameroon.

France supports our efforts to build a modern State. Hence, it is only normal for us to count on our ally of all times, both in our march towards emergence and in our crusade against corruption, terrorism and insecurity.

Mr President,

We cannot fail to mention the significant progress we have achieved in promoting democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech, and human rights protection. We have also been able to progressively establish credible institutions. However, as in all endeavours, the learning process, which took several centuries in old democracies, has not always been without hurdles.

What is indisputable is the democratic culture which is becoming deeply rooted in Cameroon. However, we remain cautious in order to avoid highlighting, all too often, the downside more than the upside.

Current events clearly show that our relationship is marked by frankness, pragmatism and realism. Who would dare affirm that, even so, the relationship is not at its best?

For my part, I avail myself of this opportunity to salute the excellent cooperation and friendship ties existing between us and between our peoples.

This friendship is invaluable for us at a time when our planet has to deal with terrorism, the immigration peril, violence, global warming and, it must be acknowledged, a lingering economic crisis.

Human aspiration for more freedom and the enjoyment of innovation is legitimate. Unfortunately, all too often, it leads to tragic disillusionment. Therefore, the concerted action of States seems to be the only way out; provided, this time around, human dignity takes centre stage in every activity. This is absolutely a moral imperative, given that the human person must never cease being the rationale behind everything.

Such are Cameroon's opinion and vision.

Mr President,

At the end of the last century, my country was hard hit by a severe economic crisis. Frankly, coming out of the crisis was no easy task. By the way, we still bear the stigma of structural adjustment and, somehow, the burden of accumulated debt. Support from our friends and multilateral partners helped to boost our own efforts and ease our sacrifices.

In the new dispensation, Cameroon sought to consolidate its traditional relations with its long-standing partners. At the same time, we have resolutely embarked on diversifying our partnerships, as the global environment is now more open to competition.

Mr President,

In terms of security, France's action is and remains paramount and crucial especially within the United Nations Security Council. Your commitment to peace preservation and crisis and conflict resolution, especially in Africa, has remained constant. In Mali, it is mainly thanks to France that there is now hope for a return to normalcy. Even closer to us, your country is making a very valuable and highly appreciated contribution towards restoring Statehood in the Central African Republic and stamping out Boko Haram.

Mr President,

As you know, Cameroon is not only waging a war against the Boko Haram sect, but is also affected in many ways by the crisis in the Central African Republic. In terms of humanitarian needs, the atrocities committed in this country have led to population displacement and an influx of refugees. Several French nationals were taken hostage due to this situation. Fortunately, they have all been released, thanks to the concerted and effective action of our services. It is in no one's interest for chaos, which breeds insecurity, jihadism and various forms of fundamentalism, to take hold of the Heart of Africa, a continent of opportunities.

I believe this is the appropriate time for France to continue its all-out lobbying of other great powers. We believe the UN Security Council should make a firm commitment to ending this tragedy.

Cameroon hails you as a President with firm convictions and a strong sense of justice. Know that, like you, we believe that more needs to be done to address the root causes of various scourges.

This applies more specifically to misery and poverty, breeding grounds for uncontrolled migration and various forms of fundamentalism.

I welcome the holding in Paris next December of the

summit on global warming which is affecting us in Africa.

I therefore accept your kind invitation to come to Paris.

Before I conclude, allow me to extend greetings to the members of the delegation accompanying President HOLLANDE and to wish them a pleasant stay among us. These are ladies and gentlemen who, I know, are working selflessly for successful cooperation between our two countries.

My wife and I now invite you to raise your glasses in honour of the President of the French Republic, Mr. François HOLLANDE and to France-Cameroon friendship.

Thank you.



Toast by H.E. Paul BIYA, during the State Dinner offered in honour of H.E. Muhammadu BUHARI, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Yaounde, 29 July 2015



Mr President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Very Dear Brother,

The Cameroonian people, my wife and I are very pleased and proud to welcome you to Yaounde this day. You are on a maiden visit to Cameroon following your election to the highest office of Nigeria, a neighbouring and brotherly country with which we have always shared strong and indestructible ties created by our geographic closeness and by History.

I therefore wish you and your delegation a warm welcome to and a pleasant and fruitful stay in Cameroon.

Permit me, on behalf of the Cameroonian people and on my personal behalf, to avail myself of this solemn occasion to once more heartily congratulate you on your recent election which, today, requires you to preside over the destiny of your great nation.

Mr President,

A dark cloud is looming over our countries even as we welcome you. We are facing the same threat which may rock the very foundations of our two Nations. This danger bears the name Boko Haram.

Its atrocities and crimes are jeopardizing social peace around Lake Chad and, especially, in our two countries.

The number of deaths and victims is rising. Economic activities have been crippled in affected areas. The number of refugees and displaced persons is ever-increasing.

We cannot allow this canker to spread. We must pool our resources and forces, and share our experiences.

I fathom your determination to put an end to Boko Haram activities on Nigerian territory and to cooperate with the other affected countries.

I therefore pay deserved tribute to the initiatives you have taken in that connection.

Rest assured of Cameroon's total, constant and unflinching commitment in this just and noble struggle. Our intransigence is matched only by the determination to ensure that our peoples continue to live in the peace and tranquility they have always known until recently.

As soon as the terrorist threat was felt at our border, I took important measures to step up the operational capacity of our defence and security forces.

These measures added to an exemplary and dynamic international cooperation that we hail today.

Friendly and brotherly countries like Chad, Niger, responded with great solidarity to the measures which enjoyed and still enjoy the support of our close-knit and unanimous peoples.

As I have already stated in other occasions, and we all agree, terrorism is today a global threat and only a global response can stamp it out.

The future of our States, the prosperity and wellbeing of our peoples, as well as world peace depend on it.

The seriousness of the security issues I have just raised should not dampen our determination to pursue the excellent diversified bilateral cooperation ties existing between our two countries.

We have established various cooperation platforms besides the many informal transactions carried out between our peoples. I believe that through these platforms, we can now implement even more common-interest cross-border projects to improve the living conditions of our respective peoples and transform our zone into an area of inclusive prosperity.

I am therefore appealing, Mr President, for a fresh push to economic ties between our two countries to ensure greater solidarity and complementarity. In the same vein, we should ease trade between our two countries and encourage more joint ventures involving our economic operators.

I strongly believe in your readiness to work towards that goal, and your visit to Cameroon as well as the discussions we have had have strengthened my conviction.

**Mr President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

My wife and I now invite you to raise your glasses:

- in honour of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Muhammadu BUHARI ;

- to the strengthening of secular ties between Nigeria and Cameroon;

- to peace, concord and the prosperity of our brotherly peoples!

Thank you.



Opening Statement by the Head of State on the sad events that occurred in Mecca

Yaoundé, le 15 octobre 2015

**The Prime Minister,
Ministers of State,
Ministers,
Ministers Delegate,
Secretaries of State,**

Before I get into the crux of the matter, let me first of all recall the sad events that occurred during the recent pilgrimage to Mecca which plunged our country into mourning.

In fact, on 24 September 2015, a huge stampede occurred in Mecca leaving many pilgrims dead or injured. Information at our disposal today indicates that 76 of our compatriots died in the stampede. As I speak, some thirty others are still unaccounted for. Our diplomatic missions on the spot are searching for them in collaboration with Saudi authorities.

Once more I wish to extend to the bereaved families my most sincere condolences as well as those of the entire Nation.

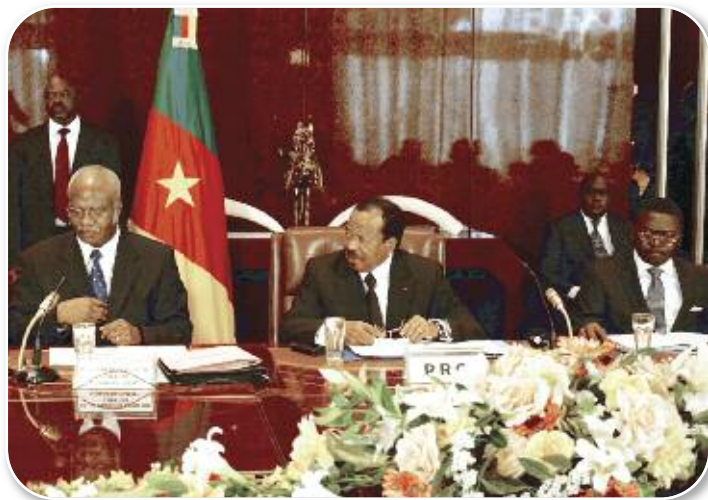
I have dispatched a Special Envoy to Saudi Arabia to deliver to our pilgrims the Nation's message of comfort and solidarity.

I have ordered the disbursement of special assistance for the injured and the affected families.

I have also declared 16 October 2015 a national day of mourning.

I now invite you to rise and observe a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives during this event.

Thank you.



Special Statement by the Head of State

Yaounde, 15 October 2015



**The Prime Minister,
Ministers of State,
Ministers,
Ministers Delegate,
Secretaries of State,**

We have just listened to some particularly edifying presentations.

I note with satisfaction that the Emergency Plan is definitely under way. I attach utmost importance to its implementation. Indeed, our people would like to see Cameroon transformed into a vast construction site through the Emergency Plan and our traditional development agenda. The people hope for better living conditions.

We must speed up preparations for the major sporting events which are the 2016 and 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON).

The Emergency Plan and the hosting of the AFCON competitions are major challenges which the government must meet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to serve one's country as a Member of Government. But it is also, and above all, a RESPONSIBILITY, A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY, which I, therefore, urge you to fully assume and make Government's action more effective and EFFICIENT.

I have said it before and I am saying it again, we have a long-term vision which should enable us to achieve the status of emerging country by 2035.

We have a Growth and Employment Strategy Paper which seeks to modernize our country and improve the living conditions of the Cameroonian people.

Lastly, we have an Emergency Plan to address urgent needs.

As you can see, the framework has thus been laid down, and goals have been set and are known. We must resolutely pursue our action. I wish to state this clearly. We must do more. We must do better.

In the coming months, it is obvious that the Government's top priorities will still be to defend our country against the Boko Haram threat and its atrocities, as well as preserve our internal security. In that connection, it will ensure continuity in its action.

I take this opportunity to once more extend my appreciation to our defence and security forces for their commitment to protecting our territorial integrity.

Thanks to their courage and professionalism, the Boko Haram terrorists have suffered many setbacks. They are now in a difficult situation. With their backs to the wall, they are now using cowardly weapons, that is, gruesome suicide attacks against innocent civilians.

I have issued appropriate instructions to our defence and security forces to help them adapt to this new form of aggression. They have been recording indisputable successes daily on this new front. I congratulate them.

I would also like to thank and warmly congratulate our valiant populations for their patriotism and resolve to keep the terrorists at bay. They have been providing valuable and effective assistance to our defence and security forces through vigilante groups. We will continue to lend them our full support.

Let this be very clear. Protecting our people and their property remains our top priority. I will spare no effort in this regard.

Government's second priority is to do everything possible to maintain or even increase our growth rate. It is true that the fall in oil prices and the budgetary effort made to ensure our protection will complicate our task, but I believe that we have some growth-supporting reserves.

If we attain our goals in terms of:

- power generation,
- tapping our mineral resources,
- building our transport infrastructure,
- modernizing our agriculture,
- kick-starting our second generation industrialization, etc.,

I am convinced that we can overcome all the other difficulties.

But this will require the Government to correct lingering shortcomings here and there.

- It will be necessary to ensure better coordination between ministries.

- It will also be necessary to ensure better organization within ministries. I am thinking here of greater involvement of Ministers Delegate and Secretaries of State.

- Similarly, efforts should be made to speed up project maturation and eliminate unjustified deadlocks.

- It will also be necessary to address the issue of under-utilization of appropriations which undermines our economic recovery efforts.

- In the same vein, it will be essential to continue ensuring quality public spending.

■ Lastly, you should constantly apply the following principles which are the driving force of Senior State Servants and nation-builders: discipline, team spirit, dedication, loyalty, integrity and patriotism.

A lot has been done in recent years. Perhaps we have not been talking enough about it. But we must not rest on our laurels. Development is a perpetual process, and we have so much to do!

Not so long ago, I said that the Government team should see itself as a “Government with a mission”. This meant that it was not appointed to deal with routine business, but to invent, create and implement. Today, more than ever before, I reiterate that instruction; because that is what the Cameroonian people expect, and because that is what we owe the people.

Thank you for your attention.



**38th United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
General Conference
Speech by h.e. Paul BIYA, President of
the Republic of Cameroon**

Paris, 16 November 2015



**Distinguished Heads of State and Delegation,
The President of the General Conference,
The President of the Executive Council,
The Director General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by sincerely congratulating Minister Stanley MUTUMBA SIMATAA on his election as President of the 38th General Conference.

The President of the General Conference,

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, including UNESCO, I am pleased to note that Africa is chairing this General Conference through your country. This is a strong sign that the world is changing positively.

The United Nations system in general, and UNESCO in particular, have contributed tremendously to this extraordinary change by supporting our continent's political independence, the assertion of its personality and the preservation of its culture. Thus, a rejuvenated Africa has made a comeback to the community of nations.

Despite centuries of suffering and subordination, Africa has continued to believe and hope in humanity.

It has brought to the community of nations its humanism marked by respect for the human person and dignity, a humanism of fraternity and solidarity. This explains its quest for a more just and more united new world order. Africa had no difficulty in adopting the ideals contained in the United Nations Charter and the UNESCO Constitution.

Mr President, my country fathoms the weight of your responsibility from experience and assures you of its support.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through me, Cameroon, which is pleased to participate in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, would like to heartily thank Mrs Irina BOKOVA, Director General of UNESCO, for her invitation. It is an honour and privilege to address this historic session.

I will start by recalling the special ties binding my country, UNESCO and the United Nations system. After the First World War, Cameroon was placed under the mandate of the League of Nations, and later under United Nations trusteeship. Under the auspices of the latter, it pursued its progress towards independence. Cameroon therefore rightly considers itself as an offspring of the United Nations and the international community.

Within the large family of the United Nations system, Cameroon has a particular inclination towards UNESCO.

The reason is simple. As a peaceful and tolerant country inhabited by peoples of different origins, religions and cultural traditions, Cameroon shares UNESCO's humanistic ideal the ultimate goal of which is to promote human "development" and harmony between peoples. Like UNESCO, Cameroon thinks that our differences, far from being a handicap, are a source of enrichment.

My country also shares the vision of lasting peace which is stated in the preamble of the Constitution of our organization which I would like to quote:

" Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". End of quote.

Harmony and understanding between peoples are closely linked to the recognition of and mutual respect for different cultures and their dialogue. The dissemination of education and the progress of science can but contribute to such values.

Fortunately, UNESCO has, since its inception, devoted itself to promoting these values. In fact, where war shows its ugly face, one can see the tragic

consequences for the population and the cultural heritage of humanity. What is happening in Syria, Iraq and Mali is a vivid illustration.

Far from discouraging us, these deplorable examples should, instead, strengthen our resolve to defeat these destructive and backward ideologies.

My own country, which is a haven of stability, is now going through this painful experience. In recent years, it has suffered the terrorist attacks of Boko Haram. This sect is spreading grief and desolation in families, causing population displacement and the influx of refugees, and disrupting social and economic life in the Far-North Region of my country.

Worse still, this intolerant loose conglomeration is sowing seeds of ethnic and religious division, thus undermining the very foundations of our country which is its unity. The struggle to eradicate the sect compels us to devote huge resources to our defence at the expense of improving the living conditions of Cameroonians. The pooling of resources with our neighbours, the establishment of a joint African Union Multinational Force, and the valuable support provided by friendly powers, including France, will, I believe, enable us to crush this barbaric enemy soon.

I take this opportunity to recall that no country is safe from terrorist attacks. What has just happened in Paris in the evening of 13 November is very revealing. The war against terrorism concerns every nation that ranks respect for the human person and life among its core values. It is incumbent on every nation to make its contribution.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past decades, we have received constant support from our foreign partners and international organizations. This support has helped us, over time, to build a democratic society and ensure our development. Our ambition is to achieve the status of an emerging country by 2035.

UNESCO occupies a privileged position among our partners. So, I would now like to say a few words concerning our cooperation with this organization.

In the area of education, UNESCO has contributed to implementing major projects such as the promotion of universal education, the fight against illiteracy, the enhancement of teaching methods, citizenship education and the modernization of our university system.

In the domain of science, UNESCO is helping us to improve environmental management and the

functioning of the National Micro-science Centre.

Regarding culture and communication, we can proudly mention the building of the capacity of cultural actors and improvement of the management of protected areas, as well as the promotion of access to information.

This list is far from exhaustive as UNESCO's achievements in my country are numerous and diverse. I also hail the establishment of the UNESCO Regional Office for Central Africa in Cameroon which will certainly strengthen its action in our sub-region.

I would like to end by expressing my deep appreciation for UNESCO's activities in Cameroon under the stewardship of Irina BOKOVA. I would like to warmly congratulate and thank her and to inform her that her visit to my country last year remains etched in our memories.

Thank you for your attention.



COP21: TIME FOR ACTION : Tribune in Le Monde news paper

Paris, le 30 Novembre 2015



It is time to take urgent action against climate change. The Paris Conference on Climate Change is a historic opportunity for the international community to make commitments that are commensurate with the challenges faced. Together, we must contain the harmful effects of global warming.

It is true that the road from the Rio Summit in 1992 has been long, marked by the holding of many conferences in Kyoto, Bali, Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban, Doha, Warsaw and Lima. However, these efforts have not been in vain. Considered at first as the business of specialists, global warming has shaken the conscience of nations, their leaders and peoples. The question now is: what planet are we going to bequeath to future generations?

There is no doubt that climate change is caused by human activities as demonstrated by the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Although it has been clearly established that industrialized countries are more responsible for climate change than developing countries, that is not the issue. It is no longer time to apportion blame, but to act. This global problem of climate change requires appropriate solutions from the international community.

All the preparatory work carried out in Lima, Bonn and Paris ahead of COP21 is an indication that we are moving towards a comprehensive and ambitious agreement to contain global warming by keeping global average temperature increase below 2°C by 2100.

We expect the "Paris Agreement" that will crown the deliberations of this conference to include compromises between national interests and those of the community of nations which are acceptable to all parties. To be credible, the commitments should be binding, especially with respect to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and provide for the establishment of appropriate financial and technological assistance mechanisms to support poor countries in their fight against climate disruptions.

Indeed, for many developing or emerging countries on the path to emergence, including Cameroon, greenhouse gas emission reduction remains predicated on support from the international community, especially the industrialized countries, in the form of funding, capacity building and technology transfer.

At the same time, it is necessary to draw up a financing schedule to ensure that partners in the agreement meet their commitments.

Similarly, it will be indispensable for the various funds,

particularly the Green Fund, to be replenished by developed countries as planned and in a sustainable manner, without prejudice to grants awarded as official development assistance, and for access to funding sources to be simplified.

Cameroon intends to fully meet its commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of its development by 32% by 2035 compared with 2010.

Cameroon's development policy, which seeks to achieve the status of emerging country by this same date, will certainly require climate change adaptation. At the international level, these mitigation measures will require technology transfers, maybe through a multilateral special fund. At the national level, the measures will also require us to harmonize our sector policies and scale up the efforts we have been making for several years now (reforestation as part of desertification control, designing a clean development mechanism, sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation).

We must size up the real stakes of COP21 which are nothing short of ensuring the survival of mankind.

If participants demonstrate enough political courage to take obviously difficult but indispensable decisions to mobilize adequate resources and coordinate their

efforts, then the Paris conference would have achieved its goal and marked a historic turning point.

**Paul BIYA,
President of the Republic of Cameroon**



**21st Session of the Conference of parties to
the United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change
Speech by H.E. Paul Biya,
President of the Republic of Cameroon**

Paris, 30 November 2015

**The President of the Conference,
Heads of State and Government,
The Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to first of all thank the French authorities and, especially, President François Hollande for the quality of their welcome. I also wish to congratulate them for the excellent organization of COP21 and their commitment to ensuring its success.

I would also like to congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his contribution to preparing this meeting which, undoubtedly, is one of the most important at this beginning of the millennium.

In fact, our Conference addresses the urgent need to contain the adverse effects of climate change. It is our responsibility. It is our duty. And here, we have the opportunity.

To be credible, our conclusions and compromises must be binding. It is not an impossible task. Let us be guided simply by the requirement of human solidarity and proper appraisal of the urgency of the situation.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO FAIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although a low greenhouse gas-emitting country, Cameroon will continue to contribute to greenhouse

gas emission reduction through the following:

- firstly, the plan to reduce carbon footprint by 32% by 2035 compared with 2010;
- secondly, desertification control, preparation of a clean development mechanism, sustainable forest management and an action for the concerted management of the Congo Basin forests within the framework of the Central African Forests Commission;
- thirdly, sustainable water resource management in conjunction with the countries of the sub-region, members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Niger Basin Authority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

COP21 is expected to address two issues.

The first is the steady degradation of forests in Central Africa. Such degradation will decrease the contribution of these forests to greenhouse gas reduction.

WE MUST SAVE THE CONGO BASIN FORESTS. WE MUST SAVE THE SECOND LUNG OF THE PLANET.

Our second concern is desertification, which is affecting the neighbouring countries of Lake Chad.

That vast expanse of water, which is absolutely indispensable to the life of the population and biodiversity, is gradually drying up. It has already lost

90% of its initial surface area.

LET US SAVE LAKE CHAD.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here to seek ways to meet the expectations and hopes of our peoples. Therefore, let us show determination and political courage. Yes, let us demonstrate audacity and wisdom.

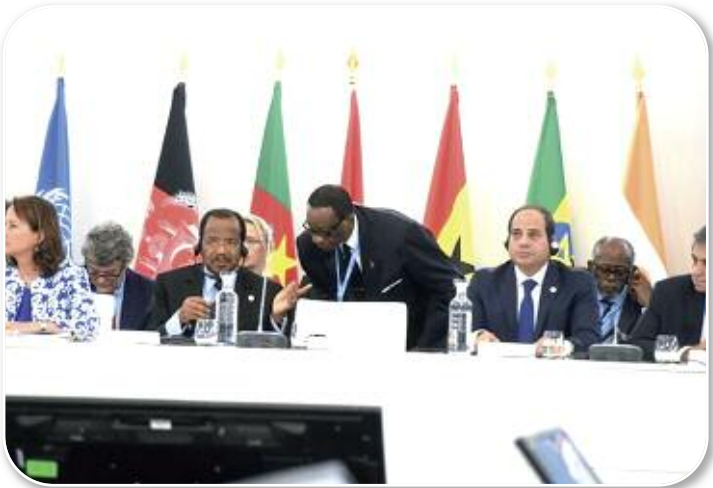
If we succeed, the Paris Conference will go down in history as the decisive moment which the world, in its quest for the survival of mankind, has been clamouring for.

Thank you.



Address by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon, at the Mini-Summit on Africa on the Theme “Climate Challenge and African Solutions”

Paris-Le Bourget, le 1er Décembre 2015



Thank you Mr President.

I will start by thanking you, Mr President of the French Republic, for initiating this Paris Conference on climate change.

I also wish to thank the UN Secretary-General for working closely with you for the success of the conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the organizers for the quality of the deliberations and in-depth discussions of the conference.

The speakers who preceded me have said everything, and eloquently indeed, about the adverse effects of climate change in Africa. I will not come back to that.

The first issue was whether Africa was really aware of the gravity of the phenomenon. The speakers who preceded me have shown that Africa is aware and that solutions have even been outlined, namely the Great Green Wall, the energy plan, etc. Moreover, we were visited by Minister Borloo who is proposing a plan to electrify 80% of Africa. Solutions exist, but I think the major problem is financing.

A lot has been done by France, in particular, as well as the World Bank and the African Development Bank. However, our troubles are not yet over. That is why I would like to join the speakers before me to say that there is need to go further in financing Africa.

Of course, climate change has not only greatly altered feeding habits and the lives of people, it has also led to the emergence of violence, particularly around Lake Chad where we are grappling with very violent movements. However, we have not sat idly by and let things happen. We have set up a Multinational Joint Task Force comprising Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Benin which is fighting these terrorists.

Nonetheless, we are optimistic. The global awareness being shown today in Paris is a pointer that the world is determined to meet the challenges. That is why we wish to once more thank President Hollande and the countries helping Africa to continue this onward march for a better life and a better future for mankind.

Thank you.

Paris-Le Bourget, 1 December 2015







Head of State's message to the Nation

Yaounde, 31 December 2015



My Dear Compatriots,

As the year 2015 draws to an end, I would like to invite you, as each year, to review how we have fared as a Nation and to project ourselves into the New Year together, with assurance and determination.

You would agree with me – I believe – that a single word suffices to describe our country during the year that is drawing to an end: RESILIENCE.

I am referring, as you know, to our people's capacity to resist and to cope with day-to-day challenges, which is acknowledged by all development partners.

This attribute, which is fundamental to great Nations, was clearly demonstrated on two major fronts: our country's economic performance and its security situation.

Let us begin with economic performance:

As we are all aware, the present global context is characterized, among other things, by:

- slow global growth, and
- dwindling oil and other commodity prices.

In this adverse global context, our economy was able to hold up well, maintaining its 6% growth forecast and curbing the inflation rate at slightly less than 3%.

Neither the additional expenditure incurred due to the war against terrorism nor the disruption of economic

activity in the areas under attack could prevent us from achieving our objectives...

I am aware that this growth is not yet sufficient to significantly transform the daily lives of our grassroots populations.

We can do better. We must do better.

However, this excellent effort, which has made our macroeconomic indicators more viable, is commendable.

I must also mention that this growth made it possible for our economy to generate 337 660 new jobs as at end-November 2015, against 283 443 the previous year.

In this regard, I am pleased to note that 1 175 358 jobs have been created from 2011 to 2015.

Obviously, our needs are overwhelming and far from being fully met. However, we should welcome what has already been achieved, while planning to do better and better.

I will come back to this.

Concerning the security challenge,

Throughout the year, our Nation put up a fierce resistance to Boko Haram terrorists. At this juncture, I would like to pay a glowing tribute to our defence and security forces, as well as our people. The courage and professionalism

of our forces and the commitment and courage of our people have helped to preserve our territorial integrity. Not one centimetre of our territory has been ceded to the aggressors. Better still, we have, on several occasions, inflicted serious military setbacks on them.

Through intense diplomatic activity, we have also been able to rally a wide array of partners to this fight against Boko Haram. We should, as a Nation, express our gratitude to the various friendly countries that are supporting us in this fight.

In this regard, I would like to specially commend the decision of the United States of America to field 300 troops on an intelligence support mission. We are grateful to them for such mark of confidence in our country and our army.

Similarly, the multifaceted support received from other friendly countries such as France, China, Russia, Germany and many others, is invaluable.

With neighbouring Nigeria, we have honed our methods and mechanisms for concerted action.

We should equally commend the fraternal commitment of Chadian forces on our side in this collective struggle.

I have always believed that terrorism is a global threat, warranting a global response. This reality was confirmed in 2015.

For our part, I commend the operationalization of the

Joint Multinational Force on the ground. It confirms the effective involvement of all Lake Chad Basin Commission member countries in this fight.

The terrorists, who have been driven into a corner, have now resorted to the hideous practice of suicide bombings.

Nothing will undermine the resolve of our defence and security forces. Nothing will affect our people's morale or resilience.

To deal with the atrocities of Boko Haram, the Nation's vital forces are mobilized to firmly say NO to terrorism. Better still, they are contributing to the war effort in cash or kind.

Such massive mobilization has given a special significance to our popular defence strategy. The Army and Nation are working in synergy to defend our territory and our sovereignty.

I have had the opportunity to commend the role of vigilante committees backing up our defence and security forces.

At this juncture, we should salute the memory of our compatriots who lost their lives in this legitimate civil defence exercise.

They put up a patriotic opposition to the senseless brutality of terrorists and made the supreme sacrifice. In that regard, they are role models for our Nation.

My Dear Compatriots,

After coping so well with the hardships of 2015, lowering our guard now is out of the question.

There are still many challenges on both the economic and security fronts. However, at the dawn of a new year, I urge you to, of course, look to the future with vigilance, but also with confidence and a sense of commitment.

You are aware that our target is set. We must achieve emergence by 2035.

To that end, we should continue building on our gains in 2016 in order to modernize our country and improve the living conditions of our people.

I have enjoined the Government to work towards this, with imagination, determination and the obligation to deliver.

My main concern remains promoting the quality of life in our society. I am aware that this hinges on improving our people's purchasing power.

Despite the current economic hardship, I have instructed the Government to implement two key measures:

- review pump prices of fuel downward; and
- review upwards, the amount of family allowances paid to workers.

These measures will take effect on 1 January 2016.

My Dear Compatriots,

Specific projects await our Nation. We will host the women's AFCON in 2016 and the men's AFCON in 2019. To that end, we need appropriate infrastructure. I have instructed the Government to work hard towards that.

Our key objective remains accelerating economic growth. Our growth should be more robust, more sustainable, more inclusive and capable of generating more jobs for all, particularly our youth. Our people should reap the spin-offs of such growth.

To that end, as I reiterated recently to the Government, the National Growth and Employment Strategy Paper remains our guide.

The Emergency Plan spells out the immediate priorities, without interfering with the normal economic programme of the Government.

I am pleased that this long awaited Three-Year Emergency Plan is now firmly on track and ongoing. The outcomes of the actions under way will soon be visible.

The major challenge for the country in 2016 will be to create conditions conducive to real industrialization. Emergence is inconceivable without a viable industrial sector.

We have substantial agricultural, mining, tourist, cultural and human resources. They constitute a huge growth potential for our country.

I have instructed the Government to accelerate the creation of conditions necessary for our country's industrialization.

Such pre-requisites are:

- availability of adequate and permanent energy supply;
- modernization of our agriculture and processing of its production;
- exploitation and processing of mineral resources;
- constant improvement of the business climate to attract more investors;
- mobilization of the required financing; and
- development of communication and telecommunication infrastructure.

Concerning the last domain, we must rapidly bridge the digital economy development gap. This is a genuine growth driver as well as a niche for new jobs for our youth. We should make the most of it.

In its organization, the Government will give this sector all the attention it deserves.

My Dear Compatriots,

The task is huge, and the projects are numerous. But, I firmly believe that we can take a great leap forward.

We have the wherewithal.

Through the determination and patriotic commitment of each and every one, I am convinced that we can meet the challenge, in the interests of all.

We should not miss out on this decisive turning point.

The Administration is a vital national instrument at the service of the State and the general interest. Yet, it is often blamed by its users and by our development partners.

The recent conclusions of the IMF evaluation mission to our country, the respective reports of the latest Doing Business and Cameroon Investment Forum or CONAC are good examples in this regard.

Our Administration should remain a prime mover of progress. I will personally follow this up.

My Dear Compatriots,

The challenges ahead are daunting. With the commitment of all, we can meet them.

I trust the calibre of people who abound in our country...

I know how patriotic you are ...

Let us work together to make 2016:

- a year full of victories, great victories, for our country ...

- a year that brings peace, prosperity and happiness to everyone ...

Happy and Prosperous New Year 2016!

BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

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 Mvomeka'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 Iere partie

June 1956: Baccalaureat 2e 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 (assistant) 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 (Chief of Staff), 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.

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