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# Evaluating and Financing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

Paris, 12 December 2017

**Participation of the President of the Republic of Cameroon, H.E. Paul BIYA**

**[PRESS KIT]**



## Participation of the President of the Republic of Cameroon in the “One Planet Summit” in Paris

The participation of the Head of State at this summit is in line with his constant and resolute commitment to the protection of the environment in general and the fight against climate change, in particular, which threatens “*the survival of the human race*”. President Paul BIYA considers the fight against climate disruption as “*an emergency*”, because the damage caused is irreversible. The Head of State is also convinced that the solutions to this phenomenon must be found in a global framework.

In a speech delivered at COP21 in 2015, President Paul BIYA invited the international community to “*action*”; to go beyond the debate on responsibility between industrialised and developing countries, even though it would be more important for the industrialised countries. He pointed out that “*for*

*developing countries or on the road to emergence among which is Cameroon, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions remains conditional on the support of the international community, especially the industrialised countries in the form of financing, capacity building and technological transfer*”. This means that Cameroon is perfectly comfortable with France’s initiative, which it strongly supports, to organise a summit to mobilise funding for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

With regard to this Agreement, it should be pointed out that Cameroon was among the first twenty countries to have ratified it. It was on 12 July 2016.

### Priorities for Cameroon

At COP21, President Paul BIYA had brought Cameroon’s voice with

force and relevance. Leader of a country which shelters, in part, the dense forest of the Congo Basin – second lung of the planet, Paul BIYA had reminded to the universal conscience that this forest massif deserves a large attention and the protection of all. **“WE MUST SAVE THE CONGO BASIN FORESTS. WE MUST SAVE THE SECOND LUNG OF THE PLANET.”**, President Paul Biya appealed. Similarly, the Head of State had drew attention to the tragic situation of the Lake Chad whose dramatic shrinking endangers millions of lives in the five countries that share this body of water. President Paul Biya also challenged his peers to **“SAVE LAKE CHAD”**.

For Cameroon, a weak emitter of greenhouse gases, which intends to continue contributing to its reduction, as committed by the Head of State at COP21, the challenge of participating in the *“One Planet Summit”* in Paris is clear. It revolves around the two priorities set out by President Paul BIYA during the mini-summit of

Heads of State dedicated to Africa on the occasion of COP21.

- Primo, continue advocacy to save the Congo Basin forests through financial compensation of riparian countries.
- Secondly, to reverse the drying up of Lake Chad and to protect the living environment of populations suffering the effects of the deterioration of their environment. This requires strong support from the international community for the €900 million Development and Adaptation to Climate Change Plan, the Five-Year Investment Plan and an Emergency Programme for Youth and Development.



## Presentation of “One Planet Summit”

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A climate summit christened “**One Planet Summit**” will be organised in Paris on 12 December 2017, on the initiative of French President Emmanuel Macron. This summit comes two years after the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21), which culminated in the signing, on 12 December 2015, of the historic Paris Climate Agreement. The 12 December 2017 climate summit in Paris will serve as an opportunity to evaluate the Paris Climate Agreement, and mobilise the necessary funding for its implementation.

### Context

- ✓ The forthcoming Paris Summit follows the COP23 in Bonn – Germany (last November), and the COP22 in Marrakech – Morocco (in November 2016).
- ✓ It will be organised in a context marked by the withdrawal of the United States (*one of the 195 countries that participated in the COP21, and one of the largest polluters on the planet*) from the Paris Agreement on 1 June 2017. The decision of the new U.S. President has been formally notified to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) via a letter dated 4 August 2017.

- ✓ It marks the determination of the rest of the community to continue implementing the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ To enter into force, the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015 had to be ratified by at least 55 States; parties to the UNFCCC, representing at least an estimated 55% of total greenhouse gas emissions. The first threshold was crossed on 21 September 2016 and the second on 5 October. The Agreement came into effect 30 days after the two conditions were met on 4 November 2016. It took less than a year for this Accord to be officially validated. A record for an international treaty of this magnitude.
- ✓ As of November 2017, more than 168 states had already ratified the Paris Climate Agreement out of the 195 countries that participated in COP 21 in 2015. Collectively, ratified countries cumulated more than 83.54% of greenhouse gas emissions.

## **The three main objectives of the “One Planet Summit”**

### **1. Take tangible and collective action**

There are solutions, let's roll them out globally and locally as swiftly as possible.

### **2. Innovate**

Let's be creative and resourceful in adapting our systems to the inevitable changes and step up our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **3. Support one another**

We are all affected by climate change, but some of us are more vulnerable than others. Let's work together for the good of all and increase our support even more to the countries and peoples who need it most.

## **The co-organisers of the Paris Summit**

The summit is jointly organised by the United Nations (UN) and the World



Bank Group in partnership with other international organisations, NGOs and associations.

The UN is at the forefront of research with the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It considers climate change as an opportunity for the international community to unite and face a challenge that knows no boundaries.

The World Bank Group is an unparalleled global organisation that brings together more than 180 countries and five entities whose core mission is to provide sustainable solutions that can reduce poverty and create shared prosperity in developing countries.

### **The partners:**

These include, among others:

#### **Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Bloomberg Philanthropies works in more than 120 countries around the world to ensure a better and longer life for the greatest number of people. The organisation focuses on five key areas to create sustainable change: Art, Education, Environment, Government Innovation and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies brings together all of Michael R. Bloomberg's charitable activities.

#### **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

Comprising 197 parties, the nearly universal United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is at the root of the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement.

#### **The European Commission**

The European Commission is the executive body of the EU. It decides on the political and strategic orientation of the Union.

#### **The OECD**

Unique organisation in which governments work together to pool their experiences and find ways to address global challenges.

## **Main themes of the Paris Summit**

The summit “One Planet Summit” will be held at La Seine Musicale; the new cultural showcase inaugurated in April on the Seguin Island. The conclave will be characterised by speeches of leaders and personalities, the presentation of innovative projects and the holding of four panels – all geared towards financial issues such as: procedures to support the energy transition of territories, move towards the low carbon economy and adaptation to climate change, the mobilisation of public funding, and green private finance.



## PANEL 1 SCALING-UP FINANCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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*Which instruments to mobilise funding towards low carbon and climate adaptation projects?*

**Today's investments are shaping the world of tomorrow.** In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, the investments needed are in the **range of trillions of dollars**.

In this context, public finance has a key role to play but will not alone foster resilient and sustainable development for all. It should more specifically **support the elaboration of long-term climate policies and leverage private finance**.

**Development finance institutions**, be they national, regional, bilateral or multilateral are at the heart of this process. They have the capacity to shift financial flows towards a low-carbon economy, aligned with the Paris Agreement objectives.

The panel will demonstrate how the Paris Agreement framework sets a new mandate for public and private finance and why it is necessary to scale-up climate finance through public engagement and its leveraging effect on private investments

**Co-chairs:** Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of European and International Affairs; Rémy Rioux, International Development Finance Club President; Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, World Bank Chief Executive Officer.





## Panel 2

### Green finance for sustainable business

*How can climate issues best be included by the private sector, financial institutions and regulators in order to shift investments towards a low carbon economy?*

**The involvement of all actors of finance is key in the fight against climate change** and for the transition towards an economy that emits less greenhouse gases and can adapt to future evolutions. All actors, from financial institutions to public authorities must continue to innovate to this end. **What is at stake is to push the financial sector in taking a longer-term perspective by better accounting for climate.** This dynamic can be translated through three main issues that will be discussed in the panel:

- The role of finance to transform business and strengthening the dynamic on climate issues.
- The improvement of financial disclosure and inclusion of climate related topics.
- The mobilisation of investors on climate issues and the development of new financing instruments to support the acceleration of the reduction of GHG emissions and the adaptation to climate change.

**Co-chairs:** Bruno Le Maire, Economy and Finance Minister, France; Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President for the Euro and Social Dialogue in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union, European Commission.



## Panel 3

### Accelerating local and regional climate action

*How can we enable cities and territories to reach their ambitions and actively contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement?*

**The role of local and regional governments is key to reach the global objectives of the Paris Agreement as they hold all the requirements for accelerating action before 2020.**

Cities, states and regions across the world are making strong commitments to take action on climate change, laying the groundwork for higher ambition by national governments. However, they do not always have clear pathways to finance the implementation of their commitments with the scale needed. Moreover, their contributions to the Paris Agreement and to National Determined Commitments (NDCs) could be better recognised.

This panel will display solutions to encourage a greater collaboration between public and private sectors and between the different levels of governments (international, national, regional and local), whose climate actions and strategies must be better aligned. It will also identify pathways for innovative finance in order to scale-up climate actions at the level of cities, states and regions.

**Co-chairs:** Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and President of C40; Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Energy Union & co-chair of Global Covenant of Mayors



## Panel 4

# Strengthening policies for ecological and inclusive transition

*Which public framework to support the transition towards a low-carbon and climate resilient economy?*

**Governments have a fundamental role to play to ensure the objectives of the Paris Agreement.** If the mobilisation of all is required to meet our goals, **public policies must send strong economic and political signals so that all actors can deeply change their production and consumption patterns towards low-carbon solutions.** In light of climate change impacts, which are already felt, it is also crucial to **strengthen resilience and adaptation to protect even more citizens from extreme climate events.**

The panel will demonstrate that deep transformations are already taking place in multiple sectors, such as transport and need to be amplified and accelerated! Public policies must integrate long-term horizon by fixing for instance carbon neutrality objectives. In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, giving them a price is also necessary. Finally, resilience and the capacity of our infrastructure to cope with climate impacts must be at the heart of our concerns.

**Co-chairs:** Nicolas Hulot, Ecological and inclusive transition Minister, France; Rafael Pacchiano, Environment Minister, Mexico.



## **Speech of the Head of State at COP21**

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.**